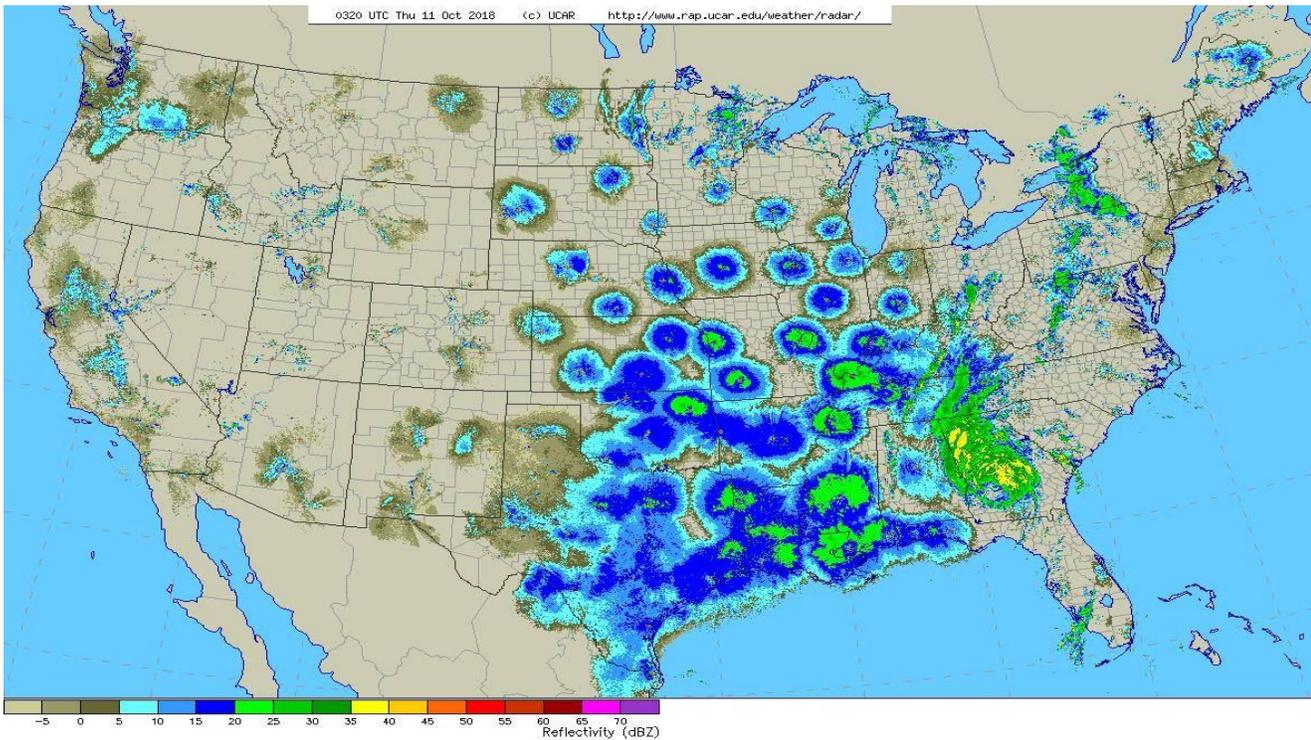


Greetings,

We have finally gotten some cold weather here and a couple of reports of birds that are in the area. After a big surge of Ruby-throated hummingbirds following hurricane Michael's visit, most hummingbirds were gone within a week. I had a lot of questions about how the birds fared with the hurricane. I think that they were fine and have a way of sensing that there is bad weather approaching. Birds have shown an amazing resilience to catastrophes and the screen shot below is a great example. The day after Michael made landfall in the Florida panhandle, the winds to the west of the storm shifted to come out of the north. All of the blue returns on this radar image are migrating birds that are using these winds to help them toward their wintering grounds



In mid-September Marie and Guy Prentice noticed a female Ruby-throated at their house that had a band on her right leg. Last year Guy was able to video a bird as it fed and could reconstruct the band number. It turned out to be a bird I had banded there in 2016 and now she was back for her second winter. This year Guy did the same thing and after a lot of reviewing confirmed that their bird was now back for her third winter with them.

I got a text from Jody Elliott on November 16th who said she was seeing two birds in her yard. I caught and banded a first year male Ruby-throated which was the 55 bird that has been banded in that yard. I did not see another bird.

Please keep a feeder up all winter and don't give up hope because most western hummers don't begin to show up until mid-November. We band 80% of our winter birds in December and January, so you may have a chance all winter. Let me know if you have a bird and I'll make arrangements to come identify and band your bird.

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