

Fall 2023 ACNP Banding Report

Prepared by Megan Jones Patterson
15 December 2023

The Allegra Collister Banding Station operated from 28 August to 20 October, 2023. The station operated for 24 mornings with a schedule of Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. This season had no canceled days due to weather. This totalled 1718.25 net hours. This is the most fall season net hours for this station since 2003 (the earliest year in the annual summary data I have available. This applies to all comparisons to past seasons in this report).

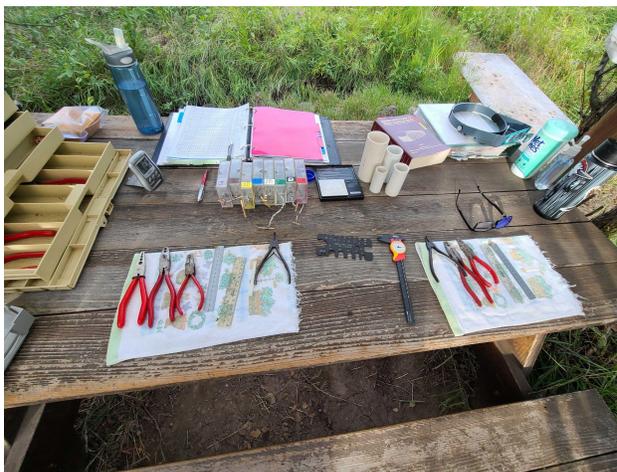
This season we captured and processed 472 birds, of these 377 were newly banded birds from 49 species. We also processed 83 returns from earlier in this same season and four were return individuals captured in previous seasons. There were also eight individuals captured but not banded. These included Broad-tailed Hummingbirds and Black-chinned Hummingbirds. The total birds captured each day ranged from 4 (open only 3 hours due to cold temps) to 43 birds with a mean of 20 birds.

The number of newly banded birds equals the previous fall record set in 2021 (from 1052 net hours). However, our capture rate of newly banded birds per net-hour is on the lower end of the previous range for fall banding (0.22 captures/net hour; past range: 0.22-0.67 captures/net).

This fall we more closely matched the open and closing schedule of the other Bird Conservancy of the Rockies banding sites with the exception that we started on Monday and finished on Friday, instead of on specific dates. One reason for the lower capture rate per net hour, may be that past banding seasons focused more on the peak periods of the migration season and didn't start as early nor end as late as we did this season.

Volunteers & Visitors

In Fall 2023, we had six ACNP volunteers (all are also BCR volunteers): Maggie Boswell (MB, co-lead bander), Megan Jones Patterson (MJ, co-lead bander), Renee Haip (RH), John Malenich (JM), Matthew Fyfe (MF), and Michael Patterson (MP). Colin Woolley (CW) and Lauren Roux (LR) from BCR also visited the station on 25 September 2023. In addition, we had 9 visitors to observe bird banding or to assist with data recording during a two week period when regular volunteers were traveling and we needed additional assistance.



Set up of the ACNP Banding Station. Photo by Megan Jones Patterson.

Summary of Capture Data

A few notable items from the captures this year in comparison to past fall seasons.

- The second ever (since 1991) Northern Saw-Whet Owl.
- 3 Lazuli Buntings - we capture many in spring but they are uncommon in fall. Three is the highest number of captures we've had (tied in 2011) since 2003.
- A good season for Juncos (34). This is the most we've had since 2008. Prior to 2008, there were many more juncos captured in fall than in the last decade.
- Our most White-throated Sparrows (4) ever in one season (since 1991). In the last three decades our total banding for WTSP has been 0, 4, and 2 respectively.
- More Yellow-rumped Warblers (24; more AUWA than MYWA) than in any year other than 2003 which had 142 YRWA! Looking at the decadal data, prior to 2004, many more YRWA were captured than now.

	Total	New Captures	Repeats	Returns	Unbanded
All Taxa	472	377	83	4	8
AMRO	14	13	1		
AUWA	21	19	2		
BBMA	1				1
BCCH	49	22	25	2	
BCHU	1				1
BHGR	1	1			
BLGR	2	2			
BLJA	1	1			
BRSP	1	1			
BTLH	2				2
CEDW	2	2			
CHSP	3	3			
CSWA	1	1			
DOWO	4	4			
DUFL	2	2			
GHJU	4	4			
GRCA	50	26	23	1	
GRFL	1	1			
GTTO	2	2			
GWCS	27	27			
HETH	3	3			
HOFI	8	8			
HOWR	14	11	2	1	
LAZB	3	3			

	Total	New Captures	Repeats	Returns	Unbanded
LEGO	2	2			
LISP	30	26	3		1
MAWA	1	1			
MGWA	5	5			
MODO	1	1			
MWCS	2	2			
MYWA	1	1			
NOWA	2	2			
NSWO	1	1			
OCWA	43	37	6		
ORJU	5	3	2		
PSJU	15	14	1		
RBNU	3	3			
RCKI	14	12	2		
REVI	1	1			
SCJU	6	6			
SOSP	4	4			
SPTO	15	9	5		1
SSHA	2	1			1
UYRW	2	2			
WAVI	2	2			
WCSP	3	2			1
WETA	3	2	1		
WIFL	2	1	1		
WIWA	72	68	4		
WTSP	6	4	2		
YBCH	11	8	3		
YEWA	1	1			

Photos

Magnolia Warbler. Photo by Megan Jones Patterson



Red-eyed Vireo. Photo by Mike Patterson



Release of the banded Northern Saw-whet Owl.
Photo by Megan Jones Patterson

