We Need Birds!

Our vision is that birds are forever abundant, contributing to healthy landscapes and inspiring human curiosity and love of nature. The stories within show how we turn that vision into reality. In 2016, we expanded our scientific monitoring to Texas and Canada, providing greater coverage of grassland bird habitat. We engaged diverse audiences—from homeowners in Denver, to rural Nebraska youth, to Mennonite farmers in Mexico. Some of the most powerful stories came from individuals. Summer campers Cierra and Rachel were inspired and empowered to pursue careers in science. We’re working with third generation ranchers Karin Utterback-Normann and Ron Normann, who have made conservation the foundation of a sustainable family business. Their success is ours, and a perfect example of how voluntary, collaborative approaches can achieve maximum impact.

We need birds, and birds need us, perhaps now more than any other time. Ensuring birds are here for future generations requires conservation across their entire life cycle and across borders. Many migratory birds split their time between summer breeding grounds in the north, and wintering grounds in Mexico and beyond. The lands in-between provide stopover points for rest and refueling during migration. Science tells us where the birds are, their habitat needs, and which species are struggling. Stewardship uses that information to deliver conservation on the ground, showing people how to provide bird-friendly habitat at all scales — from parks and forests, to working lands, to backyards. Educational programs make personal connections, fostering a deeper appreciation for the value and beauty of our natural world.

Our world needs birds, and they need you. In our next thirty years, we want millions of people to embrace the concept that conserving birds also improves our own quality of life. We value your support, and invite you to share the pride of being part of a nationally recognized leader in bird conservation. Take a friend birding, enroll a child in camp, or introduce someone to nature. Together, we can improve the quality of our air, water, land and wildlife and the health of our planet.

Tammy VerCauteren, Executive Director
Larry Modesitt, Chairman of the Board

Conserving Birds Across Western North America

Working to stabilize or reverse population declines of priority bird species.

Across the Full Annual Cycle

Successful conservation requires working across the full annual cycle of birds’ lives. Birds don’t recognize human borders and “our” birds rely on habitat in many countries. Mexico may be home in the winter, while the Northern Great Plains are breeding grounds in the summer. Thousands of miles of landscape in-between provide stopover points and temporary havens for rest and refueling.

Advance Knowledge and Create Solutions

Science tells us where birds are, the challenges they face, how they interact with their environment, and what they need to survive. Decades of scientific data provides a foundation for prioritizing conservation efforts. Bird-friendly land management approaches are strategically delivered to provide the greatest impact, and results are scientifically verified to ensure continual improvement.

Empowering People to Get Involved

We work to change lives and change landscapes — across borders, nationalities, industries and even socio-economic groups. Our world needs birds, and people of all ages and backgrounds play a role in their conservation. We aim to create win-win situations for birds and people and strive to help ranchers and farmers make their land healthier and more productive.
Putting it all Together

The individual stories shared in this annual report are part of a larger tapestry that weaves together science, education and land stewardship to achieve conservation. This approach guides our work, whether the focus is thousands of acres or one small child.

On the Northern Breeding Grounds
Monitoring Birds in 14 states
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Guiding Conservation on the Great Plains
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Engaging and Inspiring Others
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Working Across Borders
Baird’s Sparrow Full Annual Cycle
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Chihuahua Habitat Program
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Monitoring Birds Across 14 States

The Integrated Monitoring in Bird Conservation Regions (IMBCR) program saw the largest geographic expansion in its nine-year history in 2016 with 200 additional breeding bird surveys. This includes significant bird habitat in the Northern Great Plains, breeding grounds for many grassland species. Field technicians detected 339 species, roughly 1/3 of total species in the U.S. IMBCR data is used to create population density and occupancy estimates, distribution maps, habitat models, and decision support tools to guide conservation efforts.

Baird’s Sparrow Full Annual Cycle

Baird’s Sparrow populations are declining at an unsustainable rate, and they face challenges on both the summer breeding grounds in the Great Plains and the wintering grounds in northern Mexico. Six years of research has shown a correlation between vegetation types and predation, guiding our habitat enhancement programs in the region. We’re now studying connections between the breeding and wintering grounds, using geolocators to track sparrow movement and combining with IMBCR data to develop Integrated Population Models for use with studying factors that are limiting and driving populations.

