

Bird Conservancy of the Rockies – Chico Basin Ranch Banding Station Updates

Since 2000, Bird Conservancy of the Rockies has partnered with [Ranchlands](#) to run a bird banding station at Chico Basin Ranch. The Chico Basin Ranch property is owned by the Colorado State Land Board, and they have recently introduced changes to how visitors will be able to access the ranch and banding station. Visitor access to the ranch will now be managed through a lease held by Aiken Audubon Society. Bird Conservancy of the Rockies also now holds a separate lease that allows access for our staff and volunteers to continue operation of our banding station during spring and fall migration. To summarize these changes:

- The ranch will be open for access for a 5-week period during spring and fall migration. In 2024, these dates are April 29th through June 2nd, and September 2nd through October 6th. The ranch will be closed to public access at all other times.
- Visitors will need to register ahead of time through Aiken Audubon's online system ([details here](#)) and pay a \$15 daily access fee.
- Visitation will be capped at 20 visitors per day, with access allowed from 7am to 1pm. Visitors will be allowed to access the main Headquarters area, Rose Pond, and the banding station area. Other parts of the ranch will be closed to visitation.
- School groups can register to visit the station through Ranchlands by contacting learning@ranchlands.com.
- The banding station will continue to operate 6 days a week (closed Sundays) during each 5-week spring and fall migration period. Bird Conservancy staff, volunteers and guests (such as visiting school groups) will not count against the 20-person daily limit.

We thank you for your patience during this year of transition at Chico Basin Ranch and we are looking forward to spring banding season!