

# LOUISIANA BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE

## REPORT FORM

This form is intended as a convenience in reporting observations of species on the Louisiana Bird Records Committee (LBRC) Review List. The LBRC recommends the use of this form or a similar format when submitting records for review (to assure that all pertinent information is accounted for). Attach additional pages as necessary. Please print or type. Attach xerox of field notes, drawings, photographs, or tape recordings, if available. Include all photos for more obscurely marked species. When completed, mail to Secretary, Louisiana Bird Records Committee, c/o Museum of Natural Science, 119 Foster Hall, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA 70803-3216.

1. English and Scientific names:

Anna's Hummingbird, *Calypte anna* ( *possible hybrid* )

2. Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage (e.g., 2 in alternate plumage):

1 female, age unknown, but her winter molt was nearly complete.

3. Locality: LOUISIANA: (parish)

Lafayette

Specific Locality:

Back and forth between two locations. Garage property in downtown Lafayette, and ½ mile away at my home.

4. Date(s) when observed:

First observed January 10, 2018 at garage

Banded January 19, 2018 at garage

Last observed February 15, 2018, at my residence.

5. Time(s) of day when observed:

6. Reporting observer and address:

Dave Patton, 122 Memory Lane, Lafayette LA 70506

7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also *identified* the bird(s):

8. Other observers who *independently identified* the bird(s):

9. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light):

10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition):

11. Distance to bird(s):

12. Duration of observation:

Most days at one location or the other. Fed regularly at a feeder in my backyard the last

two weeks.

13. Habitat: Down town urban Lafayette with older neighborhoods.

14. Behavior of bird / circumstances of observation (flying, feeding, resting; include and stress habits used in identification; relate events surrounding observation):

Usually seen at feeder, but occasionally seen flycatching and picking insects from a dead tree.

15. Description (include only what was actually seen, *not what "should" have been seen*; include if possible: total length/relative size compared to other familiar species, body bulk, shape, proportions, bill, eye, leg, and plumage characteristics. Stress features that separate it from similar species):

Slightly larger than a Ruby-throated with a stocky appearance. Green crown, nape, back and upper tail when perched. The green was medium, but often had a bluish sheen.

Anna's normally has a bronze sheen. White face with green spotting. Darker patch around the eye. The green flecking formed rows in the throat with a loose cluster of red feathers in the central region. This color was more of a selasphorus red than the rose red of an Anna's. The sides of the breast were distinctly green which is typical of Anna's female and not seen in many other winter species except immature male Broad-tailed. The flanks and base of the underwing had distinctly buff colored highlights which is unusual for Anna's and suggests Selasphorus influence. The tail characteristics were close for Anna's with mostly green R1 & 2 and the outer 3 tail feathers being dull green/gray base, then black, and white tips. They all exhibited some degree of orange edging at the base and in the base of the rachis which also suggests a Selasphorus influence. The white tip on the outer tail feathers R5, is separated from the black without black running down the rachis into the white. This is a characteristic of a female. The bill was long, heavy, and with a slight curve.

Below are banding details with the corresponding measurements for a typical female Anna's. Her molt was nearly complete so the comparisons are to an adult female Anna's and Rufous.

Stiles, F.G., 1971. On the Field Identification of California Hummingbirds, California Birds 2: 41-54.

Stiles, F.G., 1972, Age and Sex Determination in Rufous and Allen Hummingbirds. The Condor 74:25-32.

Band # J13362

Tail length - 27mm (Anna's 25.42 +- 0.94, Rufous 25.98 +- 1.11)

Exposed Culmen - 19.14mm (Anna's 18.66 +- 0.96, Rufous 17.58 +- 0.66)

Grooves - 0%

Weight - 4.73g with some fat deposits

Wing Cord - 45.82mm, may not be completely grown out.

(Anna's 49.26 +- 1.01, Rufous 44.39 +- 0.83)

Primaries: P1-8 new, P9 = 10%, P10 new

Rectrices - all present and no wear

R1, R4, and R5 pulled and included with report.

Width of R5 = 4.57mm (Anna's 4.90 - 6.75, Rufous 2.8 – 4.0 )

16. Voice: Mostly quiet. Call note when disturbed was a dry tick note that would sometimes have a little more musical chirp. No recording.

17. Similar species (include how they were eliminated by your observation):

Rufus/Allens and Broad-tailed. This could be a hybrid. Measurements were not quite right for a pure Anna's and some were intermediate with Rufous. The buffy orange coloring on the flanks, base of the underwing, and facial feathers around the eye are not typical for Anna's. The buffy orange edging on the tail feathers and rachis are not typical for Anna's. However, the green sides of the breast, robust stocky build, and general appearance were much like an Anna's.

