





**Our Mission:**  
**conserving birds and their habitats through science, education and land stewardship**

**Our Integrated Approach:**  
**using science, education and land stewardship to provide knowledge,  
engagement and conservation of the land across the full annual cycle needs of birds**



## Working Together for a Healthy World

The story of Mountain Plovers shows what's possible when people work together.

An important first step is starting with a conversation, encouraging collaboration and voluntary participation. Fifteen years ago, we engaged farmers in Western Nebraska and asked for their help in saving Mountain Plovers, modeling our approach after a program initiated by partners in Colorado. Highly adapted to life in the arid west, these unique birds evolved ingenious methods of coexisting with large mammals like bison. By using distraction techniques to lure bison away, plover parents could save their nests from being trampled. The arrival of modern agriculture and heavy machinery, increased habitat loss and other issues brought a whole new set of challenges that plovers were ill equipped to cope with. They couldn't relocate; the Great Plains is the only place where they breed, the only home they know. Their numbers sharply declined. Without help from humans, would the Mountain Plover disappear?

This is where people became the agents of positive change. We marked plover nests and showed farmers how to identify and mark nests on their own. In one county alone, 80 farmers agreed to allow surveys on thousands of acres of private land resulting in more than 900 plover nests being marked. Finding them takes effort! The plover's perfectly camouflaged eggs blend in with the landscape, making them hard to spot for predators and people alike. As they worked their fields, farmers carefully navigated tractors and plows to avoid the tiny nests. These farmers took precious time and effort to save a species, even becoming protective of "their" birds as an expanded appreciation for their land blossomed. The 'Ghost of the Plains' continues to be enjoyed by all with the help of farmers that embraced a conservation ethic.

This Annual Report demonstrates an organization known for leadership, quality, inventiveness and a nearly thirty-year record of successful bird conservation programs. From backyards to prairie grassland to sagebrush to forests, across private and public lands and international borders, we engage people of all ages and backgrounds. When you invest in Bird Conservancy, you provide the funds necessary to make conservation successes happen, provide the resources to do it right and leave a legacy for future generations to enjoy. Together, we are fueling an effort to impart a conservation ethic, changing people's lives, and improving the health of our world.

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





**Across the plains and prairies, in the figurative shadow of the Rocky Mountains, birds need your help. Up and down the spine of the Rockies and across the western U.S., we continue to see dramatic declines among many bird species. Our scientific research and monitoring programs seek to answer questions about the entire life cycle of priority bird species to help ensure their future. We use cutting edge technology and innovative approaches to fill critical knowledge gaps. We share data with others, working with a network of over 200 partners to leverage resources and create critical tools that guide conservation action on the ground.**

## Assessing Impacts Across Species

Bird Conservancy is leading an effort to look at how grassland birds of conservation concern are responding to management practices aimed at the Lesser Prairie-chicken. We compared the population density of bird species on private lands enrolled in the Natural Resources Conservation Science (NRCS) Working Lands for Wildlife Lesser Prairie-chicken Initiative (LPCI) to densities in reference grasslands. Some species, such as the Long-billed Curlew, had lower population densities in LPCI rangelands. Others, such as the Cassin's Sparrow and Lark Bunting, had population densities 3-4 times higher in LPCI rangelands. This research provides a barometer for how LPCI prescribed grazing contributes to regional populations of grassland birds. Additional surveys and workshops to share results and help inform future land management decisions are planned for 2016 in KS, CO, TX, NM and OK.

Collaboration is critical to saving grassland birds like this Lark Bunting. The State Bird of Colorado, there were roughly 42 million Lark Buntings in 1966, but only about 5.7 million remain as of



## Making Science Accessible

For the fifth year, we collaborated with Denver Museum of Nature and Science to deliver our popular speaker series exploring new ideas and cutting-edge research by leaders in the field of avian conservation. This year's presentations were both informative and engaging, connecting people with scientists as they shared their passion for birds through amazing photos, captivating stories and spectacular video. The fall series returns in 2016 with the theme of "Birds and Change."

John Marzluff's presentation revealed the remarkably rich bird diversity found in our suburbs and city parks.



