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Module 13: Birds in the Urban Landscape

Urban EcoLab

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Allen's vs. Anna's

Center for Urban Resilience

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Anna's vs. Allan's Hummingbird Process Grid

Anna's Hummingbird		Allen's Hummingbird	
Size	- 4 inches long	- 3-3.5 inches long	
Color	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Males have bronze-green backs, dull gray breast and an iridescent red or magenta head and throat. - Females are mostly all green, sometimes showing a red or purple patch and spots on their throat, and dark green tail with white tips on the ends. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Males have green backs and heads with an orange iridescent throat, white breast and brown sides, belly and tail. - Females have green backs and heads, a white and brown chest with a small orange patch in the center of the throat, and brown tail with white tips on the ends. 	
Body shape	- Their legs are short and far back on their body and their tiny feet allow them to perch on trees but cannot walk on the ground.	- Their legs are short and far back on their body and their tiny feet allow them to perch on trees but cannot walk on the ground.	
Habitat:	- Anna's Hummingbirds can be found in Canada, the United States and Mexico (range is massive). Some winter from Baja California to Texas.	- Allen's Hummingbirds live year-round in Southern California, winters from Arizona to Central Mexico; also found in Gulf Coast states.	
- Geography	- Habitat varies from desert to mountains to coastal areas along the West Coast, in areas including chaparral, brushy oak woodlands, and gardens.	- Habitat includes coastal chaparral, brush, and edges of redwood forests, but they have adapted to urban settings, utilizing neighborhood trees, shrubs, parks and gardens.	
- Nesting sites	- Females choose the nest site, usually a horizontal branch of trees or shrubs 6-20 feet off the ground (occasionally higher) near a source of nectar. They often build nests in oak, sycamore, or eucalyptus trees, but they may use vines or shrubs. They build their nests with plant down and spider webs and line it with tiny feathers inside. The outer part is covered with lichen.	- Females choose the nest site in thicker forested areas in the wild or in oak trees as well as human-built objects and structures in urban areas. They build their nests with plant down, spider webs, and animal and human hair and line it with tiny feathers. The outer part is cover with bark and lichen.	
- Breeding calendar and locations	- Anna's Hummingbirds breed from December-May in wooded areas and mountain meadows in the wild, but also in gardens in the urban areas.	- In southern California, Allen's Hummingbirds breed starting in Mid-November through the winter.	
Life Cycle	Anna's Hummingbirds lay 2-3 eggs	- 3-3.5 inches long	
- number of eggs	The female incubates the eggs and guards the nesting site.		
- time to hatch	The eggs hatch in 14 - 19 days.		
- who feeds the young	The female feeds the young.		
- when do the young leave the nest	The young leave the nest in 4 weeks after hatching.		
- number of broods per year	The female has 2-3 broods in a year.		

<p>Diet</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Anna's Hummingbirds eat nectar from many flowering plants, including salvia, sage,impatiens, petunias, butterfly bush,manzanita, and many introduced species such as eucalyptus. They also eat a wide array of insects from understory leaves, crevices, or caught in spider webs, plucked from the air, or taken from flowers. They target smaller insects, like midges, whiteflies, and leafhoppers They also help themselves to tree sap (and insects caught in it) leaking out from holes in trees. - Both males and females use hummingbird feeders containing sugar water. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Allen's Hummingbirds eat nectar from many flowering plants, including red monkey-flower, red columbine, paintbrush, scarlet sage and insects on tree bark, spider webs, or in flight. - Both males and females use hummingbird feeders containing sugar water, and the males are known to aggressively defend their feeders from other males.
<p>Predators</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In urban areas, domestic and feral cats, praying mantis and owls prey on adult hummingbirds. Lizards, bats, squirrels, Cooper's hawks, and crows prey on their eggs and nesting young. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In urban areas, domestic and feral cats, praying mantis and owls prey on adult hummingbirds. Lizards, bats, squirrels, Cooper's hawks, and crows prey on their eggs and nesting young.
<p>Ecological Challenges</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Overall throughout California, the population is fairly stable and presents no immediate concerns for population decrease. However, urban habitats are still a challenge for this species. - Hummingbird health and nutrition can be negatively impacted by habitat loss, fragmentation of breeding and wintering grounds, and climate change. In addition, hummingbirds are susceptible to health-impacting situations, such as heavy metal and pesticide exposure, injury and predators. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Overall throughout California, the population is fairly stable and presents no immediate concerns for population decrease. However, urban habitats are still a challenge for this species. - Hummingbird health and nutrition can be negatively impacted by habitat loss, fragmentation of breeding and wintering grounds, and climate change. In addition, hummingbirds are susceptible to health-impacting situations, such as heavy metal and pesticide exposure, injury and predators.
<p>Other of interest</p>		