

**Are you curious about Montana's birds? Join the University of Montana's Avian Science Center for a morning of bird banding at one of these locations:**



- Maclay Flat near Blue Mountain in Missoula
- Valley of the Moon Nature Trail on Rock Creek
- Grant-Kohrs Ranch NHS in Deer Lodge

The Avian Science Center has been awarded a grant from the State of Montana's Natural Resource Damage Program to educate the public on the ecological effects of past mining activities and current restoration projects along the Clark Fork River. Our Bird's-eye View Education Program will run several times a week, from June – mid-August at bird banding stations. These events are free and are appropriate for kids and adults of all ages! Come and gain a bird's perspective on past mining activities, riparian areas, and what current restoration efforts mean to them.



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

- Observe birds “in the hand” and find out what a “brood patch” is.
- Learn why biologists capture and band birds & what kind of data we collect.
- Gain bird ID skills and learn a few common bird songs.
- Find out why riparian areas are so important to birds.
- Learn the history of mining activities in the Upper Clark Fork Basin.
- Find out how mining waste has affected vegetation and bird habitat.

**Bird Banding Schedule 2010**

***Maclay Flat***  
*Saturday, June 5*  
*Wednesday, June 16*  
*Tuesday, June 29*  
*Thursday, July 8*  
*Thursday, July 15*  
*Wednesday, July 28*  
*Thursday, August 5*  
*Thursday, August 12*

***Rock Creek***  
*Friday, June 4*  
*Thursday, June 17*  
*Monday, June 28*  
*Wednesday, July 7*  
*Wednesday, July 14*  
*Thursday, July 29*  
*Friday, August 6*  
*Friday, August 13*

***Grant-Kohrs Ranch***  
*Tuesday, June 8*  
*Sunday, June 20*  
*Friday, June 25*  
*Tuesday, July 6*  
*Friday, July 16*  
*Tuesday, July 27*  
*Wednesday, August 4*  
*Wednesday, August 11*

Visitors should plan to arrive at either 7:00 am or 9:00 am in order to participate in our 2-hour program. However, if you arrive early or late there will be signs posted to direct you to the banding station, and nets remain open until noon. For more information about this program or to arrange a group visit, contact Megan Fylling at [megan.fylling@mso.umt.edu](mailto:megan.fylling@mso.umt.edu)

**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 Megan or Kristina at 243-2035 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 – this unique “bird-in-the-hand” situation creates nice photo opportunities. More information about this program at: [http://avianscience.dbs.umt.edu/projects/bird\\_banding.php](http://avianscience.dbs.umt.edu/projects/bird_banding.php)

#### ***Directions to Maclay Flat***

From Missoula, drive south on Highway 93 until you get to Peak Fitness Center at the intersection of Hwy 93 and Blue Mountain Rd. Turn right on Blue Mountain Rd, and continue past the main trailhead until you see the sign for Maclay Flat on the right-hand side of the road. You can park anywhere in the parking lot and walk into the banding station from there. We will have signs pointing you in the direction of the main banding area.

#### ***Directions to Valley of the Moon Trailhead***

From Missoula, drive 20 miles east on I-90 and take exit # 126 for Rock Creek. Take a right off the exit ramp and drive 2 miles south on Rock Creek Road #120; look for a brown sign for Valley of the Moon Trailhead and take a right across a bridge, stay right when the gravel road forks to reach the parking area near the outhouse, bear proof garbage can, and an interpretive sign. From the parking area you can find the banding station by proceeding on the nature trail – cross the bridge and follow the trail to the picnic table, ~ 75 yards from the parking area.

#### ***Directions to 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. If you arrive at 7:00 or 9:00 am wait in the parking area, and one of our staff will meet you and lead you out to the banding station. If you arrive early or late, simply look for signs and 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 hike from the parking lot to the banding station takes 15 – 20 minutes.