Rio Mesa Banding Station
Spring 2018
Summary for Week 7: 17 May – 23 May

Capture numbers have gone down significantly after last week's peak migration. We are capturing fewer migrants and day-to-day species diversity is down. Many of the migrants we are capturing now are Second-Year females, which typically migrate later in the season than males and older birds. After an exciting ten days or so of high volume and good diversity we are now seeing the slow ending of migration for the season.

We have continued to accumulate new species captured for the season, adding 6 more species this week. Highlights included the station's ninth Cassin's Vireo and several Blue Grosbeaks.

Good weather for banding and migration combined once again to give us our second-best week of the season so far: we captured 275 birds of 33 species, which broke down to 236 birds banded, 33 recaptures, and 6 birds released unbanded (including 2 Black-chinned Hummingbirds).

Thursday, 17 May: Today we said goodbye to one of our volunteers, Mikaela Kropp, who has moved on to a grassland bird monitoring project in Kansas. There were lots of Willow Flycatchers singing in the banding station today, and we captured 2 new species for the season: Pine Siskin and Blue Grosbeak. We captured 67 birds today.

Friday, 18 May: Another busy day, especially with fewer hands to extract and band birds now that Mikaela is gone! 3 researchers from the University of Utah visited the station briefly today. We captured 57 birds.

Saturday, 19 May: Today was slower, and clearly the beginning of the end for migration. Diversity was lower and we captured 29 birds.

Sunday, 20 May: Another warm and breezy day. We captured our first Bullock's Oriole of the season today, and had 35 captures overall.

Monday, 21 May: A cold and clear morning after an overnight rain brought us a little bump of movement and the first Western Wood-Pewee of the season. We captured 37 birds today, none of which we recaptures.

Tuesday, 22 May: We welcomed Jennifer Bridgeman, our new volunteer, to the station today. The weather was warm and overcast and threatening rain all morning, but luckily no rain fell until after we closed for the day. We captured 32 birds today, including the first Cassin's Vireo and Northern Mockingbird of the season.

Wednesday, 23 May: A disappointing end to the week: rapidly increasing wind forced us to close the station at 0840, giving us only 18 captures for the day.

ALPHA CODE	SPECIES NAME	TOTAL
AUWA	Audubon's Yellow-rumped Warbler	3
ATFL	Ash-throated Flycatcher	1
BCHU	Black-chinned Hummingbird	2
BGGN	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	6
BHGR	Black-headed Grosbeak	3
BLGR	Blue Grosbeak	4
BRSP	Brewer's Sparrow	3
BUOR	Bullock's Oriole	1
CAVI	Cassin's Vireo	1
CHSP	Chipping Sparrow	1
COYE	Common Yelowthroat	5
DUFL	Dusky Flycatcher	8
GHJU	Gray-headed Junco	1
GRCA	Gray Catbird	1
GTTO	Green-tailed Towhee	5
GWCS	Gambel's White-crowned Sparrow	3
HETH	Hermit Thrush	1
HOFI	House Finch	1
LAZB	Lazuli Bunting	2
LISP	Lincoln's Sparrow	14
LUWA	Lucy's Warbler	3
MGWA	MacGillivray's Warbler	32
MWCS	Mountain White-crowned Sparrow	30
NOMO	Northern Mockingbird	1
PISI	Pine Siskin	3
SPTO	Spotted Towhee	1
WAVI	Warbling Vireo	9
WETA	Western Tanager	4
WEWP	Western Wood-Pewee	2
WIFL	Willow Flycatcher	12
WIWA	Wilson's Warbler	57
YBCH	Yellow-breasted Chat	24
YEWA	Yellow Warbler	30
	Total	**275**