

SOUTHWESTERN MONUMENTS

SPECIAL REPORT

NO. 22

BIRD BANDING
IN THE
SOUTHWESTERN
MONUMENTS

— 1937 —



BY

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

NATIONAL PARK

SERVICE

BIRD BANDING IN THE SOUTHWESTERN MONUMENTS

The Director,
Bureau of Biological Survey,
U. S. Department of Agriculture,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Director:

During the fiscal year 1937 bird banding projects in cooperation with your Bureau were carried on in five of the 26 national monuments which are administered by this office. This represents a decrease from nine stations to five, a situation caused by changing personnel and other factors.

No banding was done at Bandelier National Monument because Mrs. Earl Jackson, who was the operator at Bandelier, changed her residence to Montezuma Castle National Monument. This eliminated the Bandelier station.

The Chaco Canyon National Monument station was abandoned during the year, as the operator found he did not care to carry on banding in conjunction with his other work.

Milton Wetherill, our operator at Navajo National Monument, was away from Navajo National Monument all winter, the best banding season, being stationed at Walnut Canyon National Monument. He thus was able to carry on work at Walnut Canyon but the Navajo station failed to make any progress in 1937.

Lack of funds forced us to transfer our man away from Wupatki National Monument, so no birds were banded at that station, either.

With somewhat more adequate and stationary personnel in 1938, we hope that all stations, plus some new ones, will be banding regularly.

A total of 1,273 birds of 63 species were banded at the five stations. This total contrasts with 1,547 birds of 64 species banded in 1936. All stations increased their totals except Casa Grande which dropped from 738 to 99, due to the absence of Operator Dale S. King.

Brief resumes of the work at each station follow:

Casa Grande National Monument.

Two miles north of Coolidge, Arizona. Lower Sonora zone.
Altitude 1,420 feet.

BIRD BANDING TOTALS, FISCAL YEAR 1937

Species	Casa Grande	Montezuma Castle	Pipe Spring	Tumacacor	Walnut Canyon	TOTAL	1936 Total	Banded in U.S. in 1936
1. Blackbird, Red-winged			18			18	0	2545
2. Bluebird, Chestnut-bkd					279	279	215	*333
3. Bluebird, Mountain					1	1	0	47
4. Bunting, Lazuli				1		1	0	33
5. Cardinal, Arizona		1		22		23	9	*1524
6. Chat, Long-tailed						0	2	64
7. Cowbird				1		1	0	*2021
8. Cowbird, Red-eyed				3		3	0	
9. Crossbill, Bendire					20	20	17	*41
10. Chickadee, Mountain					1	1	4	*62
11. Creeper, Rocky Mount.						0	2	*307
12. Dove, Inca	2			8		10	4	4
13. Dove, Western Mourning	1			4		5	17	*1654
14. Dove, White-winged				3		3	0	0
15. Finch, House	37		3	21		61	139	3352
16. Flicker, Red-shafted					1	1	1	28
17. Flycatcher, Ariz. Crst			5			5	3	3
18. Flycatcher, Ash-throat				1		1	0	*6
19. Flycatcher, Vermillion				4		4	2	2
20. Goldfinch, Grn-bkd						0	2	*40
21. Grosbeak, Ariz. Blue				2		2	0	0
22. Grosbeak, Black-headed				2		2	1	205
23. Grosbeak, RM Evening					3	3	0	349
24. Hawk, Desert Sparrow				5		5	0	*80
25. Jay, Arizona				1		1	0	0
26. Jay, Long-crested						0	2	*2716
27. Jay, Woodhouse						0	9	23
28. Junco, Gray-headed			10		11	21	77	*574
29. Junco, Montana						0	5	
30. Junco, oreganus		16				16	13	
31. Junco, Pink-sided		9			3	12	8	
32. Junco, Red-backed			3		10	13	54	
33. Junco, Shufeldt			91		22	113	25	
34. Junco, Slate-colored		1				1	0	
35. Kingbird, Arkansas						0	8	74
36. Mockingbird, Western				54		54	19	664
37. Nuthatch, Pygmy					38	38	46	113
38. Nuthatch, Rocky Mount.					5	5	8	
39. Oriole, Ariz. Hooded				4		4	0	39
40. Oriole, Bullock				2		2	0	99
41. Owl, Mexican Screech						0	1	0
42. Owl, Western Horned						0	3	*44
43. Phainopepla				2		2	4	12
44. Phoebe, Say	3			9		12	34	49
45. Pyrrhuloxia, Ariz.				28		28	0	0

BIRD BANDING IN SOUTHWESTERN MONUMENTS (CONT.)

With Operator Dale King absent on a furlough, Junior Archeologist Charlie Steen was able to devote little time to banding, but managed to add 99 birds to the 1936 total. A very good percentage of returns were received on Gambel Sparrows. Data concerning these have not as yet been thoroughly studied, and will be described at the end of the 1938 season in which we hope to do very intensive trapping.

With some 450 bands out on Gambel Sparrows, and this species apparently returning to very restricted localities every winter, research on the Gambels promises to be productive.

Montezuma Castle National Monument.

On Beaver Creek, approximately five miles north of Camp Verde, Arizona. Altitude approximately 3,200 feet.

The report of Mrs. Earl Jackson, operator, follows:

All banding was done between February 12 and April 19, 1937. Total captures were 178, including 42 new birds, 5 returns, and 131 repeats.

The traps used were Government Sparrow Traps, and the bait was chick feed and occasional bread-crumbs. The only interesting thing about the method was that the quail, being somewhat tame, were kept from hurting themselves in the trap by my constant conversation, which seemed to soothe them.

