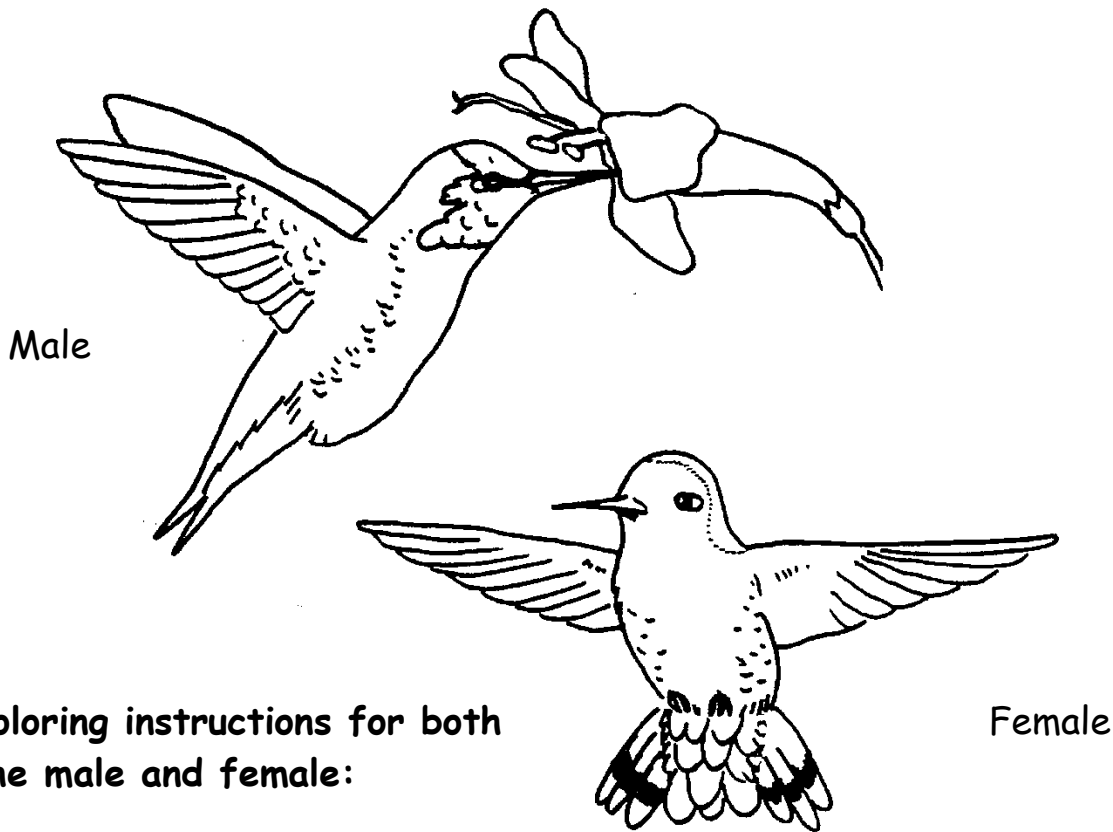


# Anna's Hummingbird



## Coloring instructions for both the male and female:

Black - the bill, eyes, and feet

White - the little patch behind the eye

Light gray - the throat, breast, and belly

### For the male:

Reddish pink - the crown, face, and throat

Green - the nape, back, rump, tail, sides, and the shoulder of the wing

Dark gray - the rest of the wing

### For the female:

Green - the crown, nape, sides, and the shoulder of the wing

Dark gray - the rest of the wing

Light gray - the underside of the tail (except the white ends)

Red - put a few spots of red on her throat

# Anna's Hummingbird

**Length:** 3  $\frac{1}{2}$ "

**Habitat:** Flowered fields and gardens, chapparal, and woodlands

**Field marks:** The male has an iridescent green body and red face.

Hummingbirds are the smallest birds. A small body needs lot of energy to maintain a high body temperature. Hummingbirds must eat an amount of food each day that is equal to their body weight to get enough energy to stay alive! To put it another way, hummingbirds are always just hours away from starving to death. To prevent starvation while they sleep, hummingbirds can let their body temperature drop into **torpor** to save energy through long, cold nights.

Many bird species, like hummingbirds, can enter a state of torpor. Torpor is like hibernation but lasts for shorter periods of time. Some animals, like bears, go into long periods of inactivity with reduced body temperature. This is called **hibernation** if it occurs during winter. There are no birds that truly hibernate.

Hummingbirds sip sugary nectar from flowers and eat protein-rich insects that have been attracted to the flower's nectar. There are several species of hummingbirds here in the summer but only the Anna's is a year-round resident. Manzanita bushes are the earliest blooming native plants with

nectar-rich flowers. They bloom in January, so they are very important in helping the Anna's make it through the winter.

A hummingbird is extremely territorial. It will defend an area containing enough flowers to provide it with sufficient daily nectar. Watch a hummer in its territory and you will see that it often returns to a favorite perch where it can survey its territory. Every few minutes it will fly off to fill up with nectar and then return to a perch to gradually digest it. By sitting quietly, the hummingbird conserves energy. However, if an intruder enters its territory, the hummingbird will go chase it off. This often results in a "dogfight" that is fun to watch.

# Anna's Hummingbird Challenges

Put a check mark in the box when you have completed the challenge.

- Identify a male Anna's Hummingbird with an iridescent red crown and throat.
- Identify a female Anna's Hummingbird with a green crown and gray throat with a few spots of red.
- Observe a hummingbird feeding on blooming manzanita in late winter.
- Put on a red hat or shirt and sit quietly where hummingbirds are active. Hummingbirds are attracted by red. They will hover closely as they inspect what might be a giant, nectar-filled flower.
- Hear the song of an Anna's. The Anna's is the only California hummingbird that has a song - a high, squeaky, unmelodic song.
- Observe the Anna's display flight. From late winter to early summer, listen for a loud shrill chirp overhead, several seconds of silence, then an abrupt chirp again. Look toward the sound and you will see a bush or a tree. The female is sitting in there somewhere. In the sky above her, the male will be doing his spectacular display flight. He flies straight up about 50 feet above the perch, then dives straight down. He pulls out of his dive right above the female. His momentum carries him skyward again. The loud chirp that you hear is feathers vibrating and whistling as he pulls out of his dive.