## Conserving Birds in Central America

Bird Conservancy of the Rockies helped organize a second workshop to assess the conservation status of all the birds of Central America, using the Partners in Flight method adopted in Canada, the U.S. and Mexico. More than 30 experts from nine countries, including ornithologists and wildlife authorities, met in Panama City to assess threats and population trends of avian species in each country. 1,180 species were evaluated, with 52% showing significant population declines associated with deforestation, agricultural expansion and urban growth. This was an important step in creating a unified platform for coordinating across international borders. Countries are holding workshops to validate and share this information within their conservation communities. The conservation assessment continues and will evaluate global population size for each species, and the results of the assessment will be disseminated through various media. Birds from Canada to Central America are being assessed using the same framework allowing us to get global population estimates for many species for the first time.

The Great Jacamar is a bird of tropical lowland evergreen forests which it shares with 27 neotropical migrants including Swainson's Thrush, Ovenbird and Red-eyed Vireo. Photo by Greg Levandoski.



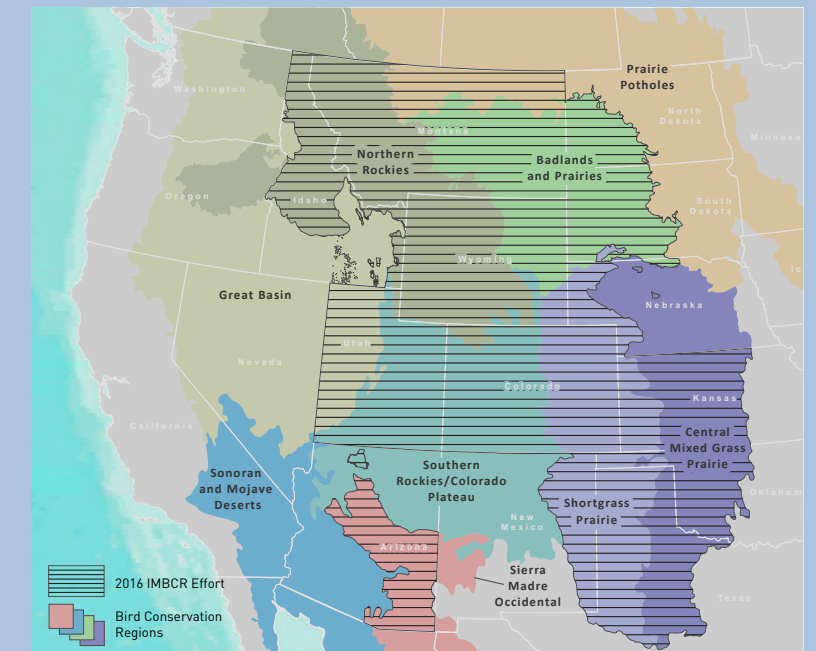
## Looking Ahead

### Integrated Monitoring in Bird Conservation Regions

The Integrated Monitoring in Bird Conservation Regions (IMBCR) program is one of the largest bird monitoring programs in North America, covering a work area of 450,545 square miles (1,166,906 million square kilometers) across all or parts of 13 western states in the U.S. In 2015 Bird Conservancy and its partners at the Intermountain Bird Observatory and Wyoming Natural Diversity Database conducted 1,223 surveys, detecting 179,923 individual birds of 297 species, roughly 33% of the total species in the U.S.

Data from IMBCR supports natural resource partners and our Stewardship program efforts in Colorado, Nebraska and Wyoming where our Private Lands Biologists are stationed, helping guide and prioritize habitat enhancement and restoration projects across the region. Program training and webinars will ensure data are being accessed and utilized by those working on the land to inform their management and enhancement efforts.

2016 will see a major expansion of IMBCR in partnership with Playa Lakes Joint Venture. Growth of the program complements monitoring efforts in the Northern Great Plains.





Inspiration can spark ideas and motivations that last a lifetime, and this philosophy is at the core of Bird Conservancy's education and outreach programs. Whether it's at summer camp, a homeschool program or a community event, we help people make lifelong connections to science and nature. Programs like On the Wing and Leaders in Training cultivate skills in young people and give them the confidence to pursue careers in science. Even fleeting moments, like releasing a bird at a banding station, can spark a lasting passion for conservation and foster a greater understanding of the natural world and our role as stewards of the land.

## Empowering Tomorrow's Scientists

2015 marked the return of our On the Wing camp program designed for teenagers aspiring to a career in natural resources. The program was last offered in 2003. Participants learned to design and conduct their own research project, working together to develop a hypothesis, collecting and analyzing scientific data, and presenting their findings. Alongside Bird Conservancy and Rocky Mountain National Park biologists, campers also learned important observational skills like field journaling and sketching, field guide and binocular use, bird and plant identification and field biology.