18. Photographs or tape recordings obtained? (by whom? attached?):

Photographs at feeder and in hand during banding by me and attached

19. Previous experience with this species:

Banded a few Anna's and many Selasphorus.

20. Identification aids: (list books, illustrations, other birders, etc. used in identification):

Hummingbirds of North America, Sheri Williamson. Several scientific articles mentioned above. Comments from other banders attached.

a. at time of observation:

b. after observation:

21. This description is written from: \_\_\_x\_\_\_ notes made during the observation (\_\_\_\_notes attached?); \_\_\_x\_\_\_ notes made after the observation (date: \_\_\_\_\_); \_\_\_\_\_memory.

22. Are you positive of your identification if not, explain: possible hybrid

23. Signature of reporter:

Date: Feb 24, 2018 \_\_\_\_\_

Time: \_\_\_\_\_

24. May the LBRC have permission to display this report or portions of this report on its website? Yes

If yes, may we include your name with the report?

Yes

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**Anna's Hummingbird possible hybrid – Band # J13362**

## **My request for comments and the replies from banders that handle Anna's Hummingbird**

Humbanders,

I am wondering what some of you that handle Anna's think of the hummingbird I banded this week. Below is the note I sent to Nancy Newfield, and few other Louisiana students of hummingbirds. Nancy voiced a little concern about the color of the throat feathers and the characteristics of the rectrices. I agree and am holding off on calling her an Anna's. I probably average one Anna's every 3 or 4 years in my area, and all have been typical in plumage. Any feedback would be welcome.

I put some photos on a Flickr page rather than attaching to an email.

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/93040131@N02/albums/72157692483190305/with/38919087075/>

Thanks,  
Dave Patton

I wrote:

A hummingbird arrived at my garage on Jan 10th, as my 1st winter hummer for the location. After several looks I decided female Anna's due to the extensive green vest, dry tick note, and apparent lack of orange. She was not regular until this week and I was able to band her yesterday. I have not handled many Anna's and none that exhibited traces of orange or buff. Most features still look like an Anna's, and measurements are within the range. The wing is a little short at 45.82mm, but P9 is just emerging at 10% and P10 may still have a few mm's left to go. Below are measurements and attached are some photos. There was faint orange and buff at the base of her recs, flanks, and shoulder region. The red throat feathers looked more red than pink. She had visible fat deposits on the lower belly and furcula.

Tail - 27mm  
wing cord - 45.82  
Exp Culmen - 19.14  
grooves - 0%  
weight - 4.73 g, some fat  
recs - all present  
P1-8 complete, P9 10%, P10 complete

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**Sheri Williamson - Arizona**

Hey, Dave,

Interesting bird, especially for LA! As far as I've been able to determine, ANHU and COHU completely lack pheomelanin in the plumage, so the presence of rufous points strongly toward Selasphorus involvement. Even in the absence of rufous, though, the lengths and shapes of her secondary coverts indicate that she isn't a pure ANHU. Her secondary coverts are somewhat short and slightly asymmetrical, but not as much as they would be in a pure ANHU. Compare her to the pure ANHU and BCHU females and presumptive BCHU x ANHU female in these photos:

<https://www.flickr.com/gp/tzunun/5A2V4t>  
<https://www.flickr.com/gp/tzunun/f689M8>  
<https://www.flickr.com/gp/tzunun/e5NU15>

Though this photo of a presumptive ANHU x CAHU female isn't very clear, you can still make out the ANHU-like lengths and shapes of the secondary coverts along with the CAHU-like primary shapes:

<https://flic.kr/p/b2EwVF>

Your bird's sharp P10 is also not quite right for a pure ANHU and suggestive of RUHU/ALHU influence, though it wouldn't necessarily rule out BTLH. Her measurements should help narrow down the list of suspects.

Hope this helps,

Sheri

Sheri L. Williamson  
Bisbee, Arizona  
[sheri@fieldguidetohummingbirds.com](mailto:sheri@fieldguidetohummingbirds.com)

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## **Lee Rogers and Susan Worthington, Arizona**

Hi Dave,

It looks very much like an Anna's female to me. I agree that the wing is short but with P9 is still growing that could easily account for it. The tail pattern is straight up female, no black chevron at all and none in the rachis. The color in the throat can vary in tone sometimes but it looks Anna's to me.

Great bird, congratulations!

