

Rio Mesa Banding Station

Spring
2021

Summary for Week 4: Saturday, April 25th-May 1st

Slower numbers continued this week but migrants are around. Kara and Becca are doing some great extracting and all the banding. No new species in the nets this week but many sightings around the station! We are looking at good winds in the next few days and an overnight rainstorm going into Monday morning. I am hoping it brings some birds down!

This week we had a total of 33 birds caught. 28 new bands and 5 recaps including two from previous seasons. So far, we have caught a total of 112 birds and 20 species.

Sunday 25th: Today was a day off. Today and tomorrow call for very strong winds up to 35mph. Despite that I found a few **Lark Sparrows** on the lawn between the cabins. They are the first of the year and the most notable bird of the day.

[Ebird List](#)

Monday, 26th: Today was a day off. Today's wind was about the same as yesterday. I walked down to the station to see how the nets were holding up and saw a small collection of species including low flying **White-throated Swifts** and the season's first **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher**.

[Ebird List](#)

Tuesday, 27th: Today it rained off and on all morning. We caught ten new birds today, the most notable bird being a **Gray Flycatcher**.

[Ebird List](#)

Wednesday, 28th: Today we had lower numbers but fun birds. We caught several **Virginia's Warblers** of different ages/sexes as well as both subspecies of **White-crowned Sparrow**. They were caught at the same time and provided an excellent comparison. We banded 6 new birds today and recaptured one **Lincoln's Sparrow**.

[Ebird List](#)

Thursday, 29th: Numbers continue to be low but diversity is ever increasing and new birds are arriving every day. Today our bird of the day was a recaptured **Lucy's Warbler** banded in April of 2019 (thanks Kyle for looking that up for us!). Our second recap from a previous year!

[Ebird List](#)

Friday, 30th: After promises of high migration from Birdcast last night we awoke eagerly to find a quiet and empty banding station. Today we caught one new bird. A **White-crowned Sparrow**. The station was quiet but we did see a small flock of **Pinyon Jays** and a **Lazuli Bunting** visited the house in the later afternoon. Birdcast shows high migration again this evening and we are excited to see what, if anything, the wind brings us.

[Ebird List](#)

Saturday 1st: Today was a bit more birdy with seven new birds and one recap. Our one recap was a **Lucy's Warbler** banded in June 2019. It was also a slightly birdier day around the station with distantly calling **Pinyon Jays**, a few **Lazuli Buntings**, and the residents ravens enjoying a mystery meal on the fence line.

[Ebird List](#)

Rio Mesa Banding Station: Week 4

Virginia's Warbler	6
Gray Flycatcher	1
Lucy's Warbler	2
Orange-crowned Warbler	1
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	1
Marsh Wren	2
Gambel's White-crowned Sparrow	10
Mountain White-crowned Sparrow	1
Hermit Thrush	1
Song Sparrow	3