ACNP 2017 Banding Report

This spring’s banding season brought us high numbers of a few species while tallying a respectable 273 individuals overall. We had 27 Dusky Flycatchers, but no other flycatchers. Only in 2011 did we band more Dusky Flycatchers. We also banded 12 Western Wood-Pewees, the third highest number in the years since 1999. Most notable were the 41 Lazuli Buntings banded. The last time we banded double-digits was in 2008 when we banded 17. Another high number was MacGillivray’s Warbler with 11 banded. Only once have we caught more.

Return birds were unexceptional with a few Bullocks Orioles and Gray Catbirds from spring of 2014.

We were able to band 11 of the 14 planned days, so weather wasn’t the factor it can be. We put in 669 net/hours, banded 273 individuals of 33 species. The most unexpected event happened on May 26th when we caught 79 birds, 29% of the season’s birds in one morning. With 3 people banding and 2 running nets, we had to close 6 nets to keep up. Fortunately we had visitors from Bird Conservancy of the Rockies who could help.

This fall we added two species to our list of species banded when we caught a Cassin’s Finch and an Evening Grosbeak. This brings our species list to 135 plus four species of hummingbirds that we only catch inadvertently and do not band.

We had record numbers of Black-capped Chickadees (22), House Wrens (21) and Gray Catbirds (33). Of less common warblers we banded two Virginia’s Warblers, one Nashville Warbler, two American Redstarts and our third ever Ovenbird. On the other hand Wilson’s Warblers is one of the most abundant of fall species for us with 71 individuals banded. Two hatch-year Sharp-shinned Hawks added a bit of excitement.

This fall we logged 923 net/hours, banded 359 individuals of 41 species.

The crew consisted of Lily Calderon (spring only) who has moved on to grad school, Joel Such (fall only), Renee Haip, Nelda Gamble, Christy Payne, Sue Bonfield, and Marcel Such (spring only). Dave Such mowed the paths and net lanes. Both Lily and Joel have passed the North American Banding Council test to become Certified Bird Banders.