

Fellow Hummer Lovers

March 3, 2017

Winter banding is about over now that the first spring Ruby-throated hummers have started to come ashore along the coast. Yesterday Danna Timmons in Gulf Breeze sent me the first report of an adult male in fresh breeding plumage. There will be lots of them soon. You can track Ruby-throated migration by looking at the migration map on Hummingbirds.net and get a good idea when you will get them.

I have caught some interesting hummers since my last report. I went to Selma 2 February to the home of Catherine and George Jones expecting to catch their Rufous back for the fifth winter, but was surprised to find the Rufous I caught was one I banded January 2014 in Dothan at the home of Susan and Allen Livingston. Susan was glad to hear her bird is doing fine, even it decided to winter at another home. Then I went to Atmore, AL to the home of Sandy and Art Bennett to band a beautiful adult male Rufous.

On 3 February, I went to Sasser, GA to the home of Norris and David Wooten and caught a Rufous I banded in Dec 2012 in Niceville, FL at the home of Blake and Jody Hardison. That bird has wintered at the Wooten's home the past four winters. I was in Niceville the morning of 5 Feb to band a Ruby-throated for Bob Reid and Betsy Clark.

Feb 10 in Mobile I banded my second Calliope of the winter For Beth Bachman and a Rufous for Barbara McLeod. Feb 12 Joe Misiaszek in Lakeland, FL sent pictures to confirm he had a Ruby-throated back for the second winter at his home. I went back to Mobile 23 Feb and banded a Rufous and a Ruby-throated for Fred and Joyce Lyle. Then I went to Lillian to Jim and Diane Dickerson's home and caught a Rufous I banded Jan 2015 in Pensacola at Powers and Rossann McLeod's home. The next day I banded A Buff-bellied in Navarre for Larry Bennett and banded a Black-chinned in Dothan for Dennis Campbell.

I will compile all our winter banding and send a season summary late this month.

Thanks

Fred B