

## 2021/2022 Winter Hummingbird Banding Summary

Our Hummingbird Research banding team has completed our twenty-fourth winter hummingbird banding season in the Southeast. Number of birds banded this winter dropped from 278 last winter to 110 this winter, and the number of species dropped from seven to five. We banded 51 Rufous, 48 Ruby-throated, 8 Black-chinned, 2 Buff-bellied, and 1 Allen's.

Seventeen of our previously banded hummingbirds of four species returned to or near the original banding location. Seven Ruby-throated returned including three back for the second winter, two back for the third winter, one back for the fourth winter, and one back for the fifth winter. Six Rufous returned including five back for the second winter, and one back for the fifth winter. Three Black-chinned returned for the second winter, and one Buff-bellied returned for the second winter. We expected a significant increase in returns this winter because of the large number of Rufous banded last winter, but that did not happen.

Five of our banded hummingbirds were encountered at locations other than where they were banded:

September 11, 2021, Fred Bassett recaptured a male Rufous in Callaway, FL at the home of Mary Mask. Fred had banded that bird January 18, 2021, at Carol Yarnell's home in Dunnellon, FL. 260 miles between encounters.

September 16, 2021 a bander in Steuben County, Indiana caught a female Rufous that Fred Bassett banded January 12, 2021, at Brenda and Charlie Roose's home in Gulf Breeze, FL. 880 miles between encounters.

October 9, 2021, a photographer in Central Garden, TX took enough pictures to read the band number of a male Rufous that Emma Rhodes banded December 5, 2020, at Jimmy Stephenson's home in Satsuma, AL. 720 miles between encounters.

January 15, 2022, Fred Bassett caught a male Ruby-throated at Chris and David Cock's home near Brooksville, FL that Fred banded five years earlier on January 17, 2017 at Roy Morris' home in Lakeland, FL. 55 miles between encounters.

January 31, 2022, Fred Bassett recaptured a female Ruby-throated at Carol Goggins' home in Enterprise, AL that he banded November 17, 2021 near Hartford, AL at Dick Mowbray's home. 20 miles between encounters.

Comparisons with the five previous winter seasons are:

2016/2017 – 100 banded with 21 returns and 3 foreign recaptures

2017/2018 – 145 banded with 20 returns and 3 foreign recaptures

2018/2019 – 151 banded with 19 returns and 3 foreign recaptures

2019/2020 – 139 banded with 14 returns and 7 foreign recaptures

2020/2021 – 281 banded with 14 returns and 5 foreign recaptures

2021/2022 – 110 banded with 17 returns and 5 foreign recaptures

We banded at 62 homes compared to 178 last winter and had 22 first time hosts compared to 60 last winter.

The decrease this winter tracks closely with other eastern winter hummingbird banders. Last winter's spike in Rufous hummingbirds did not carry over for a second winter. The hummingbirds were also harder to trap this winter with hosts reporting birds using feeders occasionally rather than regularly. The number of no shows and birds that would not go in traps increased. That change is likely due to more people maintaining winter feeders and more flowers available with warmer winters.

Our twenty-four years of winter hummingbird research documents cycles and trends and works to educate people about how to attract and take care of wintering hummingbirds. The data for our research is dependent on the many hosts who allow us to include their wonderful winter visitors in our research. We thank you and look forward to seeing you and your special wintering winter hummingbirds again next winter.