

**Bird Field Note**  
**Kate Stone**  
**8/14/15**



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## Common Poorwills

On 7/30, while measuring vegetation at Common Poorwill roost sites, Mat stumbled upon an adult poorwill brooding a days-old baby (★). We used a hand net to capture the adult on 8/7 and were surprised to find that he was banded. We first captured him on 6/8 near the north fork of Sheep Camp (★). We tracked him for several days until he lost his transmitter on 6/15. The nest Mat found was within 20 m of a June roost site and approximately 700 m from the original capture location. In the week we've tracked him, he has generally stayed in the nest area brooding the baby. We have not seen the female.





The nest and brood sites contained a mixture of native grasses and forbs, sagebrush, and clumps of Douglas-fir. Most of the brood sites had no cover directly above the nestling.





Common Poorwills have two broods per season, but we were unsure of the timing of nesting in Montana. The discovery of this nest suggests first brood attempts begin in late June and second attempts occur in mid- to late July.





We found large pellet accumulations in the nest area, suggesting long-term use by the adults. Since early June we've collected over 30 vials of pellets for a diet analysis.





## Black Swifts

Debbie and I performed our annual duties for the Montana Black Swift Working Group; we monitored the only known Black Swift nest in the Bitterroot Valley, just west of Victor. The swifts nest in a cavern adjacent to a waterfall, where a rushing stream, darkness, and cavern height make checking nest status difficult. Once we climbed into the cavern, we used an extension pole, GoPro camera, and thermal camera to check for nest occupancy. We found one active nest.





The nestling looked close to fledging. Swifts used this same ledge in 2013.





We used a camera to scan the remainder of the cavern for other swift nests. We found one other nest with signs of recent occupation, suggesting a fledgling recently left the area. We have not seen swifts nesting on this ledge before.





We captured 55 birds of 16 species on our seventh and final day of summer banding. Similar to last week, the majority of our captures (40) were hatch-year birds. New species for the year included a Cassin's Vireo and Orange-crowned Warbler.

Bird Species captured and banded during the July 31st session	
Species Name	Captures
House Wren	12
Gray Catbird	10
Yellow Warbler	7
Cedar Waxwing	7
American Robin	3
Orange-crowned Warbler	2
Common Yellowthroat	2
Calliope Hummingbird	2
MacGillivray's Warbler	2
Cassin's Vireo	1
Lazuli Bunting	1
Chipping Sparrow	1
Song Sparrow	1
Swainson's Thrush	1
Downy Woodpecker	1
Dusky Flycatcher	1
Western Wood-Pee wee	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>55</b>



Calliope Hummingbird



Orange-crowned Warbler



The streaking on the breast and lack of rusty feathers in the crown differentiate this juvenile Chipping Sparrows from adults.





Hatch-year Yellow Warblers have a flesh-colored lower mandible (top) that allows us to easily distinguish them from adults (bottom). The bill will transition to adult coloration over the next year.

