

Hummer Update # 4

January 9, 2021

Fellow Hummer Lovers

The surge in winter hummers has continued for the past month. Since my last update, I've banded forty more hummingbirds and would have been overwhelmed if Emma Rhodes had not banded close to thirty I couldn't get to. I appreciate her assistance.

I got off to an excellent start December 13 when I went to Panama City to meet Raya Pruner and her husband Marvin and band their male Buff-bellied and a Ruby-throated. I went up to Lynn Haven to band a Rufous for Paul Neil and to Panama City Beach to band a Rufous for Pat and Ron Walker. I finished up a good day banding two Rufous for Mary Mask back across town in Calaway.



Raya Pruner's male Buff-bellied

I started December 15 in Mobile banding a Rufous for Lawrence LeClaire and a Rufous for Mike MacIver. Across the bay in Fairhope, I met Leslie and Ron Guillian and banded their Black-chinned. I banded two Rufous for Jim Dickerson in Lillian to get started on December 16 and got busy at Jan Lloyd's home in Pensacola where I banded her Buff-bellied and three Black-chinned. Jan's Buff-bellied caught itself. I set up a trap for me to use and went around back to set up a second trap for Jan. I walked back to my trap, and the Buffy was already flying around inside the trap. Doesn't get easier than that. I met Karen and Tom Stanmore and banded their Rufous and then enjoyed meeting Charlie Martin and banding three species for her including a Rufous, a Black-chinned, and a Ruby-throated. I finished a long day when I stopped in Brewton on my way home to meet Susan Douglas and band her Rufous.

I had an easy one December 19 here in Montgomery when I met Vickie Raney, and she was delighted when I banded her Black-chinned. The next morning in Enterprise, I banded a Rufous for Donald Casey. December 21 in Dothan, I banded Susan and Allen Livingston' Rufous and went to Mariana to band a Rufous for Michelle and Ben Cousin. Last bird of the day was a Rufous I banded in Fort Walton Beach for Bruce and Peggy Purdy.

December 26, I went to Auburn and gave Gloria and Mike Walsh a late Christmas present when I banded a Rufous for them. I'm pretty sure Gloria and Mike will always be trying to get another winter hummer.

December 28 started in Lillian where I banded a Rufous for Autumn Nickel and another Rufous for Jim Dickerson. In Mobile, I was happy to catch a juvenile male Allen's for Sandra Kerr and then was ecstatic when I saw it was wearing a band that wasn't mine. The bird had been banded two weeks earlier in Fayetteville TN by my friend Cyndi Routledge. Like I tell people all the time, hummers go to the beach when it gets cold. Last bird that day was a Rufous I banded for Joanne Brandt in Mobile.



Sandra Kerr's juvenile male Allen's

December 30, I went to Phoenix City to meet Bob Silverman and band his Rufous. Bob wasn't convinced a hummer would go in my big wire trap and was amazed when I caught it in about a minute. It wouldn't be fun if all of them were that easy, but its great sometime.

2021 got off to a good start when I got a call January 3 from Jack Osgood here in Montgomery that he had two hummers. I went right over to band a Rufous and a Black-chinned for him. I was lucky they were in the circle for the Christmas Bird Count two days later.



Close up of a hummingbird band

Back to Mobile January 6, I banded a beautiful adult male Rufous for Terry Terranova, a Rufous for Lisa Harrell, and a Black-chinned for Sister Elizabeth Cannon. Across the bay in Daphne, I banded a Rufous for Linda and Roby Tomlin. January 7 in Pensacola, I banded a Rufous for Carol Edgington and a couple of Rufous for Rosann and Powers McLeod.

I'm still getting good numbers of new reports and will go back to the coast this week and swing down into central Florida next week. Keep watching your feeders, and I hope you get a hummer before winter banding slows down in early February.

