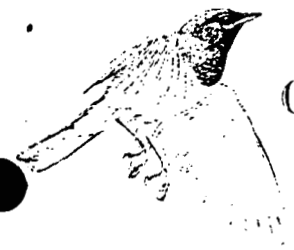
Birds of Doudy Draw

Brian Johnson
Tony Leukering



COLORADO BIRD OBSERVATORY

28 February 1995

4718

Clint Miller
City of Boulder
Open Space Department
66 S. Cherryvale Dr.
Boulder, CO 80303

Dear Clint:

Here's the final report for Doudy! I have made all suggested changes except for one grammatical one (I disagree with the suggested change). Mike and I even caught a few additional minor problems that I have corrected.

I just read your paper in the recent JFO. Congrats! I sure wish I could get to AK!!

Let me know if you have any problems with the report.

Sincerely,

Tony

Tony Leukering
Monitoring Coordinator

P.S. I sent the map to the Hawkwatch yesterday. Hope to see you up there!

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BIRDS OF DOUDY DRAW

A Report Outlining the Autumn, 1994 Bird-Banding Study at the Doudy Draw Open Space

Submitted to:

City of Boulder Open Space Department
66 S. Cherryvale Rd.
Boulder, CO 80303

Submitted by:

Brian Johnson
and
Tony Leukering

Colorado Bird Observatory
13401 Piccadilly Rd.
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February 28, 1995

Fourteen net sites were established, though no more than 12 were used at any time, within the shrubby vegetation bordering the stream beds, variably parallel and perpendicular to the stream bed. Eleven nets used were 12 meters in length, while the one at site 5 was 6 meters long. Two of the nets were of the 30mm mesh size, the rest were 36mm. These sizes are ideal for catching small passerines, but they are only marginally effective at catching raptors and larger passerines and woodpeckers (flickers, jays, magpies).

The nets were operated from three to five days a week for the duration of the project. They were run from sunrise until four to six hours after opening. Net runs were conducted about every half-hour, though the interval between net checks was contingent upon the number of birds caught and certain weather variables (notably wind). All mist nets were taken down at the end of each shift, so as to prevent the possibility of them opening due to the wind and entangling birds. This further prevented any possibility of vandalism or weather damage.

Captured birds were taken to the processing location (the picnic area). Each was banded with an aluminum U.S. National Biological Service band. Further processing included the following: species identification, age and sex determination, wing chord measurement (in mm), determination of the relative degree of subcutaneous fat, brood patch or cloacal protuberance noted (if present), delineation of molt on the body, wings, and tail (again, if present), and weight (to the nearest 0.1g using an electronic scale) was recorded. However, due to the strong gusts frequently present, weights could sometimes not be taken on account of the wind causing inaccurate scale readings. Many birds were then displayed for school groups and other visitors who came to the scheduled bird-banding demonstrations. Overall handling times were kept at a minimum to prevent undue stress.

In order to better document the occurrence of various migrant and resident birds, species observed but not captured at the study site were recorded daily. Although thorough censuses (*e.g.* points counts or transects) were not conducted, the information gathered allowed us to better evaluate our banding efforts in terms of representing species abundance and diversity.

RESULTS

During the course of the study, there was very little open water until 9 October, when storms in the higher elevations caused one stream to flow vigorously. Although it quit flowing a couple days later, standing water remained until the end of the study.

Human visitation at this site during the days we banded was quite high. Aside from groups scheduled for banding demonstrations, most users were joggers and dog-walkers, but hikers, horseback-riders, bicyclists, and birders passed through regularly.

Table 2. Summary of species banded and/or observed at Doudy Draw, Fall 1994: Number banded, total handlings, first and last capture dates, first and last observation dates, and number of days observed.