In 2016, Bird Conservancy confirmed the presence of Baird’s Sparrows at Soapstone Prairie Natural Area near Fort Collins. Monitoring continues to determine if they are nesting, which would be a first for Colorado. Photo by Norm Lewis

Dead tree removal in beetle-affected forests promotes aspen regeneration and increases the occurrence of foliage-gleaners, such as the Yellow-rumped Warbler. Photo by Dawn Wilson.

Studying Beetles for the Birds

The native spruce beetle is a significant “agent of change” in spruce-fir forests of the Rocky Mountains and has affected over a million acres in Colorado since 1996. In collaboration with the U.S. Forest Service, Bird Conservancy set out to determine how groups of bird species responded to the most recent spruce beetle outbreak in the Rio Grande National Forest, which experienced some of the greatest tree losses. The study sheds light on how birds are affected, and provides useful information to forest administrators managing for specific species. For example, salvage logging of snags and tree removal promotes sapling regeneration which benefits some while reducing the occurrence of other species.

Expansion of IMBCR resulted in us counting 42 new species, including the beautiful Scissor-tailed Flycatcher. A total of 127 Scissor-tailed Flycatchers were detected in Kansas, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas. Photo courtesy of Oklahoma Dept. of Wildlife Conservation.

Data generated through our many scientific research and monitoring programs is helping answer critical questions about how bird populations are changing over time and what is causing the declines of so many species.

Luke George, Science Director
Guiding Conservation on the Northern Great Plains

Bird Conservancy’s full annual cycle expertise contributed to National Fish and Wildlife Foundation’s Business Plan for the Northern Great Plains (NGP), a comprehensive initiative designed to conserve important wildlife habitat in the region. Birds using the NGP as breeding grounds are declining, partly due to conversion from native grasslands to agriculture. We focused on five priority grassland bird species to inform conservation strategies of a variety of grassland habitats. The plan is informed by scientific data to address threats and identify conservation actions to provide the greatest benefits for grassland birds.

Grasslands of the Northern Great Plains provide breeding habitat for ground nesting birds including the Lark Bunting, which lays a clutch of 2-6 light blue eggs. Like many grassland birds, this species has seen dramatic population declines over the last few decades. Photo by Amber Carver.

Looking Ahead

Going the Distance with Black Swifts

In 2017, Bird Conservancy and partners will deploy the latest technology in the hopes of answering key questions about this enigmatic bird. Highly-accurate satellite tracking devices will enable us to determine foraging range in relation to breeding sites, as well as pinpoint wintering locations in the lowland rainforests of Brazil. This will help us target conservation efforts throughout their full annual cycle.

Solving the Mystery of Rosy Finch Declines

Brown-capped Rosy Finches breed in alpine tundra and are found almost exclusively in Colorado, making the state ground-zero for this species. They have declined by 95% over the past fifty years, and could be extinct in the wild by the year 2050. Bird Conservancy is collaborating with the Denver Museum of Nature & Science and University of California, Santa Cruz to identify causes of the declines and take action to save this iconic Colorado native.

Listen Up for Mexican Spotted Owls

Bird Conservancy will use passive acoustic sound recording units as part of our Mexican Spotted Owl (MSO) monitoring partnership with the U.S. Forest Service. The devices record the vocalizations of owls and other things that go bump in the night. Sound data is compared to standard surveys, which involve playing owl calls and listening for a response. This approach has the potential to help us expand our monitoring efforts to the entire MSO range and build partnerships with the National Park Service and Bureau of Land Management in order to conserve and understand Mexican Spotted Owls.

By the Numbers

316,941 individual birds counted through IMBCR in 2016
9,386 additional acres enrolled in our International Habitat Program in 2016
Building Confidence, Creating Leaders

About 5 years ago, Rachel Dunbar and Cierra Weller stumbled into our Summer Nature Camps by accident at a CareerExpo. Neither had much interest in birds nor a solid vision for future career paths. Taking Flight overnight camp put them on a new path filled with birds, science and a desire to pursue their passions and dreams — and also led to their enrollment in the Leaders-in-Training program where they mentored younger campers. Rachel and Cierra graduate high school this year ready to pursue careers in biology. We look forward to seeing where their flight into the world takes them.