BCR Banding Coordinator/Biologist Nancy Gobris instructs On the Wing Camper Cierra Weller how to measure the diameter at breast height of an aspen tree. Photo by Tyler Edmondson



I had an EPIC day!!

5th grader at the Barr Lake banding station

My daughter left for camp a caterpillar and returned a butterfly.

Sherry Nickolaus

## Sharing the Story of Grassland Birds

Bird Conservancy's monitoring and stewardship work in Chihuahua, Mexico was featured in a PBS documentary that aired across the country and continues to be shown at special film screenings in many cities. Plight of the Grassland Birds follows the migratory path of birds across the Americas, investigating why grassland species are declining faster than any other group and what is being done to reverse the trend. The documentary is helping raise awareness of the need to conserve our grasslands and these birds that are found nowhere else.

Baird's Sparrow courtesy of New Hampshire Public Television. Photo by José Hugo Martínez Guerrero



## Fostering a Love of Nature

Sparking an appreciation for conservation starts at an early age, and kids are spending more time indoors than ever before. Our popular programs for homeschoolers, which filled quickly again in 2015, are designed to get kids outside—observing and studying birds, exploring nature, taking in a bit of fresh air and getting their hands dirty through service learning experiences. Many parents joined in the experience, helping improve habitat for birds at our environmental learning center while simultaneously building a healthier lifestyle for themselves and their families.

Inspired after attending one of our programs, homeschoolers Gavin and Harley planned a "weed warrior" day for their families. They made a huge impact, removing over 15 bags of Common Mullein from our shortgrass prairie!



## A Bird in the Hand

Every spring and fall, like clockwork, birds travel north and south to their summer and winter homes. Some species travel great distances, enduring a difficult journey to reach their destination. The most common bird seen at our Barr Lake Banding Station, Wilson's Warbler, is a neotropical migrant that may journey thousands of miles, stopping over at points along the way to rest and refuel. Incredibly, many birds successfully survive their arduous journey many times over several years. We know this, and much more, because of bird banding.

In 2015, Bird Conservancy and our partners operated two banding stations in the spring in Colorado and five in the fall in Colorado and Nebraska. Data gathered at our banding stations is reported to the U.S. Geological Survey Bird Banding Lab, and has enabled biologists to learn more about avian biology, migratory behaviors, and life cycle information such as breeding and survival rates. Banding stations are also terrific outdoor classrooms, enabling visitors to see real science in action while also gaining a greater understanding and appreciation of birds.

Bander Meredith McBurney and Denver Museum of Nature and Science's Curator of Ornithology Garth Spellman broadcasted "Scientists in Action" live from the Barr Lake banding station to hundreds of students across the nation. Photo by Peggy Watson.



## Looking Ahead

### Youth Take the Lead on Open Space Enhancement

Bird Conservancy is working with 4th graders at STEM Magnet Lab to enhance Fox Run Open Space in the City of Northglenn. The kids will learn about local bird populations and habitat needs and the important role they play in caring for open spaces. Then, they'll use that knowledge to help create educational signs to tell the story.

### Bringing Conservation into the Classroom

GrasslandsLIVE: A Distance Learning Adventure is a free distance education initiative that helps students understand the connections between and importance of grasslands in the U.S., Mexico, and beyond. As a partner for the project, Bird Conservancy's international monitoring efforts will be featured in October, 2016 when the program broadcasts from Chihuahua, Mexico and again in Spring, 2017 from Colorado.

### Building Confidence, Creating Leaders

2016 sees a continuation of our Leaders-in-Training (LIT) program, designed to provide opportunities for older summer camp participants to increase their leadership skills by sharing their passion, knowledge and enthusiasm for birds and the natural world with younger campers. The program exploded this past summer with 17 local teens and pre-teens participating.

### Utilizing Cutting Edge Research

Using techniques like stable isotope and fecal matter analysis, Bird Conservancy is collaborating with Denver Museum of Nature and Science to glean new insights and information about birds captured at our banding stations in 2016.



