

Boulder County Nature Association
Allegra Collister Nature Preserve

Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory

Bird banding report - Spring 2001

Spring 2001 bird banding was, in a word, exceptional. Only fifteen mornings were worked; that's fewer than usual. Only 71 hours were spent attending the nets; that's also fewer than usual. However, more birds were captured and banded than in any previous spring season. Five hundred thirty five of fifty two different species.

Our weather was somewhat cooler than expected. On May 20th, it snowed! On the 21st we captured 53 birds. Then, on the 22nd, 110 birds were captured. Could have kept the nets open and probably caught many more. But, banding from dawn until noon, or later, makes for a long and tiring morning.

The moisture and early season coolness contributed to a spectacular display of blossoms and foliage. Plum, currant, choke cherry, grape, hawthorne and many wild flowers created a profusion of colors and fragrances. The wealth of pollen and nectar attracted swarms of butterflies, moths and other flying insects.

And, the birds seemed to enjoy this time of plenty:

- ✓ More Western Tanagers (78) than in all prior seasons combined.
- ✓ More Bullock's Orioles (39) than in any previous spring season.
- ✓ A record number (82) of Yellow-rumped Warblers ---- Audubon's, Myrtle and possible hybrids.
- ✓ One of the highest counts of Western Wood Pewee (16).
- ✓ Twenty-four empids is unusually high.

- ✓ Two Northern Parulas were fun catches.
- ✓ A first time at the gulch **Blue-winged Warbler** ---- a handsome male.
- ✓ A busy Lazuli Bunting count (51).
- ✓ Also, new on the species "sight list", a flock of 20 plus White-throated Swifts performed overhead.
- ✓ The second busiest spring for Yellow Warblers (54).
- ✓ A strong presence of Chipping Sparrows (20).

Noticeably absent from the gulch was the Northern Waterthrush ---- didn't see or hear a single one. Finally caught a Blue Grosbeak on the last day of banding; otherwise, it too would have been an absentee.

Not many raptors were noticed overhead. Nor any prairie dogs across the road. Fewer coyotes too. Wapiti and White-tailed Deer were seen. Did see evidence of raccoon and skunk continuing to prowl the watercourse. No voles or mice darted across the trails ahead of us. Two bull snakes copulating near the "office". Had a fleeting glimpse of some kind of rat near the eastern most net ---- maybe a wood rat.

Last day of banding was June 2nd. Previously banded resident birds were being recaptured. Some were showing signs of nesting. Its time to let them get on with the process of reproducing. We'll have a chance to see and band their offspring in the fall.

Of all the birds banded at ACNP, since 1991, only two reported encounters have occurred. An American Robin recovered at Avon, CO; and, a Gray Catbird recovered near Burns, WY. Its seems like a disappointing result. For the sake of keeping things in perspective; we selected, at random, 5 species for a comparison. Consider the following examples of national statistics as reported (1914 through 2000) by the Bird Banding Laboratory:

Yellow Warbler	223,596 banded	522 encountered	longevity record 9 yrs 11 mos	
Wilson's Warber	155,552	54	6	10
Lincoln's Sparrow	120,846	173	7	7
Orange-crowned Warbler	104,634	92	6	9
Blue-winged Warbler	18,844	27	7	11

Notice, also, the interesting longevity records revealed by these recoveries. Encounter data is only a small fraction of the information learned from banding. To find out more, GO to <http://www.pwrc.usgs.gov/>.

The vegetation study is still in progress. Again, a special thanks to the City of Boulder Open Space Herbarium Volunteers. We look forward to incorporating their data with what has already been learned from the birds.

Because of time constraints, the insect study has been put on hold.

Access to ACNP is restricted. For further information, see the BCNA website at <http://www.bcna.org>. Any questions, or concerns, can be addressed to a site custodian or the president of BCNA. Your comment is welcome.

Anyone who desires a printed copy of the current banding summary, and list of birds sighted, should contact Joe Harrison at 303-772-3481 or E-mail avianchase@aol.com. We will try to answer any inquiry you might have regarding the nature preserve or bird banding in general.

The bird banders:

Virginia Dionigi Tony Esposito Joe Harrison Maggie Boswell Tom Delaney

Bird banding at ACNP is made possible, in large part, by the citizens who support the Scientific and Cultural Facilities District.