Girls and Science

Bird Conservancy of the Rockies staff and volunteers interacted with over 1,500 participants at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science’s Girls & Science program, a special event where girls (and boys!) and their families meet women scientists and learn about opportunities to engage in science, technology, engineering, art and math. As important as igniting that spark of excitement among kids was giving parents a chance to learn how they can support and foster an interest in science. Bird Conservancy returns to the event in 2017, where we again plan to inspire the next generation of scientists.

Collecting Data (and Dollars!) for Birds

2016 heralded the debut of Birding4Buck$, an annual big day designed to raise scholarship funds for Bird Conservancy’s Summer Nature Camps. The event was held in May at our Environmental Learning Center in Brighton, CO. Fifteen participants teamed with local birding experts to record a total of 56 bird species in two hours. They raised $1,224, more than double the pilot year’s goal of $500. Along the way, participants not only raised funds, but also came away with new birding skills, learned how to use and contribute data to eBird, and were inspired by the wonders of spring migration.

Our “Migration Station” clubhouse provided a place for attendees to learn from their role models about bird banding, Mountain Plover research, and bird identification.

In addition to raising scholarship funds, Birding4Buck$ provides a great opportunity for veteran birders to mentor younger generations.

“Building Confidence, Creating Leaders”

What happens at camp stays at camp. But it also sends ripples out into the world, because it changes the people who go.

Rachel Dunbar
Bird Conservancy’s educational programs engage the whole person by not only teaching about birds and nature, but also about life. Our programs follow a progression that introduces children to the outdoors at a young age and builds their skills and awareness over time. Along the way, kids get outside and have fun, exploring the world while making friends, developing leadership skills and gaining insights into their place in the world around them.

**Inspiring Nebraskans to Love Nature**

Just as it is critical that our science and stewardship efforts expand outside of Colorado’s borders, the same applies to our education and outreach programs. Last year marked the 10th anniversary of our partnership with Nebraska Game and Parks Commission. Starting with two educational banding stations in Nebraska’s panhandle, the program has since grown to include year round activities including field trips, citizen science events, conservation festivals, in-school curriculum, family nature nights and more. In 2016, we delivered nature-themed experiences to 1 in 3 children in the Nebraska panhandle.

Our annual BioBlitz at Nebraska’s Oliver Reservoir was a huge hit! Over 30 participants, mostly children, spent two days learning about dozens of different species of birds, insects and plants.

**LOOKING AHEAD**

**Neighborhood Nestwatch**

In partnership with the Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center, Bird Conservancy will launch Neighborhood Nestwatch in the Denver metro area. Scientists visit participating backyards during breeding season to capture, measure and color-band birds. Homeowners become citizen scientists and report sightings of banded birds as well as monitor nests, learning about backyard ecology and gathering essential data about the effects of urbanization on birds.

**Engaging Adults in Conservation**

Building upon successful programs for youth and families, a comprehensive Master Naturalist program for adults will create well-informed citizens who are empowered to learn about, teach and participate in local natural resource stewardship opportunities across Colorado’s Front Range. “Conservation Conversations” at our Environmental Learning Center will offer presentations on a variety of timely topics, issues, and concepts.

**In-Class Programs Expansion**

With support from the Scientific & Cultural Facilities District, we are increasing our focus on in-class programming, enabling us to reach, engage and inspire diverse students across the Denver-metro area. These programs will bring themes of nature, stewardship, and birds into area schools, creating a lasting connection to Colorado wildlife.

**BY THE NUMBERS**

- 171 Yellow-rumped Warblers caught at our Barr Lake banding station in 2016
- 108 schools that attended our programs in 2016
- $40,458 education scholarships awarded in 2016
Conservation is the cornerstone to the health of the land. A multi-resource approach to conservation recognizes that agriculture, wildlife populations and other natural resources all must function together cohesively.