# STEWARDSHIP

Birds do not recognize governmental boundaries and property borders, and some of the best habitat is located on working lands. Private landowners and agricultural producers play a critical role in providing habitat for birds and other wildlife. Our private lands biologists and rangeland ecologists work at the local level, reaching out to landowners and managers to build trust, raise awareness and help deliver mutually beneficial outcomes for people, birds and the land. The knowledge gained through our scientific research enables us to create practical tools and guidelines that help restore and conserve habitat for birds, and also make the land healthier and more productive. In 2015, we enhanced and enrolled over 97,000 additional acres of grasslands, shrublands and wetlands through voluntary conservation programs from Wyoming to Chihuahua, Mexico.

## A Stewardship Success Story

The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) announcement that the Greater Sage-Grouse would not be listed as endangered marked a milestone in wildlife conservation. The decision showed that private landowners and managers could—and would—voluntarily implement conservation programs to help save the species. One of those landowners was Ray Owens of Craig, Colorado, who worked with Bird Conservancy of the Rockies and USFWS to create wildlife-friendly habitat on his Bord Gulch Ranch. Today, Ray’s ranch has a reputation for producing some of the best cows and sheep in the area, while also providing ideal habitat for grouse to strut their stuff.

Many people have come together to ensure the mating displays of male Greater Sage-Grouse continue to impress the ladies. Photo by Noppadol Paothong.



“ A ranch is a business that deals with the whole: it includes birds, the grass and the cows. We need to manage it all together for it to be fruitful. All of the animals that are naturally here are indicators of healthy grassland. ”  
Jesús Almeida, Rancho Tepehuanes

## On the Trail of Bluebirds

2015 was the first year of the Larimer County chapter of the Colorado Bluebird Project, coordinated by Bird Conservancy of the Rockies. The project was initiated by young Noah Spagnuolo, age 11, who was inspired to create a local bluebird watch after his aunt nearly died from viral meningitis, which can be spread by mosquitoes. Since bluebirds eat mosquitoes, Noah wanted to help them out. Volunteers collect data on breeding birds using bluebird boxes along hiking trails, then submit the data to Cornell Ornithology Lab’s NestWatch program. The program provides much-needed housing for bluebirds, whose numbers are declining due to lack of nesting sites, and engages people of all ages in conservation.

Mountain Bluebird photo by John Carr



## Expanding to the North

The Northern Great Plains are prime summer breeding grounds for grassland bird species, including many neotropical migrants that we monitor in Mexico. Demographic studies on the breeding grounds are filling critical knowledge gaps that help us understand the full annual cycle of these birds and what may be causing population declines. In 2015, we secured partnerships with the Northern Great Plains Joint Venture, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, North Dakota Game & Fish Dept., South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks and many other organizations, as well as private landowners, enabling our science and stewardship efforts to expand into North and South Dakota and Montana.

The Chestnut-Collared Longspur is one of many species that breeds in the Northern Great Plains and winters in Northern Mexico. Photo by Rick Bohn, USWFS Mountain-Prairie



## Landowner Profile Working Across Borders Rancho Plan de Alamos



Alberto Terrazas Seyffert belongs to one of the oldest ranching families in northern Mexico. He is a direct descendent of Luis Terrazas, one of Mexico’s most renowned cattlemen during the mid-1880s. Alberto and his family—including his parents, brothers and cousins—continue to honor that heritage at Rancho Plan de Alamos in the Valles Centrales Region of Chihuahua.

A successful entrepreneur and executive, Alberto devotes as much time as he can to the ranch. He has taken a special interest in integrated rangeland management and ways to improve the health of the landscape. In 2013, Alberto spearheaded a grassland management plan, working with our stewardship partners at IMC-Vida Silvestre to implement numerous habitat enhancements including over 500 acres of shrub clearing, wildlife-friendly fencing, new water tanks and wildlife escape ramps, and artificial nests for Aplomado Falcons.

Since 2014, Bird Conservancy and IMC-VS have conducted winter grassland bird monitoring on his ranch, studying how these improvements are making a difference for species like Sprague’s Pipit and Baird’s Sparrow.

Rancho Plan de Alamos. Photo courtesy IMC Vida Silvestre.



## Looking Ahead

## Entering the Forestlands

For the first time, our private lands program will be working with timber producers and ranchers in forested areas of the foothills around Woodland Park, Colorado, an area at the edge of urban development with rugged terrain and diverse habitat. They will focus on sensitive or at-risk bird species such as Pinyon Jay and Olive-sided Flycatcher that utilize aspen, ponderosa and pinyon pine forest types.

