

## Spring 2021- Final Report

The 2021 spring season has flown by. While the early seasons' banding numbers felt dreadfully slow, it provided an opportunity to observe and discuss the many ways bird abundance is affected by food availability as well as the local and national weather/ climate. Strong winds from the north may have kept many birds grounded later than usual and a somewhat late spring across much of the Front Range and Colorado Plateau could have meant fewer flocks of migrants moving through the habitat. Many of our early season migrants (seed and insect eaters alike) around Rio Mesa could be reliably located at the elm and locust trees at the Daulton and Deck house. When the cottonwoods and willows began to leaf out and flower our daily numbers started to increase. On May 9th overnight (technically over a weekend) birds seemed to arrive en masse. We caught 35 birds on May 9th including around eight new species for the season. Daily numbers stayed high for about 2.5 weeks and leveled off around 10-15 birds a day the last week or so. Spring migration was gone before I could blink!

We had two new species added to Rio Mesa's ebird list and one of those two was caught and banded. Extremely high winds April 13th-14th brought a small mix of migrants including Rio Mesa's first recorded Painted Redstart. The bird spent the morning moving between the elm, locusts, junipers, and pines around the Deck and Daulton houses. This bird was Rio Mesa's 184th species recorded on ebird. On May 18th we caught and banded Rio Mesa's first Blue-winged Warbler! A fourth state record for Utah and Rio Mesa's 185th species recorded on ebird.

We had some notable recaps this season including several birds from 2016! Lucy's Warbler number 277083171 will reach its sixth birthday in spring 2022 and, if recaptured, it will break the [longevity record](#) for that species (originally recorded in 1980). Birds of the World offers a "[Priorities for Future Research](#)" section that states "Lucy's Warbler is still one of the least-known parulines in North America." I suspect very few stations are regularly banding them in the west as their breeding and migratory range is so restricted. The years of data at Rio Mesa could provide a unique number of insights into their physiology, migratory patterns, breeding ecology, etc.

Species composition differed quite a bit from fall as Warblers, rather than sparrows, (and a "pseudo-warbler") took our top 4 most caught species. Wilson's Warblers came in first at 47 new bands and Yellow Warblers came in second at 42. This season we caught 50 species, 598 birds, 484 new, 106 recaps, 8 unbanded, and 1 mortality.

## Thank You

My two seasons here have provided me with many opportunities to grow as a bander, a leader, and a teacher. I love the desert and I love the west. I feel I have barely scratched the surface of understanding it. I hope to find new ways to be involved in Rio Mesa in the future. I wanted to thank Hau and Kyle who were both very gracious with their time and support this season.

I also want to thank Becca and Kara for doing a wonderful job this season first with learning extraction and banding with such low numbers and immediately transitioning to 30+ bird days. Y'all did amazing and I could not have asked for a better crew this year. I can't wait to see what y'all do next and please send me updates at any point in the future.

Below are the lists for species and number of individuals caught, novel captures (new and previous season), and a list of recaps from a previous season.

### Species and individuals caught

Lucy's Warbler	11
Audubon's Warbler	6
Virginia's Warbler	20
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	6
Gray Flycatcher	2
Orange-crowned Warbler	5
Yellow Warbler	42
Wilson's Warbler	47
Dusky Flycatcher	9
Common Yellowthroat	10
Least Flycatcher	1
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	4
Blue-winged Warbler	1
Brewer's Sparrow	12
Lesser Goldfinch	2
Spizella Sp	1
Willow Flycatcher	32
Chipping Sparrow	1
MacGillivray's Warbler	40
Warbling Vireo	16
Oregon Dark-eyed Junco	1

Lincoln's Sparrow	22
Black Phoebe	1
Northern Waterthrush	1
Western Wood-Pewee	2
Red-breasted Nuthatch	1
Savannah Sparrow	1
Song Sparrow	11
Marsh Wren	4
Hermit Thrush	6
Lazuli Bunting	5
Ash-throated Flycatcher	6
House Finch	1
Indigo Bunting	1
Unknown White-crowned Sparrow	1
Gambel's White-crowned Sparrow	25
Mountain White-crowned Sparrow	28
Yellow-breasted Chat	37
Blue Grosbeak	7
Western Tanager	6
Green-tailed Towhee	13
Sage Thrasher	1
Spotted Towhee	6
Bullock's Oriole	7
Black-headed Grosbeak	5
Gray Catbird	5
Northern Mockingbird	8
American Robin	6
Woodhouse's Scrub Jay	4
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1
Mourning Dove	3

