

Hummer Update # 1

October 24, 2023

Fellow Hummer Lovers

Most of our wonderful Ruby-throated hummers have migrated to the tropics for the winter. I'm still getting an occasional report, but they will all be gone soon. Lucky hosts in central Florida will have some Ruby-throated hummers that migrate there from further north and spend the winter with them.

The first western hummers are showing up in the Southeast. The best report so far was a juvenile male Green Breasted Mango that showed up near Quitman GA. Unfortunately it only stayed for a couple of days. More normal birds are three of my previously banded Rufous which have returned for the third winter. Jasmine O'Connor in Fairhope AL is enjoying her beautiful male Rufous again. Lloyd Davis in Gainesville FL and William Johnson in Fayetteville GA are glad to host their female Rufous again this winter. I have gotten several reports of new Rufous hummers, but all were "one-day wonders" that stayed for a day or so. Some will start to settle in soon.

Please take a close look at any hummer you see now and let me know if you think it is not a Ruby-throated. All hummers, including Ruby-throated, are considered wintering birds starting November 15, and I will be glad to come to your home to identify and band them. Most winter hummers don't show up until December or January, so please don't give up and take your feeder down.

I look forward to your reports, so I can visit friends and band wonderful hummers this winter.

Fred