

**Rio Mesa Banding Station**  
**Spring 2018**  
**Summary for Week 4: 26 April – 2 May**

Though high winds and rain forced us to lose some net hours, we were fortunate to have some rather favorable migration weather this week. As a result, we had a rapid expansion of the number species captured this season: we added 11 new species, bringing us to a total of 37 for the year. The wintering sparrows and juncos have largely disappeared this week, and we experienced some pretty spectacular flights of migrating Violet-green Swallows. Our highlight bird this week was a Grasshopper Sparrow, only the station's third, with the station's first Red-winged Blackbird as runner-up.

This week we captured a total of 81 birds of 28 species, which broke down to: 59 newly banded birds and 22 recaptures. So far this season we have captured 320 birds of 37 species.

**Thursday, 26 April:** A cold, clear, calm morning yielded to increasing winds that shut us down around 1100. We had a decent morning regardless, adding our first Black-throated Sparrow and an early MacGillivray's Warbler for the season. We captured 12 birds today.

**Friday, 27 April:** Our best day since 14 April, despite high winds that forced us to close early. We got 3 first-of-season captures today: Woodhouse's Scrub-Jay, Grasshopper Sparrow, and Red-naped Sapsucker. We caught 20 birds today.

**Saturday, 28 April:** Station closed.

**Sunday, 29 April:** Another windy day with reduced net effort. We heard our first Yellow-breasted Chat of the season today, though we did not catch one. We caught 6 birds today.

**Monday, 30 April:** High winds shut us down at 0900 today. We captured 7 birds today, including our first Plumbeous Vireo of the season.

**Tuesday, 1 May:** We opened the nets at 0649 today after waiting for early morning showers to cease. Today was a good day, despite the reduced effort. We captured 15 birds.

**Wednesday, 2 May:** A good last day at the station for 2 visiting banders, Christina and Scott Vojta, who came to the station from Flagstaff, AZ, to get some experience handling birds and banding. We added a whopping 5(!) new species to the season's captures list today: Lazuli Bunting, Lark Sparrow, Red-winged Blackbird (the first captured at Rio Mesa), Green-tailed Towhee, and Dusky Flycatcher. We captured 21 birds.

<b>ALPHA CODE</b>	<b>SPECIES NAME</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
AMRO	American Robin	1
BGGN	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	6
BRSP	Brewer's Sparrow	2
BTSP	Black-throated Sparrow	2
BTYW	Black-throated Gray Warbler	1
CHSP	Chipping Sparrow	1
DUFL	Dusky Flycatcher	1
GRSP	Grasshopper Sparrow	1
GTTO	Green-tailed Towhee	2
GWCS	Gambel's White-crowned Sparrow	5
HETH	Hermit Thrush	12
LASP	Lark Sparrow	1
LAZB	Lazuli Bunting	1
LISP	Lincoln's Sparrow	10
LUWA	Lucy's Warbler	1
MAWR	Marsh Wren	1
MGWA	MacGillivray's Warbler	3
MWCS	Mountain White-crowned Sparrow	4
ORJU	Pink-sided Dark-eyed Junco	1
PLVI	Plumbeous Vireo	2
RCKI	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	4
RNSA	Red-naped Sapsucker	1
RWBL	Red-winged Blackbird	1
SOSP	Song Sparrow	2
SPTO	Spotted Towhee	7
VIWA	Virginia's Warbler	3
WOSJ	Woodhouse's Scrub-Jay	1
YBCH	Yellow-breasted Chat	1
YEWA	Yellow Warbler	3
	<b>Total</b>	<b>81</b>