Karin Utterback-Normann
We significantly expanded our collaborative conservation landscape in 2016 with the addition of three new Private Lands Wildlife Biologists working in Colorado, Montana and South Dakota. From forests to grasslands, we’re helping landowners and managers enhance the health and productivity of their operations in a way that benefits people, birds and the environment.

**Chihuahua Habitat Program**

Our team in Chihuahua, Mexico is small – just three range and wildlife experts with our partners at IMC–Vida Silvestre, A.C. – but they sure get a lot done! Together, we enrolled two more landowners into our Sustainable Grasslands Network, bringing our total to 132,639 acres of working lands enrolled. These lands are managed with the goal of balancing the needs of an economically viable ranch and healthy wildlife populations. This year, our team held 15 landowner workshops, and repaired over 30 miles of wildlife-friendly fencing, installed 30 wildlife escape ramps in stock tanks, and installed over 5 miles of water lines to assist planned grazing operations.

Landowner partners in Mexico installed eight nesting platforms for the locally endangered Aplomado Falcon, three of which were used in 2016. The most successful pair of these falcons fledged three nestlings and will star in an upcoming BBC documentary on the biodiversity of Mexico. Photo by Denis Perez

**LANDOWNER PROFILE**

**Utterback Ranch**

Karin Utterback-Normann and Ron Normann

Third generation ranchers Karin Utterback-Normann and Ron Normann are adapting to current environmental changes by implementing innovative ranch management practices on their 105 year-old sheep and hunting ranch in Steamboat Springs, CO. Since 2013, we have worked with Utterback Ranch to build wildlife-friendly fences, manage invasive weeds, seed pasture with native grasses, implement planned grazing, restore riparian habitat and improve fresh water sources for wildlife. Through a multi-year partnership involving Bird Conservancy, Natural Resources Conservation Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and Colorado Parks and Wildlife, Utterback Ranch is able to stretch every dollar towards effective enhancement and restoration of natural resources on the ranch. Karin and Ron recognize the importance of new management approaches, provided by technical support assistance, as part of a program of maintaining healthy, productive land and ensuring the long-term sustainability of their operations.

BY THE NUMBERS

3,341 people reached through landowner visits and stewardship workshops

$377,792 in Farm Bill and $97,500 in partnership funding for conservation improvements

Photo by Denis Perez
Banding Birds

Bird Conservancy operated six banding stations in Colorado and Nebraska in 2016, two in the spring and five in the fall. The stations serve as outdoor classrooms, providing an opportunity to see real science in action. They also generate useful information about bird migration and population distribution, helping us understand the life cycle of species that travel outside our borders for parts of the year. Data from our banding stations is reported to the U.S. Geological Survey Bird Banding Lab, and contributes to research projects with partners like the Denver Museum of Nature & Science and North Dakota Game and Fish. In 2016, we banded 1507 individual birds representing 54 distinct species. Every year brings surprises, and many first encounters. This year, we recorded 171 Yellow-rumped Warblers at our Barr Lake Banding Station – more than twice seen in previous years. Wilson’s Warblers continued to hold the Barr Lake record at 566. At our Chatfield Banding Station, meanwhile, we saw our first Harris’ Sparrow.

Engaging Citizens in Science

Citizen science programs provide opportunities for volunteers to participate in real science while learning about the species they are helping to conserve — including how to identify, monitor, track and make observational records about birds. Their contributions are significant and fill gaps in much-needed areas that might not otherwise get done. Our first citizen science program, Bald Eagle Watch, was the catalyst for our organization’s creation and, like the organization itself, will celebrate its 30th anniversary in 2018. Bird Conservancy coordinates five other citizen science programs including ColonyWatch, Eastern Screech-Owl Monitoring, HawkWatch, Barrow’s Goldeneyes Count and the Colorado Bluebird Project. We also organize local bird counts aimed at engaging families, including Audubon’s Great Backyard Bird Count and Christmas Bird Count for Kids.

“We say people change their minds, but what people really do is change what’s in their hearts. We’re aiming at the banding station to get to the kids’ hearts.”

