

2022/2023 Winter Hummingbird Banding Summary

Our Hummingbird Research banding team has completed our twenty-fifth winter hummingbird banding season in the Southeast. The number of birds banded this winter increased from 110 last winter to 154 this winter, and the number of species banded increased from five to seven. We banded 65 Rufous, 60 Ruby-throated, 13 Black-chinned, 8 Calliopes, 6 Buff-bellied, 1 Broad-billed, and 1 Mexican Violetear.

Twenty-three of our previously banded hummingbirds of two species returned to or near the original banding location. Twelve Ruby-throated returned including four back for the second winter, four back for the third winter, three back for the fifth winter, and one back for the sixth winter. Eleven Rufous returned including six back for the second winter, four back for the third winter, and one back for the sixth winter.

Six hummingbirds were encountered at locations other than the original banding location:

December 19, 2022, Kyle Shepard recaptured a female Buff-bellied at the home of Jasmine O'Connor in Fairhope, AL that Fred Bassett banded November 18, 2022 in Callaway, FL at the home of Teresa Nooney. 190 miles between banding and recapture.

January 1, 2023, Fred Dietrich recaptured a male Ruby-throated in Carrabelle, FL that Emma Rhodes banded December 28, 2022 in Pascagoula, MS. 135 miles and four days between banding and recapture.

January 9, 2023, Kyle Shepard recaptured a female Rufous in Fairhope, AL at the home of Leslie Guilian that Fred Bassett banded January 15, 2021 near Blakley, GA at the home of Mary Bush. 225 miles between banding and recapture.

January 13, 2023, Fred Bassett recaptured a female Black-chinned in Gainesville, FL at the home of Adam Zions that was banded in 2012 in Paradise, AZ. 2033 miles and eleven years between banding and recapture. Fred has also recaptured a female Black-chinned in Idaho banded at that same location in Paradise, AZ.

January 15, 2023, Fred Bassett recaptured a male Ruby-throated in Valrico, FL at the home of Steve Backes that he banded January 21, 2018 in Lakeland, FL at the home of Joe Misiaszek. 25 miles and five years between banding and recapture.

February 18, 2023, Emma Rhodes recaptured a male Black-chinned in Fairhope, AL that Fred Dietrich banded January 5, 2023 in Apalachicola, FL. 183 miles between banding and recapture.

Comparisons with the previous five winter seasons are:

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

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

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

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

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

2022/2023 – 154 banded with 23 returns and 6 recaptures

We banded at 86 locations compared to 62 last winter and had 28 first time hosts compared to 22 last winter.

Highlights of the winter season were the Mexican Violetear Fred Bassett banded near Eufaula, AL and the Broad-billed Fred Dietrich banded in Crawfordville, FL. Andy Wraithmell, the Broad-billed host, posted an excellent video about winter hummingbird banding on YouTube. The link is <https://youtu.be/pe5xt8fByQM>.

We had about an average season with above normal numbers of Buff-bellied and Calliopes and less than normal numbers with no Allen's or Broad-tailed hummers. Our research shows short term variations in hummingbird numbers, but we are not seeing a long term decrease in numbers or species.

Our twenty-five 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 hummers again next winter.