Seeking volunteers for Hummingbird Banding

Looking for reliable volunteers for a new hummingbird banding site at Page Springs Fish Hatchery! This is a great opportunity to learn more about hummingbirds. Hilary Morejon from The International Hummingbird Society has become a permitted bander and is working with the Hummingbird Conservation Network on expanding hummingbird research in the Verde Valley. In order for this to happen, we need volunteers to help at the site.

Banding volunteers will be at the Page Springs Fish Hatchery site one day every 2 weeks for 5 hours in the morning starting at sunrise (start times may vary, and these hours may be less depending on the population size of hummingbirds at the site). A monitoring season usually runs from March - October. The start of the season may vary depending on hummingbird population but will run til October regardless. A monitoring session is what the banding day is called. Starting towards the end of May, on Saturdays Hilary will have a monitoring session every other week, so 2 days per month.

Banding Volunteer Positions:

**Trapping**: Seeking those who would be interested in trapping hummingbirds. Each session will have 1-2 trappers (depending on population). If you have past experience with trapping hummingbirds or other passerine, that would be most preferred. Hilary will provide adequate training on how to safely and efficiently capture and handle hummingbirds.

**Feed and Release**: These volunteers will sit at the banding table and feed and release hummingbirds after they have been banded and are ready to be released back into the wild. Hilary will provide training prior to the monitoring session on how to handle the hummingbirds properly and how to feed them. There will only be need for one volunteer per session.

**Data Notation**: Hilary's husband will be the main data notator for the season. Upon occasion he may not be available and there will be a need for volunteers. If you have had previous experience with data notating for hummingbirds or other passerine, this would be preferred, but not a requirement. Hilary will provide training for this job prior to the monitoring session.

Hummingbird Feeder Volunteers:

There is a great need for reliable individuals who are willing to help maintain the hummingbird feeders at the Page Springs Fish Hatchery from April - October. As hummingbird population increases and temperatures increase, the feeders will need to be cleaned and refilled more often. Sometimes the feeders will need to be cleaned and changed every day to every other day, especially at peak migratory season during the summer. All of the supplies for maintaining the feeders are at the hatchery. Hilary will provide a training on how to properly maintain the 5 feeders at the site.

We want to emphasize how crucial the feeder role is; the health and cleanliness of the feeders helps maintain population size, and the health of the bird. If the feeders are neglected, bacterial and fungal growth may occur and can be harmful to hummingbirds. Having that consistency will have a substantial impact on the success of the site at the Page Springs Fish Hatchery and we appreciate your commitment to their care.

If you are interested in any of these positions, please email Hilary Morejon at: hilhummingbird@gmail.com. She will put your name on a contact list. She or her husband, Whitney, will reach out and schedule those who want to help. In your email, please include your experience level in banding, what positions you are interested in, and whether your intent is to be an alternate volunteer or part of the regular team.  Please understand that while interacting with these incredible birds is exciting; our commitment is first and foremost to the health and welfare of the hummingbird, so please understand there will be consistent instruction and correction for their protection.

Initially this will be a small team, but as the population grows there will be more opportunities for banding volunteers. To be clear, there is no guarantee that each volunteer can attend every monitoring session or that you will be needed, but your interest and availability is appreciated. There will be adequate communication both individually and as a group about the needs and responsibilities for each task and monitoring session.