

2015 Idaho Hummingbird Banding

Fred Bassett

I banded hummingbirds in Idaho from mid-May through mid-August this past summer. I banded 28 times at 16 different banding locations while banding 1849 hummingbirds in Idaho. That included 1058 Calliopes, 481, Black-chinned, 169 Broad-tailed, 137 Rufous, 2 Anna's, and 2 hybrids. One of the hybrids was a male Calliope x Rufous, and the other was a male Broad-tailed x Black-chinned. I also caught 269 hummingbirds I previously banded in Idaho. The best of the returns was a female Black-chinned at a home in Boise that was at least eight years old. I banded that bird seven years ago at another home and had not recaptured it since.

My Idaho foreign recaptures started before I got to Idaho when, on May 5 in Mesquite NV, my friend Ned Batchelder caught a male Black-chinned I banded last June at Judy and Bill Collin's home in Boise. My first two foreign recaptures in Idaho were at Jeff and Cathy Oesterling's home near Inkom. On June 1 at their home I caught a Black-chinned banded last September near Paradise, AZ and a Broad-tailed banded last August at the Rudeen Ranch about 40 miles to the west. At Diana Mixon's home near Emmett on August 1, I caught a Black-chinned banded in August 2013 near Ivins, UT. My last foreign recapture of the summer was August 5 back at the Oesterling home near Inkom where I caught a Black-chinned banded in August 2012 near Escalante UT.

The best hummingbird of the summer was a female Anna's I banded 30 May near Council at the home of Debbie and Robert Rabideau. That was the first Anna's I have banded in Idaho and, more importantly, she was carrying an egg. Pictures of the bird can be seen at <http://www.pbase.com/fhound/idahoanna>. That bird is the first proof that Anna's hummingbirds are now breeding in Idaho.

I trained two hummingbird banders in Idaho this summer. Kate McLaughlin came from Alaska for training to get her master banding permit, and Francine Rudeen trained for a sub permit under her son Carl Rudeen. Francine plans to band at their ranch south of American Falls and research the growing population of Anna's hummingbirds wintering now in Idaho.

Jeff Oesterling sent out a summary of my banding at their home over the past ten years. I have banded 3,026 hummers at their home and have caught 975 of my previously banded hummers. In addition, I have caught five hummers there that were banded in other locations as far away as Louisiana and Arizona.

I hope to see friends and hummingbirds in Idaho again next summer.