

Bird Field Note  
Field Observations, Rock Wren, Songbird Banding  
8/19/14  
Debbie Leick



Field Observations p. 1- 9  
Songbird Banding p. 10 - 13

Female American Kestrel



This breeding season, I detected more Rock Wrens than in previous years. One detection occurred near a barren and rocky road cut along Spike Camp Ridge. I returned several weeks later and found a family group of two adults and one offspring.



The youngster darted in and out of an opening between the rocks while the parents scolded me. Abundant whitewash covered the rocks around the opening.







KS

In Partridge Alley, Kate detected a Rock Wren family group and found this perched fledgling.



At the Black Swift nest site in the Bitterroot range, we relocated the acoustic monitor closer to the cavern.







Kate also experimented with a pole-mounted video camera. We hope to obtain quality footage during our next visit.





We began fall migration draw surveys this week. In Tongue Creek, a migrant Wilson's Warbler foraged on insects. A distinct "chimp" call revealed the bird's location.







Abundant, energy-rich chokecherries (above) and elderberries (below) covered shrub branches in Tongue Creek.





Still wet from the morning rain, a juvenile Spotted Towhee begged near the corrals.





A Calliope Hummingbird perched near the feeder at West Baldy Ridge.





**Songbird Banding: August 6<sup>th</sup>**  
**Avian Science Center**

On the last day of the summer breeding session, the crew experienced their busiest day. They banded an impressive total of 59 birds of 16 different species. Several uncommon species included a young American Redstart and a Least Flycatcher.

| Bird Species captured and banded:<br>August 6th session |                 |
|---|-----------------|
| Species Name  | Number Captured |
| Cedar Waxwing   | 5               |
| House Finch   | 4               |
| Downy Woodpecker  | 1               |
| Gray Catbird  | 8               |
| Red-naped Sapsucker                                     | 3               |
| Willow Flycatcher                                       | 2               |
| Yellow Warbler  | 12              |
| Dusky Flycatcher  | 2               |
| Least Flycatcher  | 1               |
| House Wren  | 11              |
| Rufous Hummingbird                                      | 1               |
| Black-headed Grosbeak                                   | 1               |
| Orange-crowned Warbler                                  | 1               |
| American Redstart                                       | 1               |
| Western Wood-pewee                                      | 3               |
| Black-capped Chickadee                                  | 3               |
| <b>TOTAL</b>  | <b>59</b>       |







At the banding station, *Empidonax* flycatcher identification requires a series of wing, tail, and bill measurements. The results identified this bird as the first Least Flycatcher of the 2014 season.



A young male American Redstart, born this summer, will attain the characteristic black and orange plumage next year.







A broken eye-ring distinguishes this Orange-crowned Warbler from a Nashville Warbler; a Nashville shows a complete circular eye-ring.



Yellow undertail coverts distinguishes an Orange-crowned Warbler from a Tennessee Warbler; a Tennessee shows white undertail coverts.







The fall migration banding crew trained at the Ridge site this week. They banded 54 birds of 15 different species.





Additional Photo Credits  
KS: Kate Stone