

Fellow Hummer Lovers,

Either my computer or me deleted my address file for my Hummer Updates. I've rebuilt it from my contacts file. If you receive this update and don't want to be on the list, let me know and I'll delete you. Sorry about that.

It has been awhile since I've sent out an update, because I got only a few reports in December. It has picked up significantly the past two weeks. The best news I have now is I'm watching a female Rufous at my feeder as I write this update. I banded her November 1 at Dana Goodson's home a few blocks away, and now she is gracing both me and Dana with her presence. It is wonderful to host my own winter hummer.

I started a banding trip November 29 in Atmore where I banded a Rufous for Paula and Ralph Wright. They are hosting two Rufous and a Black-chinned after hosting three Rufous last winter. I banded a nice adult male Ruby-throated in Fairhope for Linda and Roby Tomlin and went on to Lillian where I banded a Rufous for Autumn Nickle and a Ruby-throated for Jim Dickerson.

December 10, at Burke Baker's home in Santa Rosa Beach, I caught a Ruby-throated I banded November 4 in Foley for Cindy Walker. Ruby-throated hummers often move around during the winter. I got some good hummers December 14 in Dothan when I banded a tiny female Calliope for Doug and Susann Bates and caught a female Ruby-throated back for the second winter for Dennis Campbell. Then I went down to Callaway, FL near Panama City to band a Black-chinned for Teresa Nooney.

December 20, north of Montgomery on Lake Jordan, I banded a Ruby-throated for John Butler. My last trip of 2019 was December 27 when I went to Laurel Hill, FL north of Crestview. There I banded a Rufous for Sondra Stokes and recaptured a Rufous I banded November 2018 for Sharon and Tom Maxwell in Choctaw Beach, FL which is about 30 miles south of where I recaptured the bird.

Early on New Year's morning, I checked my messages as I sat down for breakfast and saw a message from Carolyn Placeway that she was seeing a hummer at her feeder at The Waters just east of Montgomery. I went right over to band a Black-chinned for her. Nice start to the New Year. Carolyn is still enjoying hosting her hummer.

January 4 began in Niceville where I banded a Ruby-throated for Renee and George Gollehon. In Fort Walton Beach I met Betsey and Jim Plantholt and introduced them to winter banding with a Ruby-throated. I went on to Navarre to give Arlette (Sarge) Parry a hug and band a very special female Rufous for her. Then I finished in Pensacola where I banded a Rufous for Vickie and Ron Parker. I started January 5 at first light at Jim Dickerson's home in Lillian. It paid off when I caught a sixth year return Rufous I originally banded in January 2015 in Pensacola at Powers and Rosann McLeod's home. I also banded a Black-chinned in Jim's great yard.

I detoured through Fort Walton Beach January 17 as I began my annual swing down into central Florida. I banded a Ruby-throated for Betsey and Jim Plantholt and went on to Tallahassee to visit fellow bander Fred Dietrich and his wife Pat. January 18 was one of those tough day's banders have when warm weather and lots of flowers led to hummers just laughing at my feeble attempts to catch them in Gainesville, Ocala, and Brooksville. Thank goodness things picked up January 19 around Lakeland where I banded four Ruby-throated for Roy and Kat Morris, two Ruby-throated for Mary and Terry Boston, and three Ruby-throated for Susan and Mike Schenk. In Winter Haven, I was delighted to meet Louise Daniel and have the pleasure of sharing two Ruby-throated hummers with her and her family. Back in Lakeland I caught a second and a third-year return Ruby-throated for Joe and Nancy Misiaszek.

Lots of people were at Steve Backes' home in Valrico early January 20 to observe banding. I caught a third-year return Ruby-throated and banded five Ruby-throated hummers for them. In Dover, I banded a couple of Ruby-throated for Rein and Ani Verbeek, and I finished up in Sanford where Ana Torres was delighted when I banded her Ruby-throat. On Saint Simons Island, GA on January 21, it was great to see old friends Martha and Rich Armstrong and band three Ruby-throated for them. Later that day I banded two more Ruby-throated hummers for Joyce Mattox on beautiful Sea Island while visiting friends.

I hit the road again January 25 to talk about hummers at Landmark Park in Dothan and catch some hummers. I got a good one at Karen Brookshire-Jackson's home in Dothan when I was surprised to see a band that wasn't mine on her adult male Ruby-throated. I reported the foreign band and was pleased to find out the bird was banded November 11, 2019 by my friend Mark Armstrong in Chattanooga, TN. Very nice foreign recapture. Down in Callaway, FL I banded my first Allen's hummingbird of the winter for Teresa Nooney. It was a beautiful immature male.

Before good light January 26 in Panama City Beach, I banded a Black-chinned for Pat and Ron Walker. I banded a Ruby-throated and a Black-chinned for Renee and George Gollehon in Niceville to bring their yard total to 44 hummers banded in their great yard. Then I finished in Pensacola banding a Ruby-throated for Kay Keigley.

Western hummers are starting to migrate west and might stop in at your feeder for a day or so. If you get one, let me know.

Thanks,

Fred