

ACNP 2018 Banding Report

The most memorable aspect of spring banding was the increase of ticks over last year. In the past ticks were only an occasional nuisance, but last year their numbers had increased exponentially. This year they were even more plentiful.

While we had no foreign captures and none of the birds we banded have been reported from other banding stations, we did capture our first Say's Phoebe. We hear and see them every spring, but this was the first time one had gotten in the nets. This brings the number of species we have banded to 136. We also caught a Mourning Dove for the second time. Again this is a species that is around, but avoids capture.

House Wrens were plentiful; we banded 24 in spring, which may be a season record, and added 13 more in fall. We also banded our second Bewick's Wren and sixth Rock Wren this spring.

Green-tailed Towhees were well represented with 23 banded compared to single digits in the last eight years.

As usual this fall Wilson's Warblers predominated with 105 individuals banded. While we usually catch a smattering of Warbling Vireos (3 each this spring and fall), we banded two Cassin's and one Plumbeous Vireo for the year. Two of the more unusual captures this fall was our second ever Northern Mockingbird, and in the next net run our seventh Sage Thrasher.

As for noteworthy returning birds we recaptured a Vesper Sparrow whose band dated from spring of 2012; a Gray Catbird from fall of 2013; two fall Orange-crowned Warblers from 2014, and a Bullock's Oriole and an American Goldfinch from spring of 2015.

The crew consisted of myself, Joel Such, Renee Haip, David Such, Nancy Gobris, Georgia Anderson and Megan Jones Paterson with interns from Environment for the Americas Isabel Justiniano and Molly Tobin. This fall Marcel Such was able to join us at times.