Meredith McBurney, Bird Conservancy Bird Bander
Bald Eagle Watch

2016 was a great year for Bald Eagle Watch, with 25 citizen scientists volunteering more than 800 hours to Bald Eagle nest monitoring. Bird Conservancy citizen scientists collected data on 52 Bald Eagle nests across the Front Range and West Slope of Colorado. A new database created by volunteer Bruce Snyder (see page 13) now holds all of Bald Eagle Watch’s historical data, going back to the program’s founding in 1988. Volunteers and Bird Conservancy staff also work with Colorado Parks and Wildlife and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to identify and minimize potential threats and research factors relating to nest success. The future is bright for Bald Eagles in Colorado. Working in collaboration with Colorado Parks & Wildlife, Bird Conservancy is leading the development of a statewide management plan to ensure there is always a place for this iconic species.
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Erik Stassier, Biologist
Nick Van Lanen, Biologist
Chris White, Director of Science Operations
Brittany Woiderski, GIS Biologist
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*employment began in 2017

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Dulcinea Barraza, Environmental Educator (IMC - Vida Silvestre), Pedro Calderón-Dominguez, Private Lands Wildlife Biologist (IMC - Vida Silvestre), Chihuahua City, Chihuahua
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Kristina Kline*, Private Lands Wildlife Biologist (Durango, CO)
Roberto Rodriguez, Private Lands Wildlife Biologist [IMC - Vida Silvestre], Chihuahua City, Chihuahua
Ty Woodward, Private Lands Wildlife Biologist (Woodland Park, CO)

Former Staff and Board Members at Bird Conservancy of the Rockies in 2016

Gillian Bee, Stewardship Director
Janet Gibbs, Chief Financial Officer
Erica Grasmick, Communications Assistant
Lily Hynson, Community Education Coordinator
Kacie Miller, Deputy Director
Megan Miller, Development Assistant
Kacie Miller, Deputy Director
Lily Hynson, Community Education Coordinator

2016 Volunteers

Thank you to these citizen scientists, naturalists, bird banders, board members and other volunteers who donated their time and talents to help Bird Conservancy of the Rockies conserve birds and their habitats. In 2016, over 220 individuals generously volunteered in support of our mission.

Tom Abbott
Jeanie Ajero
Kristen Amicarelle
Coltern Arnspiger
Rose Ballfour
Jim Banks
Alejandra Barcelo
Cynde Barnes
Debbie Barnes
Cynde Barnes
Erica Bean
Bill Bell
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Heather Jackson
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Cyndy Johnson
Adam Johnson
Robin Johnson
Dale Jones
Alex Kelley
Dan Kelley
Mary Kiesling
Michael Kiessig
John Koss
John Kueger
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Forrest Luke
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Kylie Mattes
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Veronica Mattes
Peyton Mattes
Eva Matthews
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Hailey McLean
Lucinda Miller
Megan Miller
Isaac Morales
Nancy Morgan
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Gloria Nikolai
Clayton Norman
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Dan Staley
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Diane White
Anne Whitehurst
Lynn Wiltcockson
Tom Williams
Jim Wilson
Joshua Wolks
Ronda Woodward
Bill Wutherle
Lori Zabel
Larry Zanetell
Spagnuolo Family
Hughes Family

Hughes Family
Dedicated volunteers are the heart and soul of most non-profit organizations. This special award, named after Nelda Gamble who started the Bald Eagle Watch (BEW) monitoring program in 1988, recognizes outstanding service as a volunteer. This year, we were honored to recognize the contributions of Jan and Bruce Snyder, who have donated hundreds of hours of their time to the BEW program. Together, this dynamic duo located over seven new eagle nests, monitored existing ones, prepared datasheets and provided regular updates for BEW coordinators and Colorado Parks and Wildlife. In 2015, Bruce also donated his considerable technical skills to create a new database for the program, making it possible to digitize almost 30 years of data -- an essential tool for understanding trends, changes and informing conservation of this iconic species across Colorado.

Pat’s distinguished career has resulted in an impressive list of accomplishments, including 20 years as professor of ecology and Thornton chair of biology at Western State Colorado University. He also founded Sisk-a-dee, a non-profit focused on conservation of Gunnison Sage-grouse. Measuring his contributions to our field in terms of years of service, numbers of publications, or the hours of time spent on conservation endeavors simply doesn’t do him justice. He is a teacher, a mentor and a leader whose enthusiasm and passion for birds and conservation is a source of inspiration for our organization and many others.