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Species & Subspecies	1991 to 1996		1996	1996	1997	1997	1998	1998	1999	1999	2000	2000	2001	TOTAL
	Spng	Fall	Spng	Fall	Spng	Fall	Spng	Fall	Spng	Fall	Spng	Fall	Spng	
1. Sharp-shinned Hawk <i>Accipiter striatus</i>	2	1	0	2	0	0	1	3	0	1	1	1	1	13
2. Cooper's Hawk <i>Accipiter cooperii</i>	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2
3. Broad-winged Hawk <i>Buteo platypterus</i>	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
4. American Kestrel <i>Falco sparverius</i>	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	3
5. Mourning Dove <i>Zenaida macroura</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
6. Yellow-billed Cuckoo <i>Coccyzus americanus</i>	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
7. Long-eared Owl <i>Asio otus</i>	[1]	[1]	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
8. Red-naped Sapsucker <i>Sphyrapicus nuchalis</i>	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
9. Downy Woodpecker <i>Picoides pubescens</i>	1	6	1	2	1	1	1	1	0	5	1	6	2	28
10. Hairy Woodpecker <i>Picoides villosus</i>	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
11. Red-shafted Flicker <i>Colaptes auratus collaris</i>	2	16	0	0	0	2	0	5	0	1	0	6	1	33
a. Flicker Intergrade (<i>hybrid</i>)	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	1	0	0	6
12. Olive-sided Flycatcher <i>Contopus cooperi</i>	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
13. Western Wood-Pewee <i>Contopus sordidulus</i>	65	5	3	2	5	1	3	0	2	2	5	8	16	117
14. Eastern Wood-Pewee <i>Contopus virens</i>	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
15. Alder Flycatcher <i>Empidonax alnorum</i>	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
16. Willow Flycatcher <i>Empidonax traillii</i>	23	2	13	2	10	1	5	2	2	2	6	4	5	77
17. Least Flycatcher <i>Empidonax minimus</i>	17	0	6	1	3	0	2	0	6	0	3	0	3	41
18. Hammond's Flycatcher <i>Empidonax hammondii</i>	10	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	12
19. Dusky Flycatcher <i>Empidonax oberholseri</i>	64	11	11	8	34	2	16	1	7	2	8	14	16	194
20. Gray Flycatcher <i>Empidonax wrightii</i>	1	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
21. Cordilleran Flycatcher <i>Empidonax occidentalis</i>	4	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6
22. Eastern Kingbird <i>Tyrannus tyrannus</i>	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	3
23. Barn Swallow <i>Hirundo rustica</i>	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
24. Steller's Jay <i>Cyanocitta stelleri</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1

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	Spng	Fall	Spng	Fall	Spng	Fall	Spng	Fall	Spng	Fall	Spng	Fall	Spng	
97. Song Sparrow <i>Melospiza melodia</i>	6	48	4	17	8	12	3	23	3	12	6	25	1	168
98. Lincoln's Sparrow <i>Melospiza lincolni</i>	99	48	35	26	63	9	24	23	14	7	12	25	19	404
99. Swamp Sparrow <i>Melospiza georgiana</i>	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
100. White-throated Sparrow <i>Zonotrichia albicollis</i>	0	3	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	6
101. White-crowned Sparrow <i>Zonotrichia leucophrys</i>	77	223	23	74	26	17	2	104	6	25	6	74	18	675
a. Gambel's <i>Z. l. gambelli</i>	17	211	5	60	1	17	1	97	0	24	0	66	3	502
b. Mountain <i>Z. l. oriantha</i>	60	12	18	14	25	0	1	7	6	1	6	8	15	173
102. Dark-eyed Junco <i>Junco hyemalis</i>	0	54	0	11	0	5	0	16	0	4	0	2	0	92
a. Slate-colored <i>J. h. hyemalis</i>	0	6	0	4	0	1	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	14
b. Oregon <i>J. h. mearnsi</i>	0	41	0	4	0	3	0	11	0	3	0	2	0	64
c. Gray-headed <i>J. h. caniceps</i>	0	7	0	3	0	1	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	14
103. Red-winged Blackbird <i>Agelaius phoeniceus</i>	5	0	5	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	2	0	0	16
104. Western Meadowlark <i>Sturnella neglecta</i>	4	0	1	0	2	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	1	11
105. Common Grackle <i>Quiscalus quiscula</i>	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
106. Brown-headed Cowbird <i>Molothrus ater</i>	9	0	1	0	2	0	2	1	4	0	3	2	2	26
107. Orchard Oriole <i>Icterus spurlus</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
108. Bullock's Oriole <i>Icterus bullockii</i>	59	1	15	0	31	0	23	0	27	0	7	1	39	203
109. House Finch <i>Carpodacus mexicanus</i>	4	35	1	2	1	8	0	11	1	8	0	6	2	79
110. Pine Siskin <i>Carduelis pinus</i>	13	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	18
111. Lesser Goldfinch <i>Carduelis psaltria</i>	20	24	4	10	3	1	0	4	0	2	0	96	0	164
112. American Goldfinch <i>Carduelis tristis</i>	99	6	17	1	17	0	15	8	13	1	5	11	9	202
113. House Sparrow <i>Passer domesticus</i>	2	5	3	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	12
Individuals banded	1433	1759	446	624	497	237	259	488	206	396	198	815	535	7893
Species banded	69	71	54	58	52	38	42	51	48	50	44	54	52	113
114. Broad-tailed Hummingbird <i>Selasphorus platycercus</i>	[1]	0	0	[1]	0	0	0	0	0	[1]	0	0	0	[3]
115. Rufous Hummingbird <i>Selasphorus rufus</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	[1]	0	0	[1]	0	[2]