Lee

Lee Rogers

Patagonia, AZ



**Dave Patton** <davepatton122@gmail.com> Jan 22

to Lee

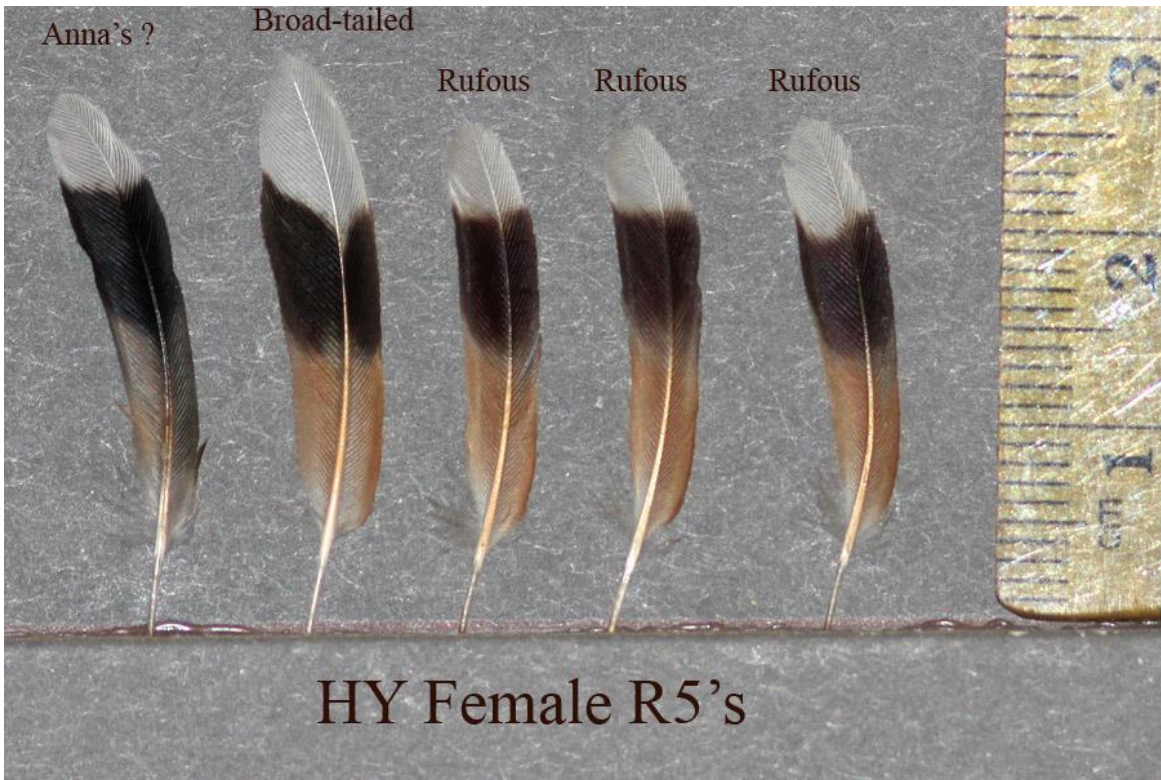
Lee,

Thanks for the reply. I was a little surprised to see the color in base of the tail feathers, and the buffy tones in flank and breast. They are muted, but I have not seen this illustrated or described. I know this is not illustrated or described in Ruby-throats either, but I have banded a few RTHU's with pale orange in the webbing of the recs and buffy flanks and breast. So I wondered if there was some degree of variation in Anna's.

Also, there is another Anna's in the area that we banded a few weeks ago. She was a typical female in plumage and measurements. I cut a band to 6.0mm thinking it would be about right, and it fit fine. I cut another 6.0 for this one, and it seemed to fit a little loose, but well enough. Probably not significant, but another thing that caused me to wonder about her being pure Anna's.

Dave

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Hi Dave,

Yah, I see what you mean about the rufous at the base of the tail. The photo looked like the color of the fingers through the feather to me at first but now I see that the rachis has rufous in it. I find it so hard to id birds with photos. So much better to see it in person. Did you happen to measure the width of r5? We find the width of r5 very valuable in separating several species. The range of AHY Rufous female r5 width is 2.7-4.0 (HY is 3.3-4.7) whereas Anna's AHY female is 4.8-6.7 (HY 5.3-6.3). Anna's r5 is so much wider that it really separates them out and eliminates a lot of confusion. Same is true for Costa's and Black-chinned females.

The ANHU females we see generally take a 6.0 band, sometimes a 6.2, but I have measured them at 5.8 with the Tarsus Gauge on occasion. Doesn't help much I guess.

