

Fellow Hummer Lovers

I haven't sent out an update in almost two months, because winter hummers are about as scarce as hen's teeth this winter. You can fill in the blank for the reason, but I'll just be happy to enjoy the one's I've been able to catch.

I went to the coast on 28 Nov and finally banded my first two winter hummers. I banded a Rufous for Jimmy Stephenson in Satsuma and a Black-chinned for Charmaine and Tony Peterman south of Magnolia Springs. 1 Dec I went to Enterprise and caught a fourth year return Rufous for Don and Denise Lassiter.

I had my first decent day of the season 20 Dec when I started in Satsuma at Jimmy Stephenson's home where I caught his fourth year return Rufous and banded my first Calliope of the winter. In Mobile, I banded Joan and Tom Siegwald's Ruby-throated and then went across to Baldwin County. In Foley, I banded a Rufous for Ellen Crotty and then was very surprised to catch a sixth year return Black-chinned in Eva Barnett's great yard. I also banded a Ruby-throated for Eva and got a picture from Janice Neitzel confirming Eva is also hosting a fifth year return Rufous. Eva has the right touch for winter hummers to be hosting two long time return hummers. I finished up east of Foley at Jan and Ken Taylor's home where their return Rufous wouldn't give me the time of day, but I did band a new Rufous for them.

I caught my first Buff-bellied of the winter early on 21 Dec in Pensacola at the home of Rhianna Henderson. In Navarre, I caught a second year return Rufous for Serena and Jimmy Cooper. I finished in Niceville at the home of Jean Kammeyer banding another beautiful Buff'-bellied hummer.

I started 30 Dec north of Mobile in Wilmer where I banded a Rufous for Pat Osborn. South of Mobile in Irvington, I banded a Rufous for Michelle and Mike Miller. I caught my last hummer of 2016 at Eva Barnett's home in Foley where I banded a Ruby-throated.

I hope the New Year will bring more winter hummers. Please let me know if you get one.
Happy New Year
Fred