[] Captured - not banded

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Sight List - Spring 1991 through Spring 2001 *

116. American White Pelican <i>Pelecanus erythrorhynchos</i>	130. Peregrine Falcon <i>Falco peregrinus</i>	144. Great Horned Owl <i>Bubo virginianus</i>
117. Great Blue Heron <i>Ardea herodias</i>	131. Prairie Falcon <i>Falco mexicanus</i>	145. Northern Saw-whet Owl <i>Aegolius acadicus</i>
118. Canada Goose <i>Branta canadensis</i>	132. Virginia Rail <i>Rallus limicola</i>	146. Common Nighthawk <i>Chordeiles minor</i>
119. Mallard <i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	133. Sandhill Crane <i>Grus canadensis</i>	147. Black Swift <i>Cypseloides niger</i>
120. Turkey Vulture <i>Cathartes aura</i>	134. Killdeer <i>Charadrius vociferus</i>	148. Chimney Swift <i>Chaetura pelagica</i>
121. Osprey <i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	135. Common Snipe <i>Gallinago gallinago</i>	149. White-throated Swift <i>Aeronautes saxatalis</i>
122. Bald Eagle <i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	136. American Woodcock <i>Scolopax minor</i>	150. Calliope Hummingbird * <i>Stellula calliope</i>
123. Golden Eagle <i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>	137. Franklin's Gull <i>Larus pipixcan</i>	151. Belted Kingfisher <i>Ceryle alcyon</i>
124. Northern Harrier <i>Circus cyaneus</i>	138. Ring-billed Gull <i>Larus delawarensis</i>	152. Lewis's Woodpecker <i>Melanerpes lewis</i>
125. Swainson's Hawk <i>Buteo swainsoni</i>	139. Rock Dove <i>Columba livia</i>	153. Red-headed Woodpecker <i>Melanerpes erythrocephalus</i>
126. Red-tailed Hawk <i>Buteo jamaicensis</i>	140. Band-tailed Pigeon <i>Columba fasciata</i>	154. Say's Phoebe <i>Sayornis saya</i>
127. Ferruginous Hawk <i>Buteo regalis</i>	141. Black-billed Cuckoo * <i>Coccyzus erythrophthalmus</i>	155. Ash-throated Flycatcher <i>Myiarchus cinerascens</i>
128. Rough-legged Hawk <i>Buteo lagopus</i>	142. Barn Owl <i>Tyto alba</i>	156. Western Kingbird <i>Tyrannus verticalis</i>
129. Merlin <i>Falco columbarius</i>	143. Eastern Screech-Owl <i>Otus asio</i>	157. Scissor-tailed Flycatcher <i>Tyrannus forficatus</i>

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158. Tree Swallow <i>Tachycineta bicolor</i>	172. Northern Mockingbird <i>Mimus polyglottos</i>	186. Cassin's Finch <i>Carpodacus cassinii</i>
159. Violet-green Swallow <i>Tachycineta thalassina</i>	173. Loggerhead Shrike <i>Lanius ludovicianus</i>	187. Red Crossbill <i>Loxia curvirostra</i>
160. N. Rough-winged Swallow <i>Stelgidopteryx serripennis</i>	174. Black-throated Green Warbler * <i>Dendroica virens</i>	188. Evening Grosbeak <i>Coccothraustes vespertinus</i>
161. Cliff Swallow <i>Petrochelidon pyrrhonota</i>	175. Yellow-throated Warbler * <i>Dendroica dominica</i>	
162. Pinyon Jay <i>Gymnorhinus cyanocephalus</i>	176. Pine Warbler * <i>Dendroica pinus</i>	
163. American Crow <i>Corvus brachyrhychos</i>	177. Bay-breasted Warbler * <i>Dendroica castanea</i>	
164. Common Raven <i>Corvus corax</i>	178. Kentucky Warbler * <i>Oporornis formosus</i>	
165. Carolina Wren <i>Thryothorus ludovicianus</i>	179. Hooded Warbler * <i>Wilsonia citrina</i>	
166. Winter Wren <i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	180. Scarlet Tanager * <i>Piranga olivacea</i>	
167. Marsh Wren <i>Cistothorus palustris</i>	181. Dickcissel <i>Spiza americana</i>	
168. Eastern Bluebird <i>Sialia sialis</i>	182. Harris's Sparrow <i>Zonotrichia querula</i>	
169. Western Bluebird <i>Sialia mexicana</i>	183. Bobolink <i>Dolichonyx oryzivorus</i>	
170. Mountain Bluebird <i>Sialia currucoides</i>	184. Yellow-headed Blackbird <i>Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus</i>	
171. Wood Thrush <i>Hylocichla mustelina</i>	185. Brewer's Blackbird <i>Euphagus cyanocephalus</i>	* Observation prior to 1991