

2010 Banding Report

This spring we banded at Lykins Gulch for 10 days from May 1 to May 29th, logging 507 net/hours and banding 197 individuals of 35 species. One net/hour represents one 12-meter net open for 1 hour. When all of our nets are open we run 15 12-meter and 3 6-meter nets.

This was an exceptional spring for Dusky Flycatchers. We banded 27 individuals; our previous high count was 18 in the spring of 2004. We also banded our third Black-and-White Warbler since 1991. (I don't have pre-1991 data on my computer.) Missing since spring of 2007 when we banded 17 individuals is Lazuli Bunting.

Catching a bird from someone else's station or having one of yours recaptured is always interesting. This year we had both situations. A Northern Waterthrush that we banded on August 25, 2009 was recaptured at the Inglewood Bird Sanctuary in Calgary, Alberta on May 30, 2010.

This fall we banded on 22 days ranging from September 1 to November 2nd putting in 1020 net/hours. We banded 320 individuals of 43 species. We caught our fifth Northern Parula on the same net run that Virginia Dionigi extracted a hatch-year, male Sharp-shinned Hawk, the first since 2005.

New for the list of species banded at the gulch was a Northern Mockingbird caught on September 12. In the long run we caught him (gender unknown) four times. The first time he was a very ratty looking youngster covered in pin feathers and showing no fat. We caught him on our last day of the season sporting a fine coat of feathers and weighting 54 grams, a gain of 6 grams.

The folks at the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center Bird Banding Lab (BBL) tell us that one of the many Wilson's Warblers we caught had been banded near Sheffield, TX in May, 2008. Jo Anna Lutmerding of the BBL writes "This was definitely an interesting retrap on multiple levels for the BBL, since the bird was banded as an ASY(after second year) in 2008, at time of recapture the bird was at least 4 years and 3 months by BBL protocol (assuming a latest hatch month of June 2006). It's not anywhere near the longevity record for the species, but still notable. It's also one of the longer movements documented in our encounter database for the species." She also said that they have very few recaptures of Wilson's Warblers.

Photos by Renee Haip.







