

Fellow Hummer Lovers

We are off to a good start to our winter banding season. The early freeze helped bring hummers to feeders, and numbers of hummer showing up at feeders has tracked closely with the cooler weather.

My first winter hummer on November 1 was a Rufous a few blocks from my Montgomery home at the home of Dana Goodson. I made my first trip to the coast November 4 and banded a Rufous in Satsuma for Jimmy Stephenson and a Rufous in Mobile for Bob Grube. It was a bit early to count as a winter hummer, but I also banded a Ruby-throated for Cindy Walker in Foley.

November 15 was right after our first freeze and the first day Ruby-throated hummers started to count as winter hummers, so I went back to the coast. I started in Mobile where I banded my first Black-chinned for Velma Britain. Across Mobile Bay in Silverhill, I banded a Ruby-throated and a Rufous for Bill Summerour. I finished up in Lillian at Jim Dickerson's great yard where I banded two Black-chinned, two Ruby-throated, and one Rufous.

November 21, I went down near Hartford to band a Black-chinned for Dick Mowbray. Next morning on the way to the coast, I stopped in Atmore to band a Rufous for Paula and Ralph Wright. In Satsuma, I banded an adult male Rufous for Jimmy Stephenson after it finally started using a feeder. In Silverhill, it was great to see John Michael Chappell who used to be on our Fort Morgan banding crew and band his Rufous. I banded a Black-chinned with several new purple gorget feathers for Marilyn Mannhard in Fairhope. I finished up near Magnolia Springs banding a Ruby-throated for Ronnye and Jo Jackson.

My sister in Troy called November 25 to tell me she had a hummer at her feeder, so I went right down to band a Rufous for Judy and Robert Cary. Right after Thanksgiving on November 29, I started in Atmore where I banded a Rufous for Paula and Ralph Wright that had avoided me on my first visit. I banded an adult male Ruby-throated for Linda and Roby Tomlin in Daphne and then went on to Lillian where I banded a Rufous for Autumn Nickel and a Ruby-throated for Jim Dickerson.

Fred Dietrich has banded ten hummers in the Tallahassee area including a Calliope and a Buff-bellied, so we are up to five hummer species for the winter. Donna Carroll has banded a Rufous and a Ruby-throated north of Birmingham, and Emma Rhodes has banded a Ruby-throated in Mobile.

If you use Facebook, I post pictures of hummers I band during the winter on my page "Fred Bassett" which is open to the public.

December and January are normally our best months for winter hummers so don't give up if you haven't gotten one yet. Keep watching your feeder and let one of us know if a winter visitor shows up at your home.

Thanks,

Fred