

Rio Mesa Bird Banding Station

Spring 2022

Summary for Week 2: April 11 – April 17

Summary: Week two has still been very slow for captures. We caught eight birds that included two recaptured birds banded earlier this season. The weather has been relatively cold until the last two days, but much of the vegetation surrounding the nets is now foliated (besides the tamarisk) and we are seeing more invertebrates. Today, Sunday, is the first day that we have heard species of passerines (besides SPTO) vocalizing in the patches between the nets. Given this trend I believe that our capture rate is about to pick up. On our day off we resupplied and Moab and picked up some paracord so that we could properly support some of our nets that have been leaning.

Monday, April 11th: We caught our first Marsh Wren of the season.

Tuesday, April 12th: Due to freezing temperatures and wind we delayed opening the nets for about an hour and a half. Kara, a former volunteer at the station, joined us today. We recaptured a Song Sparrow that was banded last week. We extracted our first hummingbird of the season, a male Broad-tailed Hummingbird.

Wednesday, April 13th: Subfreezing temperatures forced us to delay opening the nets for about an hour and a half. Kara joined us again today. We decided to push our days off by one day because we had Kara here for a limited time. We banded one new Song Sparrow.

Thursday, April 14th: This was our first day off.

Friday, April 15th: This was our second day off.

Saturday, April 16th: We caught our third new Lucy's Warbler for the season, all three have been males, and we recaptured a Lincoln's that had been banded last week. Brenda Bowen brought a group of geology students to visit the station. Lucky for them, they decided to stick around for a second net run after a birdless first attempt. We got both birds on that run, so the

students were able to see the whole process from extraction, processing, and release. They were very engaged and amazed to see birds in the hand.

Sunday, April 17th: Today was our warmest day yet. We had one new Lincoln's Sparrow. Blue-gray Gnatcatchers made their first appearance here this season.

Weekly Counts

Song Sparrow	2
Lincoln's Sparrow	2
Marsh Wren	2
Lucy's Warbler	1
Broad-tailed Hummingbird	1