Cheers,

Lee

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Lee,

Because we do run into some problem ID's in LA, we do have feather sampling on our permits. This one was unusual so I did pull R1, 4, and 5. I attach a picture of them against a white paper to better show the colors. I also attach a photo of the R5 next to four other R5's. The BTLH and RUHU R5's are imm feathers. This bird's recs may be adult, but I am not sure. Many of our winter imm Selasphorus will replace recs about this time.

Also, what is your standard procedure for measuring width as far as where on the feather do you measure. I have seen it done different ways: widest part, 5mm from the end, flattened, resting naturally on surface, or on the bird. Do you have a collection of R5's? I don't have any Anna's, but we turn them into the LSU Museum of Natural Science, and there may be some in previous batches.

This one measures 4.57 wide X 28.73 long resting naturally on a surface. Measured at the widest part which is about 5mm from the distal end.

Dave

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Dave.

We measure about the same place you measure, at the widest part, about where the white and black meet, without flattening, on the bird. The pictures of the feathers on the gray card look straight up Anna's to me. I asked Susan to have a look and she agrees that it looks Anna's. I think the short wing confusion is just that p9 and p10 are still growing. We don't usually take a wing measurement when the birds are at that stage of molt because it's not reliable. We do occasionally see that bit of rufous wash on the flanks of Anna's and Black-chinned. We don't have a collection of tail feathers. We do collect them sometimes but they all end up going to UC Davis for their genetics work.

Form the pictures we think it's an Anna's. The first pictures, with fingers behind the tail feathers, are a bit confusing but the tail feather pictures against the gray card look Anna's to us.

It's amazing how these guys challenge us from time to time. The variability really makes you think about a host of possibilities.

Lee

## **David Rankin - California**

My experience with Anna's Hummingbirds is that females with similar amounts of buffy traces at the bend of the wing and flanks are seen occasionally. What intrigues me the most is the appearance of some faint buffiness at the bases of the tail feathers. That's not something I've ever seen on a pure Anna's before. Can you comment on whether or not those feathers particularly worn or faded looking, or how true to life those photos are?

Of the three (all HY males) Anna's x Allen's I've banded, 2 showed substantial rufous at the bases of the tail feathers. The third showed only slightly more rufous at the base of the tail as a juvenile than your female, and eventually molted in an adult tail that was very Anna's-like in shape but with limited rufous on the tail feathers, suggesting it might have been a back-cross with a pure Anna's. I think you could make a strong case for this being a Anna's x Selasphorus sp hybrid, perhaps even a backcross with Anna's. For obvious reasons males are much more commonly documented than females, so it's hard to say what is typical of Anna's x Selasphorus hybrids. As to which selasphorus is responsible, Allen's and Rufous have both been documented hybridizing with Anna's, and either could be a possible vagrant.

David Rankin

## **Sara Hiebert Burch - Northwest US**

I wanted to respond to your photos of the mystery bird you were thinking might be Anna's. I band many Anna's and I have never had an adult female look anything like this. The Anna's in the Northwest have no buffy or rufous on them anywhere, and the throat color is cherry red, not orangeish red as in the photos. The buffy bases to the rectrices are a tip-off, as are the buffy edges to the body feathers, and the buff/rufous tinge to the feathers around the eye (at least around the top of the eye, in the posted photos). Anna's feathers are edged in gray, not buff. The visual gestalt is for a *Selasphorus*, but some of the metrics are not congruent with that diagnosis, either. What was this bird's fat score? What do R1 and R2 look like, and how are they shaped? I would argue against submitting this bird as an Anna's, and agree that it is likely a hybrid. You have many experienced opinions at your fingertips; here are my two cents!

Best wishes,

Sara

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Sara Hiebert Burch  
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**Kelly Bryan - Ft Davis, Texas**

**Kelly Bryan to Donna Dittmann**

OK, I have banded 2-3 birds like this one. Mostly ANHU but I strongly suspected they were partial hybrids for good reasons. The wing cord should be about 49 mm and I do not think the full growth of P9 will add 4 mm. The obvious abnormal characteristics are the rufous tones to the base of the outer rectrices and the abnormal color of the gorget feathers. Normal female ANHUs will be rose just like the males. The color is more of a Selaphorus red. The shape of the tail feathers look good but the other item that I notice is the pattern of white in the R5s. Notice that in the right R5, the base of the white tip goes straight across the entire feather. The pic showing the underside of the tail shows the white in the base of the tip of the left R5, the white is offset at the quill. The left R5 is the normal pattern for female ANHUs. The nice photograph of the bird perched on the feeders looks totally normal for a female ANHU. KBB













Lafayette Anna's Hummingbird (?) Band J13362



