

Rio Mesa Banding Station

Fall 2017

Summary for Week 7: October 1st- October 7th

A rainy week, but still a busy one. Although we had to close for an entire day due to constant showers that morning and into the afternoon we managed to have a record number of 64 captures the next day! Migration was still in full force this week bringing us many birds and still quite a few new species.

We had our first group of visitors starting this Saturday. Half of the teachers (with the other half joining us Sunday morning) that were at Rio Mesa this weekend for the Desert Ecosystems workshop held every year by the Utah Museum of Natural History joined us for a short while in the morning to learn about what banding stations like ours contribute to the scientific community and to experience the banding process.

This week we had a total of 169 birds for only 4 full days of banding! Broken down it came to: 145 newly banded birds, 3 unbanded, and 21 recaps.

So far, we have caught a total of 654 birds and 58 species.

Sunday, 1st: An overcast and windy day that brought us 36 birds. We had an even distribution between sparrows, warblers, kinglets, gnatcatchers, and wren. We were also gifted with three flycatchers which we were able to identify two as Dusky Flycatchers and a new long-feathered beauty (which made identification a breeze): a Hammond's Flycatcher!

Monday, 2nd: *Nets closed all day due to rain.*

Tuesday, 3rd: A foggy and misty after effect of the storms the previous day didn't dampen our numbers; we didn't have a moment to spare today with an all-time record for the season of 64 captures! We even had a new species to keep us on our toes (as if we weren't already): a Cassin's Vireo.

Wednesday, 4th: Compared to yesterday, the 44 we caught made today seem like a slow day! Although most of the day was filled with Song Sparrows, we did notice we had a Pink-sided Dark-eyed Junco, technically still considered an Oregon Dark-eyed Junco, and a Gray Catbird to add to our new species list.

Thursday, 5th & Friday, 6th: *Days off.*

Saturday 7th: Our first group of teachers joined us this morning to learn about the process of banding and how it contributes to scientific research and the many things that we have been able to learn from the information gathered from banding stations. Despite the cold, they enjoyed getting to see some birds – a Ruby-crowned Kinglet and a Hermit Thrush. Although not a new

species, we did catch our second Canyon Wren of the season! One of our absolute favorite birds out here! Then at the end of the day we got bombarded by a flock of Bushtits that added to our species list.

Rio Mesa Banding Station: Week 7		
Species	Code	#
Audubon's Yellow-rumped Warbler	AUWA	9
Bewick's Wren	BEWR	11
Black-capped Chickadee	BCCH	3
Blue-grey Gnatcatcher	BGGN	8
Brewer's Sparrow	BRSP	4
Bushtit	BUSH	5
Canyon Wren	CANW	1
Cassin's Vireo	CAVI	1
Chipping Sparrow	CHSP	5
Dusky Flycatcher	DUFL	2
<i>Empid. sp</i>	N/A	2
Gambel's White-crowned Sparrow	GWCS	12
Gray Catbird	GRCA	1
Green-tailed Towhee	GTTO	2
Hammond's Flycatcher	HAFL	1
Hermit Thrush	HETH	16
House Wren	HOWR	1
Lincoln's Sparrow	LISP	7
Mountain Chickadee	MOCH	1
Mountain White-crowned Sparrow	MWCS	3
Orange-crowned Warbler	OCWA	6
Oregon Dark-eyed Junco	ORJU	21
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	RCKI	12
Sage Sparrow	SAGS	1
Song Sparrow	SOSP	21
Spotted Towhee	SPTO	7
White-crowned Sparrow	WCS	1
Wilson's Warbler	WIWA	4
Woodhouse's Scrub-Jay	WESJ	1
Total		169

