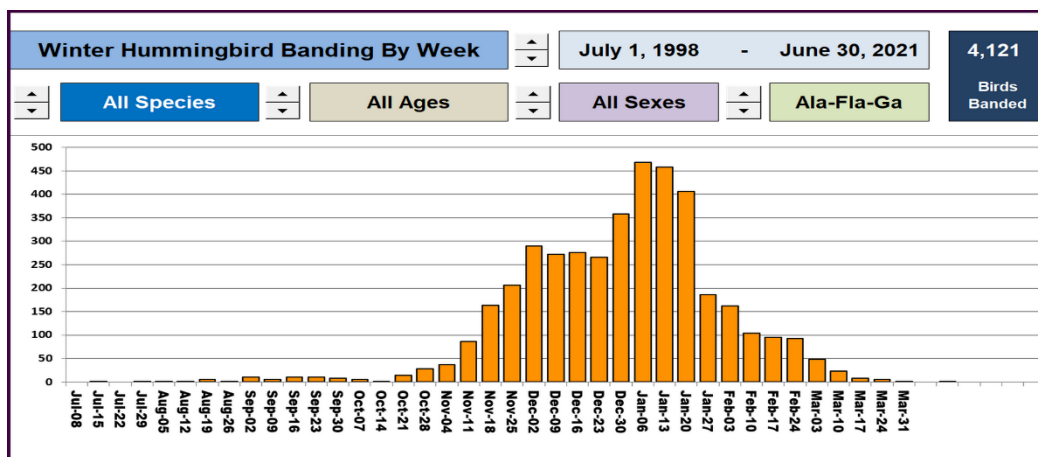


Greetings,

This year has started off slowly since we had a great summer for plants that produce flowers for migrating hummingbirds coupled with the fact we have not had any cold weather to knock down the blooms. Hopefully the cold weather that is predicted for this week will increase the visits to feeders. Also, in the last week there has been an increase in hummers visiting feeders in the western panhandle of Florida so they should be heading our way soon.

Last year I banded 43 birds of 5 species; 23 Rufous, 12 Ruby-throated, 5 Black-chinned, 2 Calliope and 1 Buff-bellied. There were 22 young birds and 21 adults. 38 were banded in Florida and 5 in Georgia. I had 6 recaptures including a Ruby-throated that Fred Bassett banded in Pensacola on December 4th, and I caught her in Tallahassee on December 29th. I also banded at 9 new locations, and I hope some of those birds will return this winter.

Here is a chart showing our weekly banding results over the last 23 years. As you can see the next 4 weeks are the peak times for banding new hummingbirds, so I expect to begin getting lots of new reports.



So far this winter I have only banded two birds along with one return, all at Jodie Elliot and Claudia Mason’s house in Killlearn.

Keep your eyes out for winter hummingbirds and let me know if you would like for me to come identify and band it.

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