

## *Fall 2025 Allegra Collister Banding Station Season Report*

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For the fall 2025 season, the Allegra Collister Banding Station (ACNP) operated from August 25, to October 19, 2025. The station operated three times a week for a total of 20 days, with three days cancelled due to bad weather (rain and/or wind). There were five days where the station closed early due to excessive heat; one day where the station closed early due to high winds; and one day where the station closed early due to rain. This season we modified our previous Monday/Wednesday/Friday banding schedule to include weekend days to allow volunteers with work and school obligations on weekdays more opportunities to volunteer at the Station.

For the season, the Station totaled 1,356 net-hours, which are calculated based upon each hour a twelve-meter net operated (or portion thereof for our shorter nets). This season, we captured and processed 463 birds. Of this total, 355 were newly banded birds from 40 species. Over the period of the past ten fall seasons, this number is slightly above-average as the average total of newly banded birds over the past ten fall seasons has been 303. This is notable as several other fall banding stations in the area reported much lower than normal numbers of banded birds. The capture rate of newly banded birds per net-hour of 0.26 captures per net-hour was lower than 2024 (which was the record fall season) and on the lower end of past decades for fall banding (past range: 0.22-0.67 captures/net-hour). The capture rate of all birds this season, including recaptured birds, was 0.35 birds per net-hour.

As we have for a number of recent seasons, the Station continued to be a participant in the Bird Genoscape Project by collecting DNA samples from selected species. The Bird Genoscape Project is a collaborative project between researchers at Colorado State University and UCLA that utilizes DNA from the tips of feathers to map species breeding location, migratory routes and wintering grounds. A genoscape is a map of genetic variation of species across their wintering and breeding ranges and migratory routes that can be used to more precisely target conservation efforts on the most crucial areas for maintaining and supporting bird populations. One of our Station's volunteers is a CSU undergraduate whose studies include work in the Bird Genoscape Project's Lab at CSU. For more information about the Bird Genoscape Project visit: [www.birdgenoscape.org](http://www.birdgenoscape.org).

## Volunteers & Visitors

In Fall 2025, we had 10 regular ACNP volunteers (all are also BCR volunteers): Maggie Boswell (MB, BCR subpermittee holder), Megan Jones Patterson (MJ, BCR subpermittee holder), John Malenich, (JM, BCR subpermittee holder), Renée Haip (RH), Michael Patterson (MP), Matthew Fyfe (MF), Mia Hock (MH), Courtney Rella (CR), Nate Carley (NC), and Olivia Taylor (OT). Additionally, Colin Woolley (CW) and Amanda Baker (AH) from Bird Conservancy of the Rockies (BCR) visited the station on September 17, 2025. Greg Levandoski (GL; BCR & BCNA; 2 days), Joel Such (ACNP alumni; 1 day), Joyce Commercon (JC; BCR; 1 day), and LeAnn Joswick (LJ; BCR; 2 days) each also assisted us a few occasions when we were short-staffed. In addition, we had one visitor observe bird banding.



*Top: Mike Patterson and John Malenich aging a Downy Woodpecker based upon molt limit in its flight (wing) feathers. Photo by Megan Jones Patterson. Bottom: CSU undergraduate Mia Hock measuring the tail length of a White-crowned Sparrow. Photo by Mike Patterson.*

## Highlights from Capture Data

We had a number of notable captures this season:

- On September 1, 2025, we banded a *Savannah Sparrow*. The last Savannah Sparrow banded at the Station was in the fall of 2021; prior to that, there was only one banded the entire decade of 2001-2010, but five were banded from 1991-2000.
- We banded a *Red-Eyed Vireo* on September 6, 2024, which is only the sixth we've banded in the last 15 years.
- On September 8, 2025, we banded a *Lark Bunting*, which is only the second ever banded at the Station (based on data going back to 1991). Lark Buntings are an unusual capture for the Station because their primary habitat is open, arid grasslands, shrubsteppes, and prairies.
- On September 12, 2024, we banded a *Sage Thrasher*. In the fall of 2024, we banded four Sage Thrashers that all came into the same net as a group at the same time. But prior to last year's group of four and this year's Sage Thrasher, we had only banded one in the last 15 years.



*Left: The sixth Red-Eyed Vireo banded at the Station in the last 15 years. Photo by Maggie Boswell.*

*Right: The fourth Ovenbird banded at the Station since 1991. Photo by Renée Haip*

- On September 24, 2025, we banded an *Ovenbird*—a member of the warbler family that’s name comes from the Dutch oven-shaped nest it builds on the ground. This is only the fourth Ovenbird banded at the Station since 1991, with the last one being banded in the fall of 2017 and one each during the decades of 2001-10 and 1991-2000.
- On October 5, 2025 we banded a *Brown Thrasher*, which was only the 15<sup>th</sup> banded since 1991.
- As is regularly the case for our fall season, our most prevalent species this season was *Wilson’s Warbler*, with 91 being newly banded this fall.
- This season, the station banded a total of 54 newly-banded *Orange-crowned Warblers*. While we often band a good number of Orange-crowned Warblers in the fall season, this was the highest total of Orange-crowned Warblers banded in any season over the last 15 years.



*Left: The second Lark Bunting banded at the Station since 1991. Photo by Maggie Boswell. Right: Brown Thrasher. Photo by Mia Hock.*

The following is a summary of all species banded for the fall 2025 season:

(The following PDF lists the species codes used below:

[www.birdpop.org/docs/misc/Alpha\\_codes\\_eng.pdf](http://www.birdpop.org/docs/misc/Alpha_codes_eng.pdf))

Species	Newly Banded	Same Season Recapture (Repeats)	Previous Season Recapture (Returns)	Totals
AMRO	19			19
BCCH	17	12	2	31
BGGN	1			1
BLJA	3			3
BRCR	1			1
BRSP	1			1
BRTH	1			1
BUSH	5			5
CHSP	2			2
DOWO	2	1		3
DUFL	1			1
GHJU	1			1
GRCA	28	17	4	49
GTTO	2			2
GWCS	23	5		28
HOFI	4	1		5
LARB	1			1
LEGO	2			2
LISP	5	1		6
MGWA	6	1		7
MWCS	2			2
MYWA	1			1
NHWR	12	3	1	16
NOWA	3	2		5
OCWA	54	9		63
ORJU	1		1	2
OVEN	1			1
PSJU	1			1
RCKI	4			4
REVI	1			1
RSFL	2			2
SATH	1			1
SAVS	1			1

SCJU	4			4
SOSP	9	4	1	14
SPTO	17	8	4	29
SWTH	1			1
VESP	1			1
WEFL	1	1		2
WETA	2			2
WEWP	3			3
WIFL	2			2
WIWA	91	16		107
YBCH	13	12	1	26
YEWA	2		1	3
<b>Totals</b>	<b>355</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>463</b>