

2021 Idaho Hummingbird Banding Summary

I did not band in Idaho in 2020 due to the COVID virus, so it was wonderful to get there to band this summer. I conducted 27 banding sessions at 15 different locations and banded a total of 1,288 hummingbirds including 653 calliope, 316 Black-chinned, 114 Broad-tailed, 39 Rufous, and 6 hybrids.

Highlight of summer banding was the number and variety of Hybrids which are a cross between hummingbird species. I banded four males including three Calliope x Black-chinned and one Broad-tailed x Calliope and two females including an Anna's x Black-chinned and a Broad-tailed x Calliope. Hybrids are identified by studying feather color and shape, body measurements, and species characteristics.



Calliope x Black-chinned hybrid

The number of birds banded was normal for the summer, but the number of return banded birds was down significantly. That decrease

was due to not banding in 2020 and loss of a couple of long-time banding locations.

I have spent most summers in Idaho since 2003 and love living there and learning more about western hummingbirds each summer. None of my research would be possible without the wonderful hummer hosts and friends who share their hummingbirds for my research. I'm already looking forward to next summer seeing friends and learning more about hummingbirds.