

Rio Mesa Banding Station
Spring 2018
Summary for Week Two: 12 April – 18 April

Week Two was once again quite slow, though we did log our second busiest day of the season so far (25 captures). We had some windy weather that necessitated missing entire days of banding, which certainly didn't help our capture numbers. Migration is in evidence now and we are starting to see some more migrants around the station, as well as adding some new species to the year list of captures. This week we captured our first Black-throated Gray Warbler, Virginia's Warbler, Hermit Thrush, Vesper Sparrow, and Gray Flycatcher.

This week we captured a total of 57 birds of 13 species, which broke down to 43 birds banded, 13 recaptures, and 1 bird released unbanded due to escape. Overall, we have captured 184 birds of 20 species.

Thursday, 12 April: Station closed due to strong winds.

Friday, 13 April: Though we were forced to close early due to increasing winds in the late morning and the capture rate was slow, we were pleased to pick up 3 new species banded for the season this morning: Black-throated Gray Warbler, Virginia's Warbler, and our first Empidonax of the season, a Gray Flycatcher. We captured 11 birds.

Saturday, 14 April: Despite an extremely cold morning and persistent light winds, today will turn out to be our busiest day of the week and the second-busiest day of the season so far. We caught our first Vesper Sparrow of the season, and banded our first Audubon's Yellow-rumped Warbler (one was captured last week, but escaped before being banded). We captured 25 birds.

Sunday, 15 April: Another slow day with light winds and cool temperatures. We caught 12 birds, including the first Hermit Thrush of the season.

Monday, 16 April: Station closed.

Tuesday, 17 April: Station closed.

Wednesday, 18 April: The slowest day of the season so far. We closed out the week with only 8 birds, half of which were recaptures. Hopefully some moderate southerly winds are in our future and will bring us more birds!

ALPHA CODE	SPECIES NAME	TOTAL
AUWA	Audubon's Yellow-rumped Warbler	1
BTYW	Black-throated Gray Warbler	1
GRFL	Gray Flycatcher	1
GWCS	Gambel's White-crowned Sparrow	11
HETH	Hermit Thrush	1
LISP	Lincoln's Sparrow	6
LUWA	Lucy's Warbler	3
ORJU	Oregon Dark-eyed Junco	5
ORJU	Pink-sided Dark-eyed Junco	16
RCKI	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	2
SOSP	Song Sparrow	4
SPTO	Spotted Towhee	3
VESP	Vesper Sparrow	1
VIWA	Virginia's Warbler	2
	Total:	57