

Fellow Hummer Lovers,

Last week when I sent out my last update I thought it would be awhile before I would need to send out another one, but the cold weather brought an influx of new winter hummers. In the past week, I've caught thirty birds of six species. Reports started in Mobile and moved to Baldwin County and to Pensacola. Yesterday numbers went up from Dothan to Panama City, and I expect good numbers around Tallahassee in the next few days.

I started December 3 in Atmore where I banded a Black-chinned and a Rufous for Paula and Ralph Wright. That gives them two hummers each of the past three winters. In Mobile I banded a Ruby-throated for Patsy Russo and a Rufous for Barbara McLeod before heading across the bay to Baldwin County.

I banded a Rufous for Jeanette and Doug Eden in Spanish Fort and another Rufous for Linda and Roby Tomlin. Still in Daphne I hit the jackpot at Ann McLaurin's where I banded a Buff-bellied, a Black-chinned, and a Ruby-throated. I couldn't catch her Rufous, because the Buff-bellied wouldn't let it go in my trap. I finished up a good day banding a Rufous for Miranda Schrubbe in Fairhope.



Ann McLaurin's Adult Female Buff-bellied

My first hummer December 4 in Daphne was a juvenile male Black-chinned at the home of Larry Gardella.



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Juvenile Male Black-chinned beginning to molt in its purple gorget

Down near Magnolia Springs, I banded a Rufous for Ronnye Jackson and then went on to Pensacola where I met Sharon Fields and banded two Rufous for her. Last hummer of the day was a Ruby-throated I banded for Glenda and Dean Bowman in Pensacola. Also that day I was informed a female Rufous I banded November 23, 2018 in Mobile at Velma and LJ Britain's home was recaptured by a bander friend in Asheville, NC earlier that day. That proves again that hummers have wings and go where they please.

I got off to a good start December 5 in Lillian where I banded three Rufous in Jim Dickerson's great yard and recaptured his Allen's I banded last month. I had a couple of no shows and finished up my trip in Niceville where I banded two Rufous for Renee and George Gollehon.

Back home in Montgomery on December 6, I went to home of Leonard Shannon and was surprised and pleased to band an adult female Calliope for him. The tiny bird was my first Calliope of the winter



Adult female Calliope

December 7, I started in Dothan banding two Rufous for Dennis Campbell and had a couple of homes where their birds were late risers and didn't show up for me. In Mariana, I met Michelle and Ben Cousin and banded one of their two Rufous. I hope to be back for the other one soon. I went on down to Callaway next to Panama City to the home of Teresa Nooney where both of us were surprised to band three Rufous and a Black-chinned.

Lots of hummers in a few days, and now I'm trying to catch up on all the paperwork that is part of banding. More reports are coming in, and I expect to start another banding trip later this week. Please let me know if you get new hummers at your feeder, so I can add you to my next trip.

Thanks,

Fred