

Report Number 5, Week 5, Sept 10th to 16th, 2018

Total of birds processed was as follows:

Banded – 172; Recaptured – 24; Un-banded – 4; Total birds processed – 200 .

Season: Banded – 783; Recaptured – 105; Un-banded – 50; Total for season – 938.

There were six new species processed during the week, these being:- Black-throated Gray Warbler; Song Sparrow; Audubon's Warbler; Red-shafted Flicker; Hammond's Flycatcher and Grasshopper Sparrow. This brings the number of different species processed at the station this season to a total of fifty-nine.

The appearance of the juvenile Grasshopper Sparrow had me flummoxed as to identification for the first time since I have been working this station. Fortunately we were not very busy at the time, so I was able to spend a good amount of time with the bird, taking many photos and measurements. Even so, I eventually had to turn to Monte for confirmation of the species, which is a most unusual capture for the station.

The capture and banding of a very nice adult male Red-shafted Flicker enabled me to achieve one of my objectives for the season, as I failed with this species on my previous tour, in spite of many close encounters.

The other interesting bird banded was our first unusual *Empidonax* flycatcher – a Hammond's. A blood sample plus feathers were collected from this individual.

Week 5 saw a daily average of only 29 birds processed, as compared to the previous week's average of 38, this being mainly due to a sudden lull in bird activity at the end of the week, on the 15th and 16th, which days produced only 13 and 14 birds respectively. I cannot understand or account for this quiet period, and can only hope that "normal service" will be resumed next week.

Only one more Yellow-breasted Chat was fitted with a geolocator, making a total of thirteen for the season. This bird was the only suitable recapture from a previous season, as per the current protocol. Twenty-one units remain on hand awaiting deployment.

The station was open for the full 7 days this week, although Hannah took one of her due days off on Friday, 14th.

On the morning of Sunday, 16th, a group of ten UU undergrad art students who were staying at the campsite visited us and were explained the purposes and methodologies of a migration banding station such as RMSA, and a demonstration of the banding process was given.

Regards

Mike Ford, Lead Bander.