

Rio Mesa Banding Station

Fall 2017

Summary for Week 2: August 27th- September 2nd

We seem to be caught in a perpetual breeze this week, but it is much appreciated by us as well as the birds, as temperatures are still climbing high in the mid-morning and into the afternoon despite the cooling morning temperatures.

Greg and AJ are catching on quickly to the banding process and each have successfully banded, aged, and sexed a few birds without any extra help.

This week we had a total of 104 birds caught. Broken down it came to 81 newly banded birds, 7 unbanded (mostly due to a few bad tangles and high temperatures causing some stress) or not being able to band them, and 16 recaps. There was a total of 14 new species.

Sunday, 27th

Overall, a fairly slow day with only 10 birds newly banded, but that gave us plenty of time to do some net repairs and rebar placements. However, we are still adding to the number of new species for the season with a Blue Grosbeak and two Black-throated Sparrows.

Monday, 28th

A breeze that started in the morning remained throughout the day, cooling us off a bit. Total number of birds climbed again with a total of 17, three of which were recaps. We also had 2 more new species including a Juniper Titmouse and our last catch of the day being the most exciting: a Loggerhead Shrike.

Tuesday, 29th

Although slightly windier than the day before, that didn't slow down captures. We had a total of 20 birds. We still haven't broken the chain of new species as our first catch of the day was a Northern Waterthrush followed by an Orange-crowned Warbler, and we had our first Clay-colored Sparrow amidst a rush of Brewer's Sparrows.

Wednesday, 30th

Our slowest day of the season so far, with only 7 birds caught, produced our most colorful warbler as of late: a Townsend's Warbler.

Thursday, 31st

Our first calm, clear morning in a while didn't last long as a few rain clouds rolled in around mid-morning. Luckily, we got nothing more than a few sprinkles so we didn't have to close nets. We are still on a roll with at least one new species a day. Today we had a House Finch and a hatch-year Red-shafted Northern Flicker, who made sure it was heard throughout the entire canyon.

Friday, 1st

A chilly morning that lasted well into the morning. The stars of today's captures were a Bewick's Wren and a Black-chinned Hummingbird (which was released at the net).

Saturday, 2nd

Fall is coming as the mornings are staying colder longer. Today was a bit slower with 13 captures but just as steady. The Song Sparrows are coming and we caught our first one today, as well as a lively Hairy Woodpecker who wasn't going without pecking a few fingers and drawing some blood first.

Rio Mesa Banding Station: Week 2		
Species	Code	#
Bewick's Wren	BEWR	1
Black-chinned Hummingbird	BCHU	1
Black-throated Sparrow	BTSP	2
Blue Grosbeak	BLGR	1
Blue-grey Gnatcatcher	BGGN	14
Brewer's Sparrow	BRSP	22
Clay-colored Sparrow	CCSP	1
<i>Empid. sp</i>	N/A	1
Hairy Woodpecker	HAWO	1
House Finch	HOFI	1
Juniper Titmouse	JUTI	1
Loggerhead Shrike	LOSH	1
MacGillivray's Warbler	MGWA	2
Northern Waterthrush	NOWA	1
Orange-crowned Warbler	OCWA	2
Red-shafted Flicker	RSFL	1
Song Sparrow	SOSP	1
Spotted Towhee	SPTO	12
Townsend's Warbler	TOWA	1
Woodhouse Scrub-Jay	WESJ	1
Wilson's Warbler	WIWA	15
Yellow Warbler	YEWA	2
Yellow-breasted Chat	YBCH	19
Total		104