Species	# Banded	# of Hand-lings	First Capture	Last Capture	# of Days Captured	First Date Observed	Last Date Observed	# of Days Observed
AMCR		0			0	Sep. 24	Nov. 2	7
AMGO	1	1	Nov. 2	Nov. 2	1	Sep. 14	Nov. 2	10
AMKE		0			0	Sep. 14	Nov. 2	8
AMRO	4	4	Sep. 7	Oct. 6	4	Sep. 7	Oct. 26	22
ATFL	1	1	Oct. 19	Oct. 19	1	Oct. 19	Oct. 19	1
ATSP	8	9	Oct. 19	Oct. 26	5	Oct. 13	Oct. 26	6
AUWA	5	5	Sep. 29	Oct. 7	3	Sep. 10	Oct. 10	11
BAEA		0			0	Oct. 26	Oct. 26	1
BARS		0			0	Sep. 10	Sep. 23	5
BBMA	2	2	Sep. 28	Oct. 21	2	Sep. 14	Nov. 2	21
BCCH	32	67	Sep. 7	Nov. 2	22	Sep. 7	Nov. 2	28
BEKI		0			0	Oct. 5	Oct. 10	2
BGGN	4	4	Sep. 7	Oct. 13	4	Sep. 7	Oct. 13	4
BLJA	3	3	Sep. 25	Oct. 10	3	Sep. 8	Oct. 24	17
BLPW	1	2	Sep. 27	Sep. 28	2	Sep. 27	Sep. 28	1
CAGO		0			0	Oct. 7	Oct. 7	1
CAGU		0			0	Oct. 7	Oct. 7	1
CEDW		0			0	Sep. 8	Sep. 23	6
CHSP	46	47	Sep. 7	Sep. 29	8	Sep. 7	Oct. 21	11
COHA		0			0	Sep. 10	Sep. 29	4
CORA		0			0	Sep. 13	Nov. 2	15
COYE	1	1	Oct. 19	Oct. 19	1	Oct. 19	Oct. 19	1
DOWO	1	1	Sep. 17	Sep. 17	1	Sep. 13	Oct. 7	8
DUFL	3	3	Sep. 13	Oct. 5	3	Sep. 13	Oct. 5	3
EABL		0			0	Oct. 13	Oct. 25	2
EUST		0			0	Sep. 10	Oct. 26	8
EVGR		0			0	Oct. 7	Oct. 11	2
FRGU		0			0	Sep. 27	Sep. 27	1
GHJU	2	2	Sep. 27	Oct. 21	2	Sep. 27	Oct. 25	3
GOEA		0			0	Sep. 27	Oct. 26	4
GRCA	3	3	Sep. 7	Oct. 6	3	Sep. 7	Oct. 6	3
GTTO	3	3	Sep. 7	Sep. 13	2	Sep. 7	Sep. 14	3
GWCS	37	41	Sep. 25	Oct. 24	10	Sep. 13	Nov. 2	18
HAWO		0			0	Sep. 29	Oct. 13	2
HETH	2	3	Oct. 5	Oct. 10	3	Oct. 5	Oct. 10	3
HOFI		0			0	Sep. 13	Oct. 25	8
HOSP	2	2	Sep. 18	Sep. 18	1	Sep. 18	Sep. 18	2
HOWR		0			0	Sep. 8	Sep. 14	3
LEGO		0			0	Sep. 27	Sep. 29	2
LISP	3	3	Sep. 7	Sep. 23	3	Sep. 7	Oct. 5	5
LOSH		0			0	Nov. 2	Nov. 2	1
MGWA	1	1	Sep. 7	Sep. 7	1	Sep. 7	Sep. 7	1
MOBL		0			0	Sep. 27	Oct. 25	5
MYWA	1	1	Sep. 27	Sep. 27	1	Sep. 27	Sep. 27	1
NOHA		0			0	Oct. 11	Oct. 26	3
OCWA	25	26	Sep. 15	Oct. 7	9	Sep. 13	Oct. 7	13

Table 3. Number of birds captured by species by four-banding-day periods at Doudy Draw during Fall, 1994.

Species	Sep. 7-11	Sep. 13-17	Sep. 18-24	Sep. 25-29	Oct. 1-7	Oct. 10-13	Oct. 18-24	Oct. 25 Nov. 2	Total
AMGO[a]								1	1
AMRO	1	1	1		1				4
ATFL							1		1
ATSP							6	3	9
AUWA				2	3				5
BBMA				1			1		2
BCCH	9	6	10	6	6	7	14	9	67
BGGN	2	1				1			4
BLJA				2		1			3
BLPW				2					2
CHSP	1	1	39	6					47
COYE							1		1
DOWO		1							1
DUFL		1	1		1				3
GHJU				1			1		2
GRCA	1		1		1				3
GTTO	1	2							3
GWCS				19	13	8	1		41
HETH					2	1			3
HOSP			2						2
LISP	1		2						3
MGWA	1								1
MYWA				1					1
OCWA		1	10	10	5				26
ORJU					1		9		10
PISI					1		1	14	16
RCKI	1	1	1		3	1	6	1	14
RNSA		1							1
RSFL			4		2	2		1	9
SATH	2								2
SCJA				2					2
SCJU						2			2
SOSP		2			1	1			4
SPTO	10	5	8	2					25
SSHA			1	1				1	3
TOSO					2	1		4	7
UDEJ							1		1
VESP	4	1	3	1					9
WIWA	5	6	7						18
YBCH	2								2
TOTAL	**41**	**30**	**90**	**56**	**42**	**25**	**42**	**34**	**360**

[a]See Appendix A for definition of four-letter species codes.

Shrike, and Western Meadowlark). Several other species of birds were seen at the site but were not captured (see Table 2), though some of these were species that were observed in the area on very few days, *e.g.* Rock Wren and Warbling Vireo.

