

2011 Banding Report

Our spring season got off to a late start with lanes cleared, nets up and open on May 13th. While we added no new species in spring, we did band 9 Willow Flycatchers, the most since 2005 when we banded 15. Breaking last year's record number, we banded 31 Dusky Flycatchers. Western Wood-Pewees put in appearances with 7 banded in spring and 6 in fall. We caught none during 2010. This fall we banded 3 Cordilleran Flycatchers, the first since spring 2009. It was a good year for flycatchers.

Of the expected, but not common warblers, 4 Northern Waterthrush were netted in spring and 2 more in fall. The last season we caught more than one was fall of 2007. This was the third spring in a row that we captured Brown Thrashers. We've now banded four birds after ten years without one.

Fall brought us two new species for the gulch: a Sage Sparrow and a Harris's Sparrow, and a surprise Rose-breasted Grosbeak x Black-headed Grosbeak! Two American Redstarts, a male Black-throated Blue Warbler and a Virginia's Warbler added to our species count for the season. House Wrens had a good year with 17 individuals banded of which 10 were definitely hatch-year birds, 2 more may have been. Lazuli Buntings used to be regular, so it was nice to band 6 this spring and 2 more in fall after 5 seasons without them.

During the 9 days this spring we banded 226 individuals of 38 species and in fall, our longer season, we banded 302 individuals of 46 species.