The Levad Award honors the memory and work of Rich Levad who, after retiring from teaching, turned his lifelong love of birds into a second career with Bird Conservancy of the Rockies. Each year the award is presented to a person who has provided distinguished service to the ornithological community, made scholarly contributions to the field of ornithology and has enthused others about conserving birds and their habitats through sharing his or her personal knowledge and experience.

Pat’s distinguished career has resulted in an impressive list of accomplishments, including 20 years as professor of ecology and Thornton chair of biology at Western State Colorado University. He also founded Sisk-a-dee, a non-profit focused on conservation of Gunnison Sage-grouse. Measuring his contributions to our field in terms of years of service, numbers of publications, or the hours of time spent on conservation endeavors simply doesn’t do him justice. He is a teacher, a mentor and a leader whose enthusiasm and passion for birds and conservation is a source of inspiration for our organization and many others.
Friend Profile – Joe Roller, M.D.

Joe Roller has been by our side since the beginning, and through several organization name changes. Inspired by a growing personal interest in birds and birding, he took to our mission immediately. Having grown up in a small agricultural community, Joe recognizes the importance of engaging with private landowners on their own terms.

The qualities that Joe appreciates most about our organization include resourcefulness, vision and a willingness to pursue work not being done by others. He applauds the way Bird Conservancy has grown without losing connection to its purpose and values, and real people on the ground. A science enthusiast, Joe enjoys meeting and learning from our biologists. He has been a tireless ambassador, communicating with others in the birding world about who we are and what we do.

His friends describe him as generous (perhaps linked to bringing chocolates to meetings!) and unassuming, with a tremendous passion for birds and conservation. He has served over 10 years on our Board while simultaneously staying active in many other organizations, working to help others experience the wonders of nature through firsthand experiences. It is our affiliation with people like Joe that has enabled Bird Conservancy to blossom into the organization it is today, and we thank him for his unwavering dedication.

Joe Roller places engraved paving bricks at the Environmental Learning Center, part of the Bricks for Birds campaign which commemorated the organization’s 25th Anniversary in 2013. Photo by Greg Levandoski

Broadening the Circle

We are grateful to our “Friends” of Bird Conservancy of the Rockies. Friends-level supporters provide the critical discretionary funds necessary to advance our mission of conserving birds and their habitats. The Friends program began in 2010 with five member households and has grown to 100 member households in 2017.

Friends’ support helps make environmental education programming accessible to people of all ages and economic abilities; increases and improves delivery of citizen science programs; contributes to the conservation of tens of thousands of acres of habitat for the benefit of people, birds and land; enhances scientific knowledge to forward bird conservation, and allowed for creation of a much-needed Development Division.

To become a Friend of Bird Conservancy of the Rockies, contact Sonja Macys, Development Director at (720) 634-1076 or by email: sonja.macy@birdconservancy.org.
Thank you to the following people and organizations for supporting Bird Conservancy and its mission to conserve birds and their habitats. One-year memberships are $35 for individuals and $60 for families. Bird Conservancy of the Rockies welcomes and appreciates contributions in any amount.

To become a member, visit birdconservancy.org and click “Get Involved”.

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In Memoriam: Vice-Chairman Steve Bloom

Wisdom, warmth and wit—was what many well-known CEOs and boards of directors received from organizational psychologist and consultant Dr. Stephen Bloom. His service to Bird Conservancy, however, included more than strategy and governance advice. He also coached key employees on multiple aspects of leadership, developed evaluation approaches, and helped recruit board and staff members.

Combining penetrating analysis with tactful suggestions, Steve delivered his wise counsel with modesty, brevity, and wry humor. We value his enormous and long-lasting contributions, and we cherish the memory of our trusted friend.
MAXIMIZING BIRD CONSERVATION THROUGH COLLABORATION

Partners & Funders

Our conservation efforts are sustained through collaboration with over 200 partners, working together to meet shared objectives, leverage resources, share expertise and build upon each other’s successes. Together, we form a network of allied organizations working to conserve, enhance and restore critical bird habitat across North America.