Sparrows were relatively well represented this season at Doudy. The species banded in highest numbers was Chipping Sparrow. However, 36 individuals banded on 20 and 23 September account for a significant portion of the species' total of 46. Significantly, 32 (68%) of the total captures came from a single net. The second most common bird of the season was White-crowned Sparrow, with 37 banded. All four subspecies groups of the Dark-eyed Junco were captured at Doudy. As expected, the Pink-sided form was the most common (nine individuals banded). Other sparrows captured were American Tree (9), Vesper (9), Song (3), and Lincoln's (3).

One Bald Eagle was seen flying over Doudy Draw on 26 October. It was using a flight line known to be used by eagles roosting in Eldorado Canyon just to the west of Doudy. We recorded no other Threatened or Endangered bird species in the Draw during project operation.

Programs were given to 16 school groups from 13 different schools. The groups ranged in level from pre-schoolers to high schoolers and from ten to 50 children in size. The focus of the education was on the ecology of those birds being banded, though topics covered included basic bird biology and identification, the need for bird-banding studies, and various conservation issues. The importance of stopover sites for migrating birds was stressed. The total number of people with which we interacted at the site from school groups, bird clubs, and other interested people numbered about 800. This does not include people that we just waved at as they went by.

DISCUSSION

The low capture rate at Doudy Draw prevents us from drawing many conclusions about the site. Visitation to Doudy seemed to have little or no direct impact on birds, as most visitors stayed on the trails and kept some control over their dogs, though, without a control site, we can only use our personal observations of human behavior while we were at the site for support. Without data from other years it is impossible to determine if the low number of birds encountered is abnormal. Some birders with experience at Doudy were surprised by the lack of birds, so perhaps 1994 was a "bad" year.

We operated another banding station this fall (Barr Lake State Park) and saw the highest number of birds banded in the history of the station with numerous species recorded in record numbers, even taking into account the record amount of effort. However, our previous data from another foothills station at Lykins Gulch shows very little correlation between Barr Lake and that station, so again, it is hard to tell whether our 1994 Doudy Draw data set is abnormally low.

Jones, S.R. 1993. A preliminary survey of avian species of special concern on the City of Boulder's Doudy Draw and Eldorado Mountain properties. Unpubl. report to City of Boulder. 55pp.

Weber, W.A. 1976. Rocky Mountain Flora. Boulder, CO, Colorado Assoc. Univ. Press.

Appendix A. List of four-letter species codes and scientific names for species seen and/or captured at Doudy Draw, September to November, 1994.

Code	Common name	Scientific name
AMCR	American Crow	*Corvus brachyrhynchos*
AMGO	American Goldfinch	*Carduelis tristis*
AMKE	American Kestrel	*Falco sparverius*
AMRO	American Robin	*Turdus migratorius*
ATFL	Ash-throated Flycatcher	*Myiarchus cinerascens*
ATSP	American Tree Sparrow	*Spizella arborea*
AUWA	Yellow-rumped (Audubon's) Warbler	*Dendroica coronata auduboni*
BAEA	Bald Eagle	*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*
BARS	Barn Swallow	*Hirundo rustica*
BBMA	Black-billed Magpie	*Pica pica*
BCCH	Black-capped Chickadee	*Parus atricapillus*
BEKI	Belted Kingfisher	*Ceryle alcyon*
BGGN	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	*Polioptila caerulea*
BLJA	Blue Jay	*Cyanocitta cristata*
BLPW	Blackpoll Warbler	*Dendroica striata*
CAGO	Canada Goose	*Branta canadensis*
CAGU	California Gull	*Larus californicus*
CEDW	Cedar Waxwing	*Bombycilla cedrorum*
CHSP	Chipping Sparrow	*Spizella passerina*
COHA	Cooper's Hawk	*Accipiter cooperii*
CORA	Common Raven	*Corvus corax*
COYE	Common Yellowthroat	*Geothlypis trichas*
DOWO	Downy Woodpecker	*Picoides pubescens*
DUFL	Dusky Flycatcher	*Empidonax oberholseri*
EABL	Eastern Bluebird	*Sialia sialis*
EUST	European Starling	*Sturnus vulgaris*
EVGR	Evening Grosbeak	*Coccothraustes vespertinus*
FRGU	Franklin's Gull	*Larus pipixcan*
GHJU	Dark-eyed (Gray-headed) Junco	*Junco hyemalis caniceps*
GOEA	Golden Eagle	*Aquila chrysaetos*
GRCA	Gray Catbird	*Dumetella carolinensis*
GTTP	Green-tailed Towhee	*Pipilo chlorurus*
GWCS	(Gambel's) White-crowned Sparrow	*Zonotrichia leucophrys gambeli*
HAWO	Hairy Woodpecker	*Picoides villosus*
HETH	Hermit Thrush	*Catharus guttatus*

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