

Hummer Update # 1

October 19, 2021

Fellow Hummer Lovers,

Now that most of our wonderful Ruby-throated hummers have migrated to the tropics for the winter, its time to watch your feeders closely for western hummers migrating here for the winter.

We are already off to a great start with winter hummers. September 11 in Callaway, FL at Mary Mask's home, I was surprised when the adult male Rufous I caught was already wearing a band. I quickly looked up the band number and found I banded that bird January 18, 2021 at Carol Yarnell's home in Dunnellon, FL. That bird was headed back to central Florida for another winter. Late September two hummer hosts in Lakeland, FL took pictures of the bands to confirm the return of their banded hummers. Joe Misiaszek has a male Ruby-throated back for the fourth winter, and Cindy Mails has a second year return female Ruby-throated.

I banded my first winter hummer September 28 near Greenville, GA when I banded a juvenile male Rufous at the home of Brad Myers.

Saturday 16 October, I got word a bander in Steuben County, Indiana recaptured a female Rufous I banded January 12, 2021 in Gulf Breeze at Brenda and Charlie Roose's home. That recapture was 900 miles north of the banding location. The bird migrated back to the Pacific Northwest for the breeding season and is returning to the Southeast for another winter. I hope it returns for Brenda and Charlie's home.



Adult female Rufous in Gulf Breeze, FL

Sunday October 17 in Pensacola I caught two hummingbirds I banded last winter. Jan Lloyd has her female Buff-bellied already back for the second winter.



Adult female Buff-bellied

Powers and Rosann McLeod have a second year return male Rufous.



Adult male Rufous

Please maintain your feeder all winter and let me know if you get a winter visitor. I'm interested in all western hummers, and Ruby-throated count as winter hummers from November 15 until March 1. I hope to see you and your winter hummer.

Fred