2016 Partners [List for AR]
Adams County Commission
Adams County Parks and Community Resources Dept.A2
Aiken Audubon Society
AloTerra Restoration Services
American Bird Conservancy
Arizona Game & Fish Dept
Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies
Audubon Center at Bent of the River
Audubon Nebraska
Audubon New Mexico
Audubon Rockies
Audubon Society of Greater Denver
Aves Argentinus
Avian Knowledge Network
Avian Science Center
Bader Ranch
Barr Lake State Park
BBC Natural History Unit
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Black Canyon Audubon Society
Bobolink Foundation
Borderlands Research Institute, Sul Ross State University
Boulder County Parks and Open Space
Brighton Chamber of Commerce
Brighton Legacy Foundation
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Butterfly Pavilion
Canadian Wildlife Service
CDG Community Development Group
Chase Bank
Chatfield State Park
Chico Basin Ranch
City of Fort Collins Natural Areas Program
City of Brighton
City of Steamboat Springs
Coalition for the Poudre River Watershed
Colorado Alliance for Environmental Education
Colorado Association of Conservation Districts
Colorado Cattlemens Agricultural Land Trust
Colorado Crane Conservation Coalition
Colorado Department of Agriculture
Colorado Department of Natural Resources
Colorado Mountain Club
Colorado Natural Heritage Program
Colorado Open Lands
Colorado Parks & Wildlife
Colorado Parks & Wildlife - Habitat Partnership Program
Colorado Parks and Recreation Association

Colorado State Board of Land Commissioners
Colorado State Land Board
Colorado State Parks
Colorado State University
Colorado State University - ASCEND
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Colorado State University - Extension
Colorado State University - Warner College of Natural Resources
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Grand County Commissioners
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IMC-Vida Silvestre, A.C.
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Jefferson County Open Space
Kansas Dept. Wildlife, Parks and Tourism
Karval Community Alliance
Klamath Bird Observatory
La Plata County Open Space
Land Trust Alliance
Land Trust of the Upper Arkansas
Larimer County Natural Resources
LightHawk
Local Color Magazine
Middle Park Conservation District
Middle Park Land Trust
Missouri Department of Conservation
Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks
Montezuma Land Conservancy
Mule Deer Foundation
National Association for Interpretation
National Association of Conservation Districts
National Audubon Society
National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM)
National Commission for Knowledge and Use of Biodiversity
National Ecological Observatory Network
National Fish & Wildlife Foundation
National Wild Turkey Federation
Natural Resources Conservation Service
Nebraska Environmental Trust
Nebraska Forest Service
Nebraska Game and Parks Commission
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Scientific & Cultural Facilities District
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USDA Forest Service, Intermountain Region
USDA Forest Service, International Programs
USDA Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Region
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Partner-Funder Profile
Local Leadership, International Reach

The community of Fort Collins has conserved over 36,000 acres of open space for public recreation, conservation and education locally and regionally. Natural Areas are purchased and managed thanks to citizen-initiated city and county sales taxes. These places enhance quality of life and ensure access to nature for all while also maintaining natural conservation qualities. Bird Conservancy has partnered with the City of Fort Collins Natural Areas Department since 2006 to conserve grassland birds, both in Colorado and on their wintering grounds in Mexico. Through collaboration on multiple grants from the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act Program, the City leveraged over $4M of their investments to protect lands in the Mountains to Plains Conservation Area, which is home to 21 priority grassland bird species. Each year, Bird Conservancy provides bird population assessments to inform management decisions. The City also secured an additional $1.5M of federal funding for conservation of grasslands in Mexico, providing vital support for conservation work in the Chihuahuan Desert Grasslands and spurring investment by others in the region.

Our Eastern Screech-Owl and Mountains to Plains monitoring programs in Fort Collins Natural Areas give voice to the land and help inform management practices for the benefit of people, birds and other wildlife.
Our Belief:
The world needs birds.

Our Vision:
A world where birds are forever abundant, contributing to healthy landscapes and inspiring human curiosity and love of nature.

Our Mission:
Conserving birds and their habitats through science, education and land stewardship.

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