

## CALYPTE ANNÆ.

### Anna's Calypse.

- Ornismya Anna*, Less. Hist. Nat. des Ois. Mou., p. 205. pl. 74.—Ib. Traité d'Orn., p. 281.  
*Trochilus Anna*, Jard. Nat. Lib. Humming Birds, vol. i. p. 93. pl. 6.—Aud. Birds of Amer., vol. iv. pl. ccccxv.—Ib. Orn. Biog., vol. v. p. 238.—Ib. Syn. of Birds of N. Amer., p. 170.—Reichenb. Troch. enumer., p. 10.  
*Mellisuga Anna*, Gray and Mitch. Gen. of Birds, vol. i. p. 113, *Mellisuga*, sp. 61.  
*Selasphorus Anna*, Bonap. Consp. Gen. Av., p. 82, *Selasphorus*, sp. 2.—Ib. Rev. et Mag. de Zool. 1854, p. 257.  
*Calliphlox anna*, Gambel, Notes on Californian Birds.  
*Atthis Anna*, Reichenb. Aufz. der Colibris, p. 12.  
*Trochilus icterocephalus*, Nutt. Man. Orn., vol. i. 2nd Edit. p. 712.

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WHEN studying the diversified forms and colouring of the Trochilidæ, I have frequently been struck with the fact that those districts or countries having a metalliferous character are tenanted by species of Humming Birds which are more than ordinarily brilliant and glittering. This is especially the case with the species inhabiting Mexico and California: in illustration of this assertion, I may cite the three Californian species, *Selasphorus rufus*, *Calypse Costæ*, and the present bird, *C. Annæ*, all of which are unequalled, for the rich metallic brilliancy of certain parts of their plumage, by any other members of the family. The two latter, *C. Costæ* and *C. Annæ*, have not only the throat, but the entire head as glitteringly resplendent as if they had been dipped in molten metal. Now whether there be any influence exerted by inorganic upon organic nature, is an enigma which will probably remain unsolved for some time to come; certain it is that it cannot be explained by any of the natural laws at present known to us; and, after all, it may only be one of those remarkable coincidences which so frequently occur; still I trust I may be excused for calling attention to a point which appeared to me to be of much interest.

The very lovely bird here represented, and which has been named in honour of Anna, Duchess of Rivoli, ranges over the whole of the table-lands of Mexico, and throughout California to the base of the Rocky Mountains in North-Western America.

I am indebted to Dr. Gambel, of Philadelphia, who has had opportunities of observing this bird in its native wilds, for the following interesting extract from his "Notes on the Birds of California":—

"A very abundant and interesting species, numbers passing the winter in California; at such times inhabiting sheltered hill-sides and plains, where at all seasons a few bushy plants are in flower, and afford it a scanty subsistence. They appear, however, in greater numbers about the latter part of February and during the month of March; the country is soon carpeted with flowers, and the Anna Humming Bird, reveling among their sweets, commences the duty of rearing its young. About the Pueblo, the vineyards and gardens are its favourite resort, forming its delicate downy nest in a small flowering bush, or some concealed spot about the fence. In April and May these may be found in almost every garden.

"In other parts it attaches its nest almost exclusively to a low, horizontal branch of the evergreen oak (*Quercus agrifolia*), so common throughout the country; the nest is small, being about an inch in depth, and one and a quarter in diameter; it is not very thick, and is formed in the most delicate manner of pappus and down of various plants, held together and matted into a soft felt with spiders' webs, which latter I have frequently observed them collecting for the purpose, in the spring, along hedges and fence-rows, and at first supposed they were only searching them for the gnats and small insects which might be entangled; but in a nest which I now have, the base is formed of a few dried male aments of the oak, and which, with the