

## Anna's Hummingbird *Calypte anna*



**Folk Name:** (none)

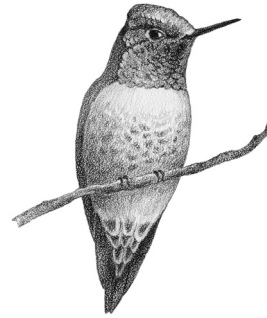
**Status:** Winter Vagrant

**Abundance:** Accidental

**Habitat:** Hummingbird feeding stations and fall-blooming flower gardens

On November 29, 1998, an unusual-looking hummingbird showed up at the backyard feeder of Judy Walker, who, at the time, was the President of the Mecklenburg Audubon Society. Walker first heard strange calls she later described as “a very high persistent series of rattles and chips, and other notes” and she “thought it sounded like begging of baby birds.” Then she saw the bird “in an oak tree chasing kinglets, which were about the same size. It was then observed feeding on pineapple sage and hawking insects in the air.” After careful observation, she tentatively identified the newcomer as an Anna’s Hummingbird, a western species, and immediately called several local birders to come see the bird. Her initial identification was soon confirmed, and her discovery was the first Anna’s Hummingbird ever found in the Carolinas and was a rarity anywhere in the Southeast.

Walker’s east Charlotte backyard was soon filled with birders from several eastern states. Bob and Martha Sargent, a pair of experienced hummingbird banders based in Alabama, traveled to Charlotte and banded the bird on December 14, 1998. They carefully examined its feathers and bill, and determined it was an immature or “hatch-year” male. The bird’s bill still had “corrugation” markings, which are tiny ridges and grooves that are worn off as a young hummingbird grows to become an adult. Charlotte’s Anna’s Hummingbird stayed until at



*Anna's Hummingbird being banded in Charlotte. (Susan Campbell)*

least March 4, 1999.

Since this first North Carolina report, a second Anna’s Hummingbird was confirmed in North Carolina in New Bern in 2011. The arrival of South Carolina’s first Anna’s Hummingbird was documented in Hanahan in 2010.