

Rio Mesa Banding Station
Spring 2018
Summary for Week 5: 10 May – 16 May

Things really picked up at the banding station this week! Our capture numbers and diversity were both the highest of the season so far. The weather overall was favorable both for migration and mist netting, if a bit on the hot side near the end of some banding sessions. We are continuing to accumulate species banded for the season, adding 9 to the list this week. Highlights included Hammond's Flycatcher, Northern Waterthrush, and our first Western Tanagers of the season.

This week we captured a total of 315 birds of 33 species, which broke down to: 263 banded, 46 recaptures, and 6 released unbanded (including 2 Black-chinned Hummingbirds). Overall this season so far we have captured 718 birds of 50 species.

Thursday, 10 May: A busy day to start a busy week! Today was the busiest day of the season to this date, and an abrupt shift from the moderate capture numbers of the previous week. Mikaela and Dan were able to learn just how hard some birds can bite when we captured our first Black-headed Grosbeak of the season. We captured 64 birds today.

Friday, 11 May: Winds prevented us from running at full strength today. Despite operating for only 48.07 net hours we captured 53 birds, including the first Warbling Vireo, Hammond's Flycatcher, and Western Tanager for the season.

Saturday, 12 May: Winds once again forced us to reduce effort and close early, but today will likely turn out to be the busiest day of the season in terms of capture rate. We captured 28 birds in 16.9 net-hours of operation, a rate of 1.66 birds per net hour. Needless to say, despite only running until 0735, we were very busy. We captured the first Willow Flycatcher of the season today.

Sunday, 13 May: After some sprinkles in the early morning caused a little anxiety, the weather cleared up and we had our busiest day of the week. We also welcomed 3 local Grand County birders to the station today. We captured 75 birds.

Monday, 14 May: Things are slowing down a little bit, but we are still having some good days (especially compared to the beginning of the season!). Migration is still in full swing, but we had some evidence that for early migrants the breeding season is well under way: today we captured our first Hatch-year bird, a fledgling Lucy's Warbler. We captured 32 birds today, including the first Northern Waterthrush of the season.

Tuesday, 15 May: Another fairly laid-back day by comparison, but still busy and with good diversity. We captured 40 birds today, including our first Brown-headed Cowbird, Gray Catbird, and Swainson's Thrush of the season.

Wednesday, 16 May: Increasing winds shut us down a little early today, but we managed to close out the week with a respectable 24 captures. Migration shows no signs of slowing yet, as we are still detecting good diversity and numbers of migrants, and still capturing a fair number of adult males of all species (in which we can determine sex).

ALPHA CODE	SPECIES NAME	TOTAL
ATFL	Ash-throated Flycatcher	2
BCHU	Black-chinned Hummingbird	2
BGNN	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	9
BHCO	Brown-headed Cowbird	1
BHGR	Black-headed Grosbeak	6
BRSP	Brewer's Sparrow	4
BTSP	Black-throated Sparrow	2
BTYW	Black-throated Gray Warbler	1
CHSP	Chipping Sparrow	1
COYE	Common Yellowthroat	16
DUFL	Dusky Flycatcher	5
GHJU	Gray-headed Dark-eyed Junco	3
GRCA	Gray Catbird	1
GTTO	Green-tailed Towhee	3
GWCS	Gambel's White-crowned Sparrow	2
HAFL	Hammond's Flycatcher	1
HETH	Hermit Thrush	10
LAZB	Lazuli Bunting	2
LISP	Lincoln's Sparrow	9
LUWA	Lucy's Warbler	4
MAWR	Marsh Wren	3

ALPHA CODE	SPECIES NAME	TOTAL
MGWA	MacGillivray's Warbler	37
MWCS	Mountain White-crowned Sparrow	7
NOWA	Northern Waterthrush	3
RCKI	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	3
SOSP	Song Sparrow	4
SPTO	Spotted Towhee	2
SWTH	Swainson's Thrush	1
WAVI	Warbling Vireo	8
WETA	Western Tanager	3
WIFL	Willow Flycatcher	5
WIWA	Wilson's Warbler	97
YBCH	Yellow-breasted Chat	23
YEWA	Yellow Warbler	35
	Total	315