



Rio Mesa Banding Station

Spring 2025

April 12-17th

Weekly Summary

This week Amy, Kyle, Fede, and Anna visited to help set up the station and we all started banding operations over the weekend. We started opening nets at 6:10 am at the beginning of the week and opened at 6:05 on the seventeenth. Our capture rate is still low with an average of 4-5 birds per day, but we did have pretty high species diversity and one day with 13 captures! We had a great time getting to know each other and improving our skills.

We caught a total of **44** birds of **15** species with **31** newly banded birds, **11** recaptures, and **2** unbanded birds. Highlights from this week were a Red-shafted Flicker, Red-naped Sapsucker, 2 Lucy's Warblers, a Black-chinned Hummingbird (unbanded) and a Green-tailed Towhee (unbanded). Gambel's White-crowned Sparrow was our most caught bird with 10 captures. See summary table for species totals.



Saturday April 12th

Opening/Closing Temp: 38.9°/84.6°

Hours Station Operated: 6

Number of birds banded: 4

Number of recaptures: 3

Number of species: 3

Species Banded: Song Sparrow (2), Gambel's White-crowned Sparrow (1), and Red-shafted Flicker (1)

Recaptured Species: Song Sparrow (1), Gambel's White-crowned Sparrow (1)

Notes: The Red-shafted Flicker was a nice surprise. We were happily watching her forage on a nearby tree. Much to our delight we saw her fly right into one of the nets and we got to take a closer look at this gorgeous species!

Pictured: Red-shafted Flicker

[eBird Checklist](#)

Sunday April 13th

Opening/Closing Temp: 49.3°/77.2°

Hours Station Operated: 6

Number of birds banded: 6

Number of species: 5

Species Banded: Spotted Towhee (2), Song Sparrow (1), Bushtit (1), Lucy's Warbler (1), and Red-naped Sapsucker (1)

Notes: A slightly cooler day for the last day with our visitors. Interestingly, there were no recaptures and we added 4 new species to our captures this season!

Pictured: Lucy's Warbler





Monday April 14th

Opening/Closing Temp: 37.8° /73.2°

Hours Station Operated: 6

Number of birds banded: 3

Number of recaptures: 1

Number of species: 3

Species Banded: Song Sparrow (1), Spotted Towhee (1), and Say's Phoebe (1)

Recaptured Species: Song Sparrow (1)

Notes: While the temperature was cooler, there was not a cloud in the sky and the sun felt intense. A Say's Phoebe was a nice surprise on this slow day, especially after hearing them singing for the past couple of days.

Pictured: Song Sparrow

[eBird Checklist](#)

Tuesday April 15th

Opening/Closing Temp: 33.5° /72.4°

Hours Station Operated: 6.16

Number of birds banded: 11

Number of recaptures: 1

Number unbanded: 1

Number of species: 8

Species Banded: Spotted Towhee (1), Gambel's White-crowned Sparrow (3), Hermit Thrush (2), Lincoln's Sparrow (1), Audubon's Warbler (2), Pink-sided Junco (2)

Recaptured Species: Song Sparrow (1)



Unbanded Species: Black-chinned Hummingbird

Notes: The day started out cool and cloudy, finishing warm as the sun came out towards closing time. This was our busiest day so far, with a noticeable increase in species variety!

Pictured: Pink-sided Junco

[eBird Checklist](#)



Wednesday April 16th

Opening/Closing Temp: 49.1°/77.3°

Hours Station Operated: 6

Number of birds banded: 2

Number of recaptures: 2

Number unbanded: 1

Number of species: 5

Species Banded: Song Sparrow (1), Lincoln's Sparrow (1)

Recaptured Species: Hermit Thrush (1), Gambel's White-crowned Sparrow (1)

Unbanded Species: Green-tailed Towhee (1)

Notes: Another cool, cloudy morning with gusty winds steadily increasing throughout the day.

Pictured: Lincoln's Sparrow

[eBird Checklist](#)

Thursday April 17th

Opening/Closing Temp: 57.6° /73.7°

Hours Station Operated: 6

Number of birds banded: 3

Number of recaptures: 1

Number of species: 4

Species Banded: Song Sparrow (1), Lincoln's Sparrow (1), Ruby-crowned Kinglet (1)

Recaptured Species: Gambel's White-crowned Sparrow (1)

Notes: While our capture numbers dipped, there was an increase in bird activity in the area compared to the last couple of days. A slower day gave us more time to notice the interesting molt pattern in the recaptured GWCS.

Pictured: White-crowned Sparrow with A1 molt limit and a few replaced primary coverts.

[eBird Checklist](#)



Summary Table for 4/12-4/17

New		Recaptures		Unbanded	
SOSP	6	GWCS	5	BCHU	1
GWCS	5	SOSP	3	GTTO	1
SPTO	5	SPTO	1		
LISP	3	LUWA	1		
AUWA	2	HETH	1		
HETH	2				
PSJU	2				
RSFL	1				

New		Recaptures	Unbanded
BUSH	1		
LUWA	1		
RCKI	1		
RNSA	1		
SAPH	1		
Total	31	11	2