

The lack of freezing weather so far has made hummer banding interesting this season. Lots of homes have hummers feeding primarily on flowers and only using feeders sporadically. I've driven lots of miles to band 55 hummers including 31 Ruby-throated, 21 Rufous, 2 Black-chinned, and 1 Allen's. Emma Rhodes, who is assisting me now, has banded 11 including 5 Rufous, 3 Ruby-throated, 2 Black-chinned, and her first Allen's.

My first nine hummers were at the same home. November 7, I went to Dick Mowbray's home near Hartford AL and banded a Rufous. Dick called later that month to tell me he had more hummers, but I wasn't expecting to band 4 Rufous and 4 Ruby-throated on November 24. Then, in Enterprise, I banded a Rufous and a Ruby-throated for Jill and John Reddington. I thought that might be the start of a good banding season, but what do I know.

I started November 26 in Mobile where I banded a Rufous for Velma Britain and went to Grand Bay to band a Rufous for Judy and Calvin Welford. Back on Mobile Bay, I banded a Ruby-throated for Sandra Kerr and went across the bay to band a Rufous for Linda and Roby Tomlin in Daphne.

Early on November 27, I banded 2 Ruby-throated for Charmaine and Tony Peterman south of Magnolia springs and headed to Pensacola to band a Rufous for Vicki and Ron Parker and a Black-chinned for Patricia Rutherford. In Niceville, I banded a Ruby-throated for Renee and George Gollehon and finished up the day banding an Allen's for Sharon and Tom Maxwell east of Niceville. I stopped at Debra Hughes' home near New Brockton to band her Rufous on my way home the next morning.

December 2, I went to Upatoi GA near Columbus to band a Ruby-throated for Jeff Cogle. December 5, I banded a Ruby-throated for Jim Smith in Jackson and a Rufous for Jimmy Stephenson in Satsuma. December 14, I made a quick trip to the coast starting in Lillian where I banded 2 Ruby-throated for Jim Dickerson and a Rufous for Autumn Nickle. In Pensacola, I banded 3 Ruby-throated for Glenda and Dean Bowman. December 19, I went back over near Columbus GA to Waverly Hall where I banded a Rufous for Robert Smith.

In Mobile on December 23, I banded a Rufous and a Ruby-throated for Velma Britain and then headed to Baldwin County to band a Ruby-throated for Bill Summerour in Silverhill, 2 Ruby-throated for Eva Barnett in Foley, and a Ruby-throated for Joy Wilson just east of Foley. I started December 26 in Niceville banding a Black-chinned for Jean and Jim Kammeyer and a Ruby-throated for Burke Baker in Santa Rosa Beach. I stopped in Pensacola to band a Ruby-throated for Glenda and Dean Bowman and finished up my day banding 4 Ruby-throated for Jim Dickerson in Lillian.

After a break for the holidays, I started January 4 in Niceville and banded a Rufous for Renee and George Gollehon, a Ruby-throated for Burke Baker in Santa Rosa Beach, and a Ruby-throated for Bruce Purdy in Fort Walton Beach. I finished in Pensacola where I caught a second-year return Ruby-throated for Glenda and Dean Bowman. December 5 in Foley, I banded a Ruby-throated for Eva Barnett and a Rufous for Francis Cuellar and finished up at Charmaine and Tony Peterman's home south of Magnolia Springs banding a Rufous and a Ruby-throated. I went to Bayou LaBatre on December 6 to band a Ruby-throated for Justin Montieth and stopped in Atmore on the way home to band 2 Rufous for Paula and Ralph Wright.

Most of our less common western hummers show up in January, so please let me know if you have a new visitor at your feeder. I'd love to band something wonderful before our winter banding season ends.

Thanks,
Fred