

**Report Number 1, Week 1, August 15 to 19, 2018 by Bander M.A. Ford**

The station opened up earlier than usual this season, as I was able to arrive earlier from South Africa. I was driven to the station by Monte Neate-Clegg on the afternoon of Monday, August 13<sup>th</sup>, and the site was set up using the normal layout on the 14<sup>th</sup>.

Banding commenced on the morning of the 15<sup>th</sup>, with just Monte and myself – the two volunteers being scheduled to arrive on the 19<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> respectively. It was an extremely busy morning with a total of 101 birds being captured – 79 new birds banded, plus 1 recapture and 21 released unbanded. This was mainly due to a huge influx of birds at the 9am round, which consisted of 20 House Finches, 20 Bushtits and 8 other species. 48 birds in one net round! It was obvious that we would be unable to band all of these and continue normal operations, so it was agreed to release half of the House Finches and Bushtits, and band the rest. (The unbanded total also included a processed Rufous Hummingbird.)

The total for the morning comprised of 23 species, including several notable species such as Black Phoebe, Northern Mockingbird, Blue Grosbeak, Ash-throated Flycatcher, Lark Sparrow, Willow Flycatcher, Gray Vireo and Lazuli Bunting amongst the many more common species.

Within this heavy activity Monte managed to successfully fit three Yellow-breasted Chats with geolocators, and on subsequent days I fitted four more.

After the frantic activity of the first day, subsequent days have been more typical of this time of the season, with mainly common resident species being processed in manageable numbers, the grand total for the 4 working days being 185 birds of 27 species – 153 banded, 3 recaps and 26 unbanded, which includes 5 hummingbirds. Schedule of species and numbers attached.

Monte returned to Salt Lake City after completion of banding on Thursday, 16<sup>th</sup>, and a Wildlife Dept bander, Terri Pope, arrived to take his place for the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>, whereafter the first season volunteer, Hannah Horowitz, arrived to commence her season on the afternoon of Sunday, 19<sup>th</sup>. As I was alone at the station on this day, the manager – Hau Truong – requested that no banding take place, as the radios were (and are) broken and black bears have been around the site for a while. I thus had a day off and the opportunity to clean and sort out all the equipment boxes ready for the new season. For the record it is noted that Hannah – while being bright and keen – has never banded or handled a passerine in her life, so I will be busy teaching while operating for the next few days.

Everything at the station is in good order – the nets being in really good shape (thanks Cagan!) with the exception of one of the two way radios and the banding tent, which is in tatters and in need of replacement. These matters are in hand.

Species count for the week 15th to 18th August, 2018. (4 days only)

Species	Banded	Recaps	Unbanded	Notes
Ash-throated Flycatcher	3	0	0	
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	19	0	0	
Brewer's Sparrow	31	2	1	
Black Phoebe	2	0	0	
Bewick's Wren	1	0	0	
Macgillivray's Warbler	2	0	0	
Virginia's Warbler	3	0	0	
Gray Vireo	3	1	0	
Warbling Vireo	1	0	0	
Wilson's Warbler	4	0	0	
Yellow-breasted Chat	7	0	0	Fitted with geolocators
Western Wood-peewee	1	0	0	
House Finch	29	1	10	
Bushtit	24	0	10	
Yellow Warbler	11	2	0	
Lucy's Warbler	1	0	0	
Bullock's Oriole	1	0	0	
Brown-headed Cowbird	1	0	0	
Lark Sparrow	1	0	0	
Northern Mockingbird	1	0	0	
Lazuli Bunting	2	0	0	
Black-chinned Hummingbird	0	0	1	
Rufous Hummingbird	0	0	4	Includes 2 juveniles
Willow Flycatcher	1	0	0	
Blue Grosbeak	2	0	0	
Plumbeous Vireo	1	0	0	
Sagebrush Sparrow	1	0	0	
Total	153	6	26	