



Chico Basin Ranch
22500 Peyton Highway South
Colorado Springs, CO 80928

Bird Banding
Program Info
For Visitors



WEATHER:

If it is raining/snowing or there is considerable wind the banding station will not open. Cold weather does not, necessarily, affect the banding of birds. You may call me (Pat Grove) the morning of, or evening before your visit if the weather is questionable. I will inform you the moment a decision is made to cancel because of weather. Please use my home phone 634-2305 or cell 338-8651. You can also call the Ranch office (683-7960) to check on weather conditions. Note that there may not be someone with which to speak before 8:00 a.m., after 5:00 p.m., or on weekends. All above phone numbers are local from most C.S. locations (719 area code)

AT THE STATION:

Wild birds go through a certain amount of stress when they are captured, processed, and banded. We want to minimize that stress by not having birds too long in captivity. Keeping fast motions and noises around the banding area to a minimum is essential. Students should not touch the bird being displayed unless instructed to do so. And please **NO PETS**. The area where the banding station is located is wheel chair accessible, but it there are no sidewalks or paved areas.

ITEMS TO CONSIDER FOR YOUR SAFETY AND COMFORT:

Sunglasses, sunscreen, Insect repellent, hat, warm clothing, closed-toe shoes, water, snacks, lunch, hand sanitizer and/or rubber gloves (see **WEST NILE VIRUS** below)

BITING BUGS:

At times, mosquitoes and biting flies can be a nuisance at the Ranch. For that reason, I recommend that everyone cover up as much as possible. Long pants and sleeves suggested. Bare skin is a prime target for biting bugs. Be prepared with insect repellent.

WEST NILE VIRUS AND OTHER BIRD DISEASES:

One of the highlights of the bird-banding program is when a child (or an adult for that matter) is selected to help release a captured bird. Although I am not aware of any case of bird to human transmission of disease in Colorado or North America, I prefer to error on the side of caution. I recommend that students use hand sanitizer after handling a bird or put on a rubber glove before holding a bird. Teachers, if you do not want students to participate in the bird release, please let me know beforehand and I will not involve students in the that process. Unfortunately, not everyone will have the opportunity to release birds.

EXPANDING YOUR VISIT WITH OTHER OPPORTUNITIES:

The bird banding program lasts from 1-2 hours and is always conducted in the morning when the birds are most active. Afterward, Ranch staff can take students or adult groups on a “**corral tour**”. On this special cowboy-led tour, you will learn about ranching and how Chico Basin Ranch managers use a combination of high tech and good, old-fashioned hard work to raise cattle and protect the grasslands they graze on. See and experience tools of the trade, like the squeeze shoot, livestock weighing scales, branding irons, medical equipment etc. I will work with the office manager to coordinate a tour on the day of your visit. **Subject to ranch staff availability.**

RESPECTING WILDLIFE AND PRIVATE PROPERTY

CBR comprises 87,000 acres of short-grass prairie, sand sage community and riparian habitats. It is owned by the state land board and is privately-managed as a working cattle ranch by the Phillips family. CBR is both their home and business, so please drive carefully and be mindful of livestock and wildlife on or along roadways. Normally there is a fee to access the Ranch, which has been waived for this program. Certain areas of the ranch are off-limits, so always inquire at headquarters before exploring beyond the bird banding station. **Remember to leave all gates as you find them.**

Directions to Chico Basin Ranch (CBR)

Thank you for choosing to visit Chico Basin Ranch's bird banding station located at Chico Basin Ranch 22500 S. Peyton Highway (One mile south of the town of Hanover, about 35 miles SE of Colorado Springs.) CBR is about a 45 -50 minute drive from Colorado Springs. Except for the Ranch itself and about a mile of Peyton Highway, all roads are paved.

Directions from south and west Colorado Springs

Take Interstate 25 south to the PPIR exit (#122 - ten miles south of Colorado Springs.) Stay in the left lane of the exit ramp, continue straight ahead as you travel up and back over the interstate, after crossing the interstate, follow the road as it curves south. Cross over the railroad tracks and follow the same road (about one mile) as it goes north. After crossing the bridge over Fountain Creek take a sharp right onto Hanover Road. Follow Hanover Road for about 12 miles to the town of Hanover. At the stop sign, take a right (south) onto Peyton Highway. Take Peyton Highway directly into the Ranch. **Follow the main ranch road for about one mile, turn right (west) at the metal cutout of a waving cowboy. Proceed about one mile on that road toward the distant Cottonwood trees. Banding station is immediately west of small farmhouse. Please park in a manner that leaves driveways and roadways clear.**

Directions from north or east Colorado Springs

Take Platte Avenue (Highway 24) east from Colorado Springs to about one mile past Peterson Field then take a right onto Highway 94 (look for the sign for Punkin Center.) Stay on Highway 94 for about 13 miles. A couple miles past Ellicott Liquors (which is way before the town of Ellicott), turn right (south) on Peyton Highway. Stay on Peyton Highway for about 18 miles. The last mile of unpaved highway, just past the town of Hanover, leads directly to the Ranch entrance. See bolded directions above for exact location on Ranch.

Funding for the program

Every year this program is put on hold because of funding issues, which leads to scheduling delays. To help support bird banding and other educational programs, CBR has established a 501-C3 (nonprofit) entity that will operate independently from the Ranch business to solicit for and hold funds to support bird banding and other educational/research opportunities at the Ranch. We plan to continue to offer this program for free. However, starting this year we will ask you to consider making a donation to help ensure the future of bird banding and other educational programs at the Ranch. If you would like to make a tax-deductable donation by check please endorse to Ranchlands Learning and Resource Center or simply RLRC. You can donate cash also.

Thanks for your interest in the Bird Banding Program at Chico Basin Ranch

Pat Grove Educator/Naturalist home: 475-9199 scatmando49@hotmail.com

Lee Derr Educator/Naturalist home: 634-2305 cell 338-8651 theriverkids2003@yahoo.com