



NEWS RELEASE

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Expanding Environmental Literacy in the Nebraska Panhandle

Bird Conservancy Receives Grant from Nebraska Environmental Trust

Lincoln, NE – Bird Conservancy of the Rockies will receive \$41,506 from the **Nebraska Environmental Trust** for the “Expanding Environmental Literacy and Stewardship through Outreach and Education in the Nebraska Panhandle” project. The Trust Board announced the award at its meeting on April 4, 2019 in Lincoln. This is the first year of the award with a potential for 2nd year funding totaling \$38,206. The project is one of the 117 projects receiving \$19,501,444 in grant awards from the Nebraska Environmental Trust in 2019. Of these, 85 were new applications and 32 are carry-over projects.

Bird Conservancy of the Rockies’ mission is to conserve birds and their habitats through science, education and land stewardship. In Nebraska, we fulfill this mission through conservation education programs in partnership with Nebraska Game and Parks Commission (NGPC). Support from NGPC enables us to continue to increase environmental literacy and promote stewardship, engaging over 1,500 Nebraska residents each year. Bird banding stations and Bioblitzes reach school children and families, and take place in two Biologically Unique Landscapes. Environmental Service Learning Programs reach students in elementary and middle school.

Bird Conservancy has requested \$79,712 over two years from Nebraska Environmental Trust, less than half of the project’s \$218,487 total cost. This support will fund direct project expenses and an education assistant to help meet the need of our growing programs. Bird Conservancy and NGPC provide funds for salaries, benefits and operating costs. Program costs are low thanks to collaboration and support from our local partners: Chadron State College, North Platte Natural Resources District and the NGPC. Our free programming fulfills an unmet need for environmental education programs and services in Western Nebraska by empowering communities to care for local natural resources, and by inspiring the next generation of Nebraska conservation stewards.

Nebraska's Legislature created the Nebraska Environmental Trust in 1992. Using revenue from the Nebraska Lottery, the Trust has provided over \$305 million in grants to over 2,200 projects across the state. Anyone—citizens, organizations, communities, farmers and businesses—can request funding to protect habitat, improve water quality and establish recycling programs. The Nebraska Environmental Trust works to preserve, protect and restore our natural resources for future generations.

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The **Nebraska Environmental Trust** is a state program dedicated to the preservation of Nebraska's natural resources. It was created on the conviction that a prosperous future is dependent upon a sound natural environment and that Nebraskans could collectively achieve real progress on real environmental issues if seed money were provided. The Trust especially seeks projects that bring public and private partners together collaboratively to implement high-quality, cost-effective projects.

Visit www.environmentaltrust.org for more information.

Bird Conservancy of the Rockies is a Colorado-based nonprofit that works to conserve birds and their habitats through an integrated approach of science, education and land stewardship. Our work extends from the Rockies to the Great Plains, Mexico and beyond. Together, we are improving native bird populations, the land and the lives of people. Visit birdconservancy.org for more information.



For more information about Bird Conservancy's science, education and stewardship initiatives in Nebraska, visit birdconservancy.org/nebraska_programs

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