The new birds banded were as follows:

Arizona Cardinal	1
Oregon Junco	16
Pink-sided Junco	9
Slate-colored Junco	1
Gambel quail	5
Road-runner	1
Gambel Sparrow	6
Western Chipping Sparrow	3
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	42

The returns consisted of four Gambel quail which had been banded here by Norman Jackson, one of which repeated twice thereafter, and one Arizona Cardinal, which died from exposure in the trap.

At present there is no banding going on at the monument. I am, however, attempting a check on relative frequency of birds at Montezuma Castle, after the method described by Jean M. Linsdale, "A Method of Showing Relative Frequency of Occurrence of Birds", The Condor, Vol. XXX, pp. 180-184, May, 1928.

Species	Casa Grande	Montezuma Castle	Pipe Spring	Tumacacori	Walnut Canyon	TOTAL	1936 Total	Banded in U.S. in 1936
46. Quail, Gambel	8	5		80		93	68	61?
47. Roadrunner		1				1	5	7
48. Robin, Western					13	13	7	*6912
49. Sapsucker, Red-naped					6	6	4	*70
50. Sapsucker, Rocky Mt.						0	2	
51. Shrike, White-rumped			2	1		3	9	*82
52. Siskin, Pine					41	41	1	112
53. Solitaire, Townsend					2	2	60	61
54. Sparrow, Gambel	41	6	88	127	1	263	514	*4912
55. Sparrow, Lincoln	1			12		13	1	1413
56. Sparrow, W. Chipping		3			6	9	0	*3030
57. Sparrow, W. Lark				1		1	5	24
58. Sparrow, Nev. Savannah						0	1	*1115
59. Sparrow, Song			19			19	0	6670
60. Sparrow, W. Vesper			1			1	1	160
61. Sparrow, White-crnd						0	10	
62. Swallow, Rough-winged	1					1	6	44
63. Tanager, Western						0	1	64
64. Thrasher, Bendire				5		5	11	1?
65. Thrasher, Crissal				1		1	9	11
66. Thrasher, Palmer				5		5	2	*10
67. Thrasher, Sage						0	2	3
68. Thrush, Russet-backed						0	2	*1183
69. Titmouse, Gray						0	1	53
70. Towhee, Canyon				23		23	10	*59
71. Towhee, Green-tailed			6	7		13	11	42
72. Towhee, Spurred						0	3	*284
73. Verdin				1		1	1	3
74. Warbler, Lucy				1		1	0	*11
75. Waxwing, Cedar						0	1	2030
76. Woodpecker, Cactus						0	2	*3
77. Woodpecker, Gila				5		5	8	8
78. Woodpecker, White-brst					1	1	0	*78
79. Woodpecker, Mearns					1	1	9	*109
80. Woodpecker, RM Hairy						1	1	*78
81. Wren, Baird Bewick						0	3	*89
82. Wren, Cactus	5			1		6	43	49
83. Wren, Canyon				22		22	0	0
84. Wren, House			1			1	0	2722
85. Wren, Rock				1		1	0	2
TOTAL	99	42	219	448	465	1,273	1,547	
GRAND TOTAL, '36 & '37	37						2,320	

*---Group total which may include several races.

BIRD BANDING IN SOUTHWESTERN MONUMENTS (CONT.)

Pipe Spring National Monument.

Four miles from Moccasin, Arizona. Upper Sonora zone. Altitude 4,960 feet.

Operator Leonard Heaton boosted his 1936 total of 105 to 219 during 1937. Juncos and Gambel Sparrows make up the major portion of the total, although Heaton has trapped a nicely varied list. A very careful observer, Heaton is accumulating valuable information, and should begin to show worthwhile results during the 1938 season when those totals are compared to his 1937 work, his first year.

Tumacacori National Monument.

Nineteen miles north of Nogales, Arizona, in Santa Cruz Valley. Lower Sonoran zone. Altitude: 3250 feet.

Louis R. Caywood, operator, was able to catch a more widely varied list of birds than any of the operators at the other stations. 1937 was the first year in which trapping was carried on at Tumacacori, and the 1938 comparisons should bring valuable data.

Mr. Caywood's report follows:

"A total of 448 birds of 35 species were banded during the past year. Of these, four new species were banded which did not appear on the Biological Survey Species Total of 1936. These included the Red-eyed Cowbird, White-wing Dove, Arizona Jay, and Arizona Pyrrhuloxia. A total of 80 Gambel Quail were banded while the total for all stations in the United States for last year shows only 61 banded.

"This report is the first full year's report from Tumacacori National Monument. The banded birds represent only about one third of the species observed during the year. Although many birds cannot be taken for banding, a careful record is kept each month of birds observed, nesting and feeding habits, migrations, etc. In time these observations will be of value to anyone wanting specific information concerning birds in this section of the Santa Cruz Valley.

"Only one return has been reported so far from the birds banded under my permit. This bird was a Gambel Sparrow taken in Highlands, California."

Walnut Canyon National Monument.

Ten miles east-southeast of Flagstaff, Arizona. Transition zone. Altitude 6,700 feet.

BIRD BANDING IN SOUTHWESTERN MONUMENTS (CONT.)

Operator Beaubien was absent from Walnut Canyon during part of the winter, and, consequently the station was somewhat upset, but Operator Milton Wetherill was able to carry activities there so the 1937 total of 465 exceeds the 1936 total of 357.

Two years of quite intensive trapping activity at Walnut Canyon show that this station is potentially one of our best. Junior Archeologist Beaubien in all probability will be stationed at Walnut Canyon permanently in future years and his interest in bird banding is sure to bring results.

Respectfully submitted,

Dale S. King
Operator