**Novel Recaps and Number of Times Caught This Season**

246072076	Lincoln's Sparrow	4
281164742	Lincoln's Sparrow	2
281164753	Song Sparrow	1
281164755	Song Sparrow	1
281164756	Lincoln's Sparrow	4

281165759	Lincoln's Sparrow	1
281164758	Lincoln's Sparrow	1
283131895	Song Sparrow	1
283131849	Gambel's White-crowned Sparrow	2
281164759	Lincoln's Sparrow	2
250172694	Spotted Towhee	1
283198702	Gambel's White-crowned Sparrow	1
290017709	Lucy's Warbler	1
281164760	Lincoln's Sparrow	1
290066748	Lucy's Warbler	1
290072593	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	3
277083171	Lucy's Warbler	2
281164763	Marsh Wren	3
283198720	Gambel's White-crowned Sparrow	1
290072877	Yellow Warbler	1
283198715	Gambel's White-crowned Sparrow	2
271195609	Yellow-breasted Chat	2
277041969	Yellow Warbler	3
247064804	Yellow Warbler	2
273100254	Green-tailed Towhee	1
290072894	Wilson's Warbler	1
290072893	Wilson's Warbler	1
290072891	Wilson's Warbler	2
281164765	Lincoln's Sparrow	1
247064803	Wilson's Warbler	1
290072895	Wilson's Warbler	1
273100256	Yellow-breasted Chat	1
290072898	Wilson's Warbler	1
246072092	MacGillivray's Warbler	1
283198731	Lincoln's Sparrow	1
273100258	Green-tailed Towhee	2
283178726	Hermit Thrush	1
283000970	Yellow Warbler	1
246072095	MacGillivray's Warbler	1
250125400	Yellow-breasted Chat	1
283198740	Mountain White-crowned Sparrow	2

258140713	Yellow-breasted Chat	1
270162175	Yellow-breasted Chat	1
283198745	Yellow-breasted Chat	1
290072845	Lucy's Warbler	1
270162238	Yellow-breasted Chat	1
273100255	Yellow-breasted Chat	2
246072100	Yellow Warbler	1
282188903	Yellow-breasted Chat	3
250125402	Northern Mockingbird	1
271195581	Yellow-breasted Chat	2
273100274	Yellow-breasted Chat	1
273100276	Green-tailed Towhee	1
283198750	Blue Grosbeak	2
290017859	Yellow Warbler	1
273100268	Yellow-breasted Chat	1
283198763	Yellow-breasted Chat	1
283198765	Yellow-breasted Chat	1
279118757	House Finch	1
273100279	Yellow-breasted Chat	2
283198760	Blue Grosbeak	1
259054715	Warbling Vireo	1
247064879	Wilson's Warbler	4
247064866	Yellow Warbler	1
283198767	Mountain White-crowned Sparrow	1
283198772	Green-tailed Towhee	1
291004610	Wilson's Warbler	1
259054727	MacGillivray's Warbler	1
291004879	Yellow Warbler	1
259054726	MacGillivray's Warbler	1
259054736	MacGillivray's Warbler	1
273100294	Green-tailed Towhee	1
250172624	Yellow-breasted Chat	1
283198778	Green-tailed Towhee	1
270163159	Yellow-breasted Chat	1

### Recaps from Previous Seasons

283131849	Gambel's White-crowned Sparrow	10/1/2020
290066748	Lucy's Warbler	May 2019
290017709	Lucy's Warbler	June 2019

277083171	Lucy's Warbler	April 26 2016
290072593	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	Fall 2020
271195609	Yellow-breasted Chat	2016
277041969	Yellow Warbler	2016
250125400	Yellow-breasted Chat	2017
282188903	Yellow-breasted Chat	2019
271195581	Yellow-breasted Chat	2019
279118757	House Finch	2018
290017859	Yellow Warbler	2019
250172624	Yellow-breasted Chat	2017