

**Are you curious about Montana’s birds? Join the University of Montana Bird Ecology Lab for a morning of bird banding at one of these locations:**

- Grant-Kohrs Ranch National Historic Site (Deer Lodge)
- Rock Creek Confluence Property - Five Valleys Land Trust
- MPG Ranch\* (near Florence)

Our Bird’s-eye View Education Program aims to educate the public on healthy river ecosystems, ecological effects of past mining activities, and current restoration projects along the Clark Fork watershed. Plan a summer visit to our bird banding stations on the dates listed below. These events are free and appropriate for kids and adults of all ages and backgrounds! Come and gain a bird’s perspective on mining activities, riparian areas, and restoration efforts in Montana.



*Clay-colored Sparrow, Justin Griggs*

**What can you expect to see & learn by visiting our bird banding stations?**

- Learn what an ornithologist is and why they capture and band birds.
- Discover what a bird in the hand can tell us about the health of the habitat it lives in.
- Find out why healthy riparian areas are so important to birds.
- Gain bird ID skills and learn a few common bird songs.
- Explore the history of mining activities in the Upper Clark Fork Basin and the impact those activities have on bird communities.

<b>BIRD BANDING SCHEDULE 2023</b>			
<b>Grant-Kohrs Ranch</b>	<b>MPG Ranch* (by appt. only)</b>	<b>Rock Creek Confluence</b>	<b>Special Events</b>
May 31	June 1	June 2	
June 13	June 14	June 15	
June 22	June 23	June 27	June 24 @ Milltown State Park
July 5	July 6	July 7	
July 12	July 13	July 14	
July 25	July 20	July 21	July 28 @ Forcella Ranch (Galen, MT) †
August 1	August 2	August 3	

**We will follow University of Montana and CDC recommendations regarding COVID-19 safety precautions.**

\*By appointment only. Call, text, or email Holly Garrod for details at 303-667-2735 or [hmgarrod26@gmail.com](mailto:hmgarrod26@gmail.com)

† for more info contact Will McDowell: [will@clarkfork.org](mailto:will@clarkfork.org)

## **Tips for a Successful Visit**

Visitors should plan to arrive between 7:30 AM and 9:00 AM in order to participate in our program. It is also possible to visit later in the morning, but birds are at their most active early in the day.

Please keep in mind that these programs are weather dependent – if the forecast is for rain or high winds, we may have to cancel – contact Holly at 303-667-2735 for an update.

Visitors should wear shoes and clothes appropriate for hiking near riparian woodlands & consider bringing snacks or a lunch, as well as water, sunscreen, a hat, and bug repellent (the mosquitoes can be quite numerous!) Bring binoculars if you have them and a camera if you'd like – bird banding is often an opportunity for nice up-close pictures.

## **Directions to banding stations**

### ***Grant-Kohrs Ranch NHS***

Grant-Kohrs Ranch National Historic Site is located at the north end of Deer Lodge. From I-90, take exit 184 and head West toward the town of Deer Lodge. At ½ mile from the highway, turn right (West) into the main parking lot of Grant-Kohrs Ranch. To get to the banding station from the parking lot: Follow the paved foot trail out to the main ranch area and take a left after passing the ranch house, then follow the gravel road toward the open field and then west to the Clark Fork River. Follow this road toward the river and look for the bird banding station on the right, after crossing the 2<sup>nd</sup> bridge. The walk from the parking lot to the banding station takes about 15 minutes. If you have arranged a time with us for your visit, wait in the parking area, and one of our staff will meet you and lead you out to the banding station. If you're running early or late, please contact Holly at 303-667-2735 with an update.

### ***Rock Creek Confluence Property***

From Missoula, drive 20 miles east on I-90 and take exit 126 for Rock Creek. Immediately after the exit, you will take your first left turn and park in the small parking lot. Walk through the wooden gate on the left side of the green road gate and walk approximately ½ mile on the north road, remembering to veer toward the foot path and Clark Fork River as you are walking. You will cross through another gate which will be open and we will be just up the road to the east.

### ***MPG Ranch \*by appointment only, please contact Holly Garrod***

From Missoula, drive south on Hwy 93 until you reach the only traffic light in Florence. Turn East (left), onto the Eastside Highway/State Highway 203. Travel 1.6 miles, crossing the Bitterroot River. At the traffic circle, take the second exit onto 8 Mile Creek Road for 0.2 miles. The road bends to the north and turns into 8 Mile Creek Rd/Lower Woodchuck Road. Continue traveling north for 0.75 miles. Go straight through the intersection with a 4-way stop; the road signs say Lower Woodchuck Road at this point. Continue following Lower Woodchuck Road north until you reach the locked gate. If you have scheduled an appointment, please wait near the locked gate at the designated time for someone to escort you to the banding site.



For more information contact Holly at 303-667-2735 or [hmgarrod26@gmail.com](mailto:hmgarrod26@gmail.com)  
Or Find us on Instagram @[umbirdecologylab](https://www.instagram.com/umbirdecologylab) or Facebook @[University of Montana Bird Ecology Lab](https://www.facebook.com/UniversityofMontanaBirdEcologyLab)