

## 2018 Idaho Hummingbird Banding

I banded hummingbirds in Idaho from Mid-May through Mid-August this summer. I banded 25 times at ten locations and banded a total of 1,061 hummingbirds. That total included 484 Calliopes, 372 Black-chinned, 123 Broad-tailed, 79 Rufous, and 3 Calliope/Black-chinned hybrids.

I recaptured 243 hummingbirds I previously banded in Idaho. Those included some very old hummingbirds. At Jeff and Cathy Oesterling's home near Inkom, I caught a Black-chinned that was at least eleven years old. That bird's age was only two months short of the record for the oldest documented Black-chinned. I'm amazed hummingbirds live that long. The same day I caught another Black-chinned at least nine years old. I also caught another nine-year-old Black-chinned south of Idaho City while banding for Nancy Caspersen and Lisa Kern. North of Ola at Fred and Melly Zeillemaker's home, I recaptured the oldest documented Calliope that was at least nine years old.

I also had several foreign recaptures of my Idaho hummingbirds. On May 27, a bander working near Walla Walla, WA, caught a Black-chinned I banded in August 2014 at Dianna Mixon's home near Emmett. I was notified on July 28 that a Black-chinned was found in Sagle, ID that I banded at Fred and Melly Zeillemaker's home in August 2015. My last foreign recapture was in August when I caught a Black-chinned at Maxine and Bill Jeff's home in High Valley that was banded near Idaho City in August 2017.

I trained one new hummingbird bander in Idaho this summer. Todd Eskelin came down from Soldotna, Alaska where he is a wildlife biologist at the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge to get training to add hummingbirds to his banding permit. Todd is a very experienced bander who had no problems learning to band much smaller birds. He banded over 200 hummingbirds at the Oesterling's home and the Rudeen ranch south of American Falls. I hope Todd will catch one of my hummingbirds up there in Alaska.

I love banding hummingbirds and living in Idaho during the summer. I'm already looking forward to seeing friends and hummers there again next summer.