

Rio Mesa Banding Station
Spring 2018
Summary for Week One: 5 April - 11 April

Our first week of banding was rather slow in terms of captures, though we were excited to begin the season! This week our captures mainly consisted of lingering winterers such as sparrows and juncos, with a scattering of early migrants such as Lucy's Warbler, though we were pleased to recapture a few birds banded in previous years. The weather overall was mild, with cold mornings giving way to warm afternoons, though we did have a heavy overnight rainstorm.

This week we captured a total of 127 birds of 16 species. Broken down, it came to: 97 banded, 25 recaptures, with 5 birds unbanded due to escape.

Thursday, 5 April: We were off to an eventful start on our first day of banding, when we captured 34 birds despite only running 13 of the 16 nets.

Friday, 6 April: A much slower morning than yesterday, though it turned out to be our third best day of the week in terms of capture volume. We captured 16 birds, including our first Marsh Wren of the season.

Saturday, 7 April: Early morning rain delayed opening the nets until 0700. We captured 15 birds.

Sunday, 8 April: We had a heavy rainstorm overnight, but it cleared in time to open the nets. We captured 13 birds.

Monday, 9 April: A cold, clear morning with increasing wind throughout the morning, but we were able to operate all 16 nets for the entire session. We captured 13 birds..

Tuesday, 10 April: Another cold clear morning, but today the wind did impact us a bit, resulting in a loss of 3.65 net hours for the day. However, we did band the first Cassin's Finch for the station. There was one other Cassin's Finch captured at Rio Mesa, but it was released unbanded. We also caught our first Say's Phoebe of the season. We caught a total of 13 birds.

Wednesday, 11 April: Increasing wind threatened to shut us down today but we were able to operate for a total of 88.87 net hours, resulting in our second-best day of the week in terms of capture volume: 24 birds. Favorable conditions overnight seemed to bring us some new birds, as we saw our first swallows of the season and there seemed to be greater diversity of birds in the area today. We also captured our first Spotted Towhee, Brewer's Sparrow, and Audubon's Warbler of the season today, though sadly the Audubon's Warbler escaped before being banded.

ALPHA CODE	SPECIES NAME	TOTAL
GWCS	Gambel's White-crowned Sparrow	11
LISP	Lincoln's Sparrow	25
LUWA	Lucy's Warbler	4
ORJU	Oregon Dark-eyed Junco	26
ORJU	Pink-sided Dark-eyed Junco	37
SOSP	Song Sparrow	9
MWCS	Mountain White-crowned Sparrow	1
MAWR	Marsh Wren	3
AMRO	American Robin	1
RCKI	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	1
SAGS	Sagebrush Sparrow	1
SAPH	Say's Phoebe	1
CAFI	Cassin's Finch	2
AUWA	Audubon's Yellow-rumped Warbler	1
BRSP	Brewer's Sparrow	2
SPTO	Spotted Towhee	2
	Total	127