

Spring 2025 ACNP Banding Report

Prepared by Megan Jones Patterson
11 August 2025

The Allegra Collister Banding Station operated from 28 April to 30 May 2025. The station operated for 5-hours per morning for 14 mornings on a schedule of Monday, Wednesday, and Friday (some days had some/all nets opened/closed early). This totaled 961.5 net hours. We had 1 day cancelled for rain.

In spring 2025, we set up a new net (25) just to the west of where nets 23 and 24 are. This brings the total number of active nets at ACNP to 18 nets.

This season we captured and processed 556 birds, of these 475 were newly banded birds from 49 species. This equates to a spring season record of 0.49 birds banded per net hour. This is significantly more than in recent seasons and the highest number since standardization of net opening hours (instead of closing when the mistnetting got slow, which will increase the apparent capture rate). We had a very strong peak in migration during the week of May 19-23rd.

Overall, we had very high capture numbers with exceptionally high counts for some species (Lazuli Bunting and Chipping Sparrow; see Summary of Capture Data for more). There were no apparent habitat or land management changes to ACNP this season. The flow of the stream was much lower than in past seasons with the stretch from Net 1 to Net 10 dry for the first part of the season.

Volunteers & Visitors

In Spring 2025, we had seven ACNP volunteers (all are also BCR volunteers): Megan Jones Patterson (MJ, sub-permittee), John Malenich (JM, sub-permittee), Maggie Boswell (MB, sub-permittee), Renée Haip (RH), Matthew Fyfe (MF), Michael Patterson (MP), Courtney Rella (CR), Mia Hock (MH), Jenna Anthony (JA), and Alex DeGroot-Duncan (AD). Colin Woolley (CW) from BCR also visited the station on 21 May.

We also had observers Jessica Miller, Owen Robinson, Archer Silverman, and Kieran Schnitzspahn visit the station.

Summary of Capture Data

A few notable items from the captures this year in comparison to past spring seasons. Please note that comparisons to other seasons are not corrected for varying effort data across the seasons/decades.

- On May 21, 2025 we banded 134 birds; an exceptional number for our station.
- We banded an Orchard Oriole. The last Orchard Oriole captured at ACNP was in the 1990s.
- This season was a good one for buntings.
 - 76 Lazuli Buntings banded! In the entire decade from 2011-2020 there were only 90 banded. This is a species for which there has been a marked decadal decline since our summary data starts in 1991 (1990s - 218, 2000s - 114, 2010s - 90).
 - 1 Indigo Bunting banded. The last Indigo Bunting banded at ACNP was in 2003.

- Also an astounding season for Chipping Sparrows with 103 banded. This is higher than any previous spring (back to 1991) and any decadal total (1990s - 69, 2000s - 94, 2010s - 28)
- We banded 30 Swainson's Thrushes which is a bit higher than the number we typically capture in spring seasons.
- We had a diversity of smaller flycatchers banded:
 - Western Wood-Pewee (1), Willow Flycatcher (1), Western (formerly Cordilleran) Flycatcher (1), Gray Flycatcher (1), Least Flycatcher (7), and Dusky Flycatcher (8).
- A hybrid Black-capped X Mountain Chickadee. While we typically capture Black-capped Chickadees at ACNP and we do occasionally capture Mountain Chickadees, this is the first recorded hybrid we have captured at the station. The ID was confirmed from a photo sent to Dr. Scott Taylor at UC-Boulder who leads the UC-Boulder Chickadee Study.
- 1 Veery and 1 Virginia's Warbler were great to see as we rarely capture them.
- Red-winged Blackbirds are always around the eastern nets where there is more marshy habitat and cattails; however, we rarely capture and band them as they are a bit large for our 30mm nets, which often allows them to escape. This year we captured and banded 11 individuals!

Photos



(Left) Mike Patterson measuring the wing chord of a Red-winged Blackbird. Photo by Megan Jones Patterson.

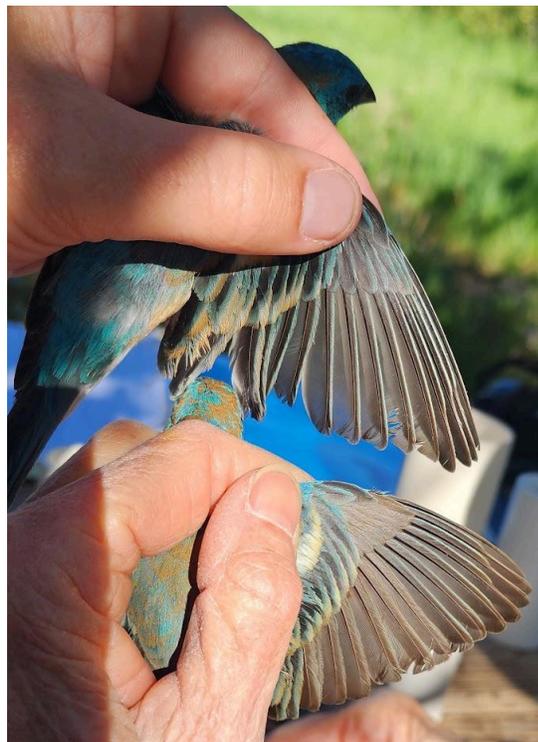


(Right) Western Flycatcher (L) and Gray Flycatcher (R). Photo by Megan Jones Patterson

Hybrid Black-capped x Mountain Chickadee (2890-85835). We captured this individual 3 times (April 30, May 5, and May 23). All photos by Mike Patterson



A season for buntings! (Left) A lovely male Indigo Bunting. (Right) Comparison of molt in the wings of Lazuli Buntings. Photos by Mike Patterson.





Veery. Photos by Renée Haip



Bullock's Oriole (L) and Orchard Oriole (R). Photo by Mia Hock.

Summary of all captures in spring 2025.

Link for PDF w/ the species codes: www.birdpop.org/docs/misc/Alpha_codes_eng.pdf

Species	New Band	Same Season Recapture (Repeat)	Previous Season Recapture (Return)	Unbanded	Total
AMGO	2				2
AMRO	2	1			3
AUWA	14				14
BCCH	3	6	5		14
BCHU				4	0
BGGN	1				1
BHCO	2	1			3
BHGR	2				2
BLGR	1		1		2
BLJA	3	1	1		5
BRSP	7				7
BUOR	14	1	1		16
CHSP	103	5			108
COYE	10	1			11
DOWO	1				1
DUFL	8	1		1	9
GRCA	30	14	7		51
GRFL	1				1
GTTO	13	1			14
GWCS	8	2			10
HETH	3				3
HOFI	1				1
HYCH	1	2			3
INBU	1	1			2
LAZB	76	4			80
LEFL	7	1			8
LISP	21	4			25
MGWA	5				5
MWCS	15	3		1	18
NHWR	9	4			13
NOWA	3	1			4
OCWA	3	1			4
OROR	1				1
RBGR	1				1
RWBL	11			1	11
SPTO	7	4	1		12
SWTH	30	3			33
UWCS	1				1

UYRW	1				1
VEER	1				1
VGSW	2				2
VIWA	1				1
WEFL	1		1		2
WEME	1				1
WETA	3				3
WEWP	1				1
WIFL	1				1
WIWA	3				3
YBCH	7				7
YEWA	32	2		3	34
Total	475	64	17	0	556