

Rio Mesa Bird Banding Station

Spring 2022

Summary for Week 3: April 18 – April 24

Summary: The capture rates are finally starting to ramp up. We had a new species for the season almost every day and our average birds per day are increasing. There have been a few issues related to wind/weather, but I am happy to report that we have been able to safely extract and process all the birds captured. We have better secured and mended a few nets that have had weather related damage and all nets are currently operable. This week we have processed 24 individuals of 14 different species.

Monday, April 18th: Today we had our first Lesser Goldfinch of the season.

Tuesday, April 19th: Today we had three birds including our first Virginia's Warbler and the first Ruby-crowned Kinglet for the season.

Wednesday, April 20th: Today was the incredibly exciting. We got our first Gray Vireo for the year, and it is a recapture. It was originally banded here in April of 2017, and this is the third time it has been captured. When it was first banded it was aged as a second-year bird. It is at least 5.5 years old and may be tied for the aged record for this species.

Thursday, April 21st: Today we had three warblers including the first Common Yellowthroat for the season.

Friday, April 22nd: Due to high winds we had to sequentially close nets throughout the morning and finally close all the nets ~ 2 hours early. Despite this it was our most productive day yet. We banded 5 new birds. Three of the five were new for the season including the Green-tailed Towhee, Lazuli Bunting, and a House Finch. We had quite a large storm that came in within an hour of closing. It rained for much of the afternoon and into the evening.

Saturday, April 23rd: High winds throughout the morning forced us to close the nets after a little under an hour. During that time, we caught two birds. We spend the whole morning

repairing nets, trimming vegetation, and attaching guy-lines to the poles to help properly tension the nets and strengthen them in the wind.

Sunday, April 24th: Today we were able to keep most of the nets open all morning, only closing a few due to wind. We caught seven birds including our first Orange-crowned Warbler of the year.

Weekly Counts

Black-chinned Hummingbird	2
Hermit Thrush	1
Marsh Wren	1
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	1
Gray Vireo	1
Lucy's Warbler	2
Virginia's Warbler	5
Orange-crowned Warbler	1
Common Yellowthroat	1
Lincoln's Sparrow	4
Green-tailed Towhee	1
House Finch	2
Lesser Goldfinch	1
Lazuli Bunting	1