## Crops for Cranes

### Providing Food and Habitat for the Greater Sandhill Crane

Utilizing an existing ‘Crops for Cranes’ approach, we will work with partners and landowners in northwestern Colorado to restore wetlands for nesting, roosting and brood-rearing habitat. We will also help support local small-grain farming to provide a much-needed food source for cranes during their pre-migration staging.

## Migratory Dynamics of Mountain Plover

We have studied Mountain Plover (MOPL) on private lands in Nebraska for over 15 years. In 2016, we’ll go beyond the Cornhusker State to conduct a range-wide study of MOPL migratory dynamics. Our collaborator, Dr. Mike Wunder of UC Denver, is coordinating the effort to study migration of birds breeding in MT, WY, NE, and CO. The Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center is partnering and will provide 40 GPS tags, allowing us to understand MOPL migration routes, examine survival rates and assess conservation needs across the Great Plains.



Working Across the Full Annual Cycle of Birds  
Using a Comprehensive Approach to Conservation

Science

Guides conservation action by filling knowledge gaps and shedding light on the full annual cycle needs of birds. We use our long-term scientific data on abundance, habitat use and survival from across the full annual cycle to identify impacts on bird populations and devise conservation strategies and tools to address those factors and increase populations through Stewardship efforts.

Education

Informs, inspires and empowers the next generation of conservationists through science-based, experiential education programs designed to get people of all ages outside, experiencing the beauty and wonder of birds and nature. Bird banding stations, environmental curriculum and seasonal programs introduce people to resident and migratory species, creating a greater awareness of the landscape as well as an appreciation for the birds that live there.

Stewardship

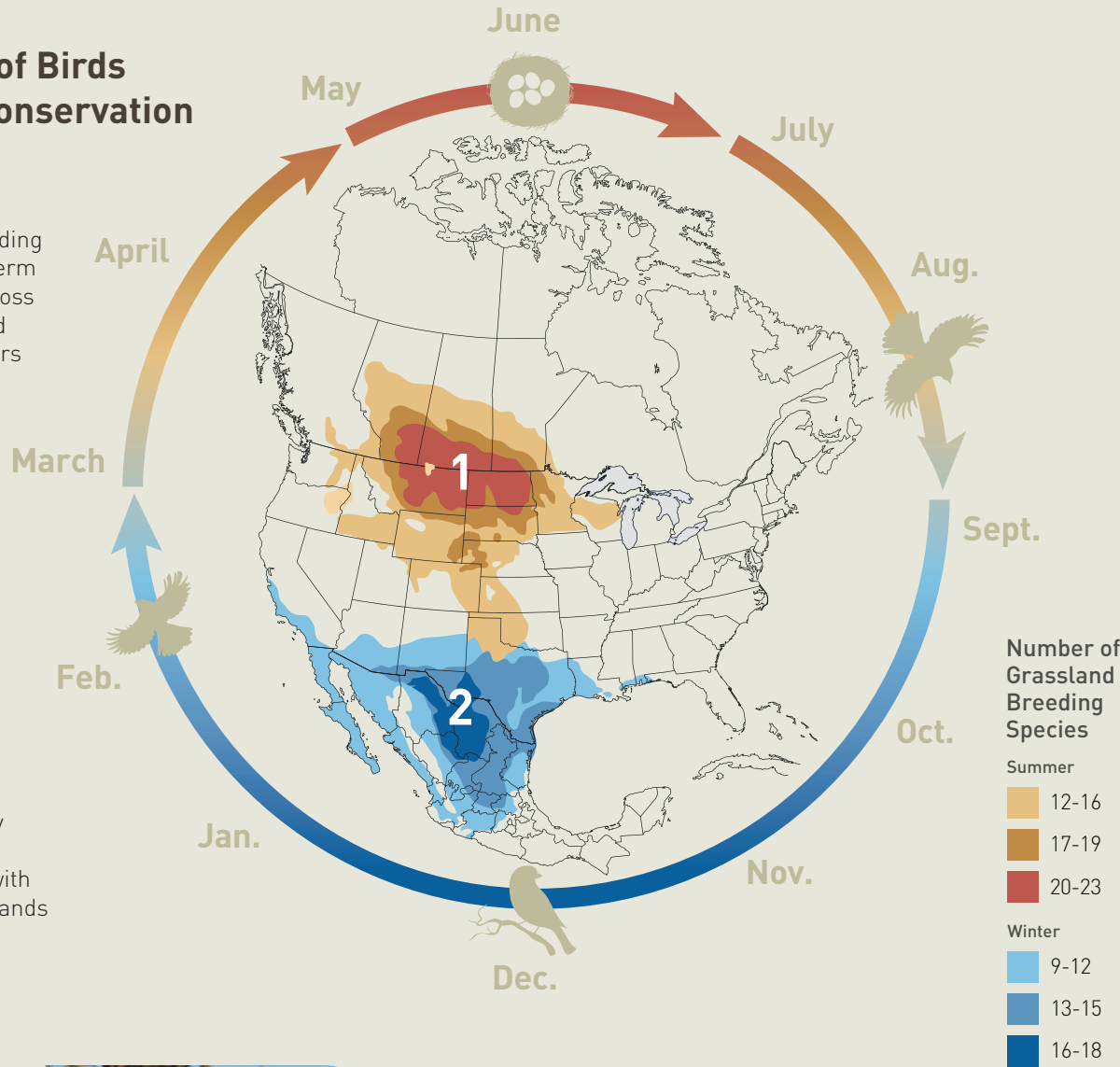
Strategically place biologists to promote conservation action by developing relationships and sharing information with private landowners and land managers. Across the west, we partner with landowners to voluntarily enhance wildlife habitat on working lands and help ensure birds find cover and food on the breeding and wintering grounds and at migration stopover points.



1  
Demographic studies of grassland birds in the Dakotas and Montana will provide insights into factors limiting reproductive success and survival rates on the breeding grounds.



2  
2015 marked our 3rd year studying overwinter survival and habitat use of Baird's and Grasshopper Sparrows in the Chihuahuan Desert grasslands of northern Mexico. Overwinter survival declined from 2014 – at least in Janos, Chihuahua. As we begin to understand the factors affecting winter survival, our partner biologists in Chihuahua are using this insight to guide habitat restoration and management efforts on private lands.



Our 2015 Impact in 13 Western U.S.  
and 8 Mexican States

PEOPLE

115  
schools that attended BCR programs in 2015

165  
children that learned to love nature through our summer camps

\$36,635  
in scholarships awarded to kids so they can attend Colorado education programs

35,944  
people reached through educational programs, landowner visits, presentations, workshops, public events and restoration projects

BIRDS

36  
species that are monitored through Bird Conservancy Citizen Science programs

297  
species counted through IMBCR

602  
Wilson's Warblers banded at Barr Lake in fall, 2015

1,426  
birds banded this season at our banding stations

179,923  
individual birds counted through IMBCR

LAND

1,000  
acres of shrubs were cleared for habitat improvement in Chihuahua, Mexico

97,000  
additional acres of prairie, shrublands and wetlands enrolled in voluntary conservation programs

450,545  
square miles encompassed by the IMBCR program

\$2,373,563  
in Farm Bill funds and \$302,414 in non-Farm Bill funds secured for improving wildlife habitat on private lands in the U.S.



Offices, Staff and Board

Board of Directors

Larry Modesitt, M.B.A., CQE, CTP (Chair)  
Stephen L. Bloom, Ph.D., ABPP (Vice Chair)  
Maryanne Murphy, CPA (Treasurer)  
Peter Ampe, J.D., Esq., J.D. (Secretary)  
David M. Charles, M.D.  
Steven W. Deitemeyer, C.F.  
Jack Ferguson  
Geoffrey Geupel, B.S.\*  
Eric M. Lane, M.A.  
T. Luke George, Ph.D.  
Grady Grissom, Ph.D.  
Yvette Martinez  
Joe Roller, M.D.  
D. Jean Tate, Ph.D.  
Ed Warner, M.S., L.H.D.

