

Rio Mesa Bird Banding Station

Spring 2022

Summary for Week 4: April 25 – May 1

Summary: This week we captured 21 individuals of 11 species. The capture rates are increasing with today, Sunday, being our highest daily count yet. The temperature has been fluctuating quite a bit and we have had heavy winds, but there has been minimal disruption to our schedule. The nets are all in operable condition and we have no incidences to report.

Monday, April 25th: This morning was quite cold, and we had to delay opening the nets for 1.25 hours until the sun could hit the nets and melt the frost. We caught a single Lincoln's sparrow today. The banding was uneventful; however, we observed a golden eagle raid the nest of a common raven in the cliffs about 250 meters to the west of Hau's house.

Tuesday, April 26th: Today is our day off.

Wednesday, April 27th: Today is our day off.

Thursday, April 28th: Today was by far our warmest day. We had our first White – crowned Sparrow and Blue-grey Gnatcatcher of the season

Friday, April 29th: Today was slow and wind forced us to close an hour early. However, it was the first time we have seen orioles this season as well the first Yellow-breasted Chat (photo below), which we did capture and band.

Saturday, April 30rd: We finally got a Yellow Warbler. A beautiful after second year male. See photo attached below.

Sunday, May 1st: Today was our busiest day yet with 10 birds extracted. We haven't caught any yet, but many of the resident flycatchers have shown up today including, Western Kingbird and Ash-throated Flycatcher. I am anticipating that we see much higher captures this next week.

Weekly Counts

Black-chinned Hummingbird	1
House Wren	1
Blue-grey Gnatcatcher	2
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	2
Yellow Warbler	2
Virginia's Warbler	4
Yellow-breasted Chat	1
White-crowned Sparrow	1
Lincoln's Sparrow	4
Green-tailed Towhee	1
Lazuli Bunting	1