\*Board term began in 2016

Brighton Headquarters

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Tyler Edmondson, Education Director  
Mary Ferraro, Staff Accountant  
Janet Gibbs, Chief Financial Officer  
Nancy Gobris, Biologist/Banding Coordinator  
Lily Hynson, Community Education Coordinator\*  
Valerie Marshall, Controllor  
Peggy Marston, Grant Accountant  
Meredith McBurney, Biologist/Bird Bander  
Jennifer Meyers, Education Assistant\*  
Kacie Miller, Deputy Director  
Emily Snode-Brenneman, School Programs Coordinator  
Peggy Watson, Volunteer and Outreach Coordinator

\*employment began in 2016

Fort Collins Office

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Jenny Berven, Northern Goshawk Project Coordinator  
William Bevil, Communications Manager  
Jeff Birek, Outreach Biologist  
Jennifer Blakesley, Biometrician  
Maureen (Mo) Correll, Landscape Ecologist\*  
Angela Dwyer, Grassland Wildlife Coordinator  
Luke George, Science Director  
Erica Grasmick, Communications Assistant  
Adam Green, Biometrician\*  
Wendy Lanier, Spotted Owl Project Leader  
Greg Levandoski, International Habitat Program Manager  
Sonja Macys, Development Director  
Matthew McLaren, IMBCR Coordinator  
Arvind Panjabi, International Director  
David Pavlacky, Biometrician  
Laura Quattrini, Stewardship Program Manager  
Allison Shaw, GIS and Data Manager  
Matt Smith, Citizen Science Coordinator\*  
Rob Sparks, Research Biologist/GIS Manager  
Erin Strasser, Biologist  
Nick Van Lanen, Biologist



The staff and several Board members gather for a photo in December of 2015 at Bird Conservancy of the Rockies' Fort Collins office.

Alex Van Boer, Biologist\*  
Mindi Walker, Grant Accountant  
Chris White, Director of Science Operations  
Kristen Winter, Science Program Administrator  
Brittany Woiderski, GIS Biologist  
Ty Woodward, Private Lands Wildlife Biologist\*  
Erin Youngberg, Biologist/ International Program Administrative Assistant  
\*employment began in 2016

Nebraska Office

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Field Offices

Mary Beth Albrechtsen, Private Lands Wildlife Biologist, Sturgis, South Dakota\*  
Jason Beason, Special Monitoring Projects Coordinator, Paonia, Colorado  
Pedro Calderón-Dominguez, Private Lands Wildlife Biologist (IMC - Vida Silvestre), Chihuahua City, Chihuahua  
Erin Divine, Coordinating Wildlife Biologist, Chadron, Nebraska

Nancy Drilling, Dakotas Projects Coordinator, Rapid City, South Dakota

Marcella Fremgen, Range Ecologist, Montrose, Colorado

Nancy Hernández Rodríguez, Private Lands Wildlife Biologist (IMC - Vida Silvestre), Chihuahua City, Chihuahua

Becky Jones, Private Lands Wildlife Biologist, Steamboat Springs, Colorado

Martin Moses, Private Lands Wildlife Biologist, Durango, Colorado

José Ochoa-Barraza, IMC - Vida Silvestre

Roberto Rodríguez, Private Lands Wildlife Biologist (IMC - Vida Silvestre), Chihuahua City, Chihuahua

Donn Slusher, Rangeland Ecologist, Kremmling, Colorado

\*employment began in 2016

Former Staff and Board Members at Bird Conservancy of the Rockies in 2015

Casey Cardinal, Private Lands Range/Wildlife Ecologist, Lamar, Colorado

Brandon Elkins, Private Lands Rangeland Ecologist

Christine Fabian, Chief Financial Officer

Stephen M. Fischer, Board Member

David Hanni, Science Director

Katy Kuhnel, Shortgrass Prairie Coordinating Wildlife Biologist

Colin Lee, Private Lands Wildlife Biologist

Abby Mohny, Staff Accountant

Garrett Pantle, Private Lands Wildlife Biologist, Saratoga, Wyoming

Teddy Parker-Renga, Communications Manager

Nicole Passeri, Community Education Coordinator

Duane Poole, Science Director

Chase Taylor, Private Lands Wildlife Biologist

Aaron Trujillo, Private Lands Wildlife Biologist

Michael Wright, Staff Accountant

2015 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 conserve birds and their habitats.**

Tom Abbott  
Reef Abbott  
Valerie Abbott  
Rachel Advani  
Jeanie & Ramon Ajero  
Kimberly Alcalá  
Jessica Álvarez  
Eduardo Álvarez  
Pamela Álvarez  
Misi Ballard  
Cynde Barnes  
Bill Bell  
Alejandro Belmar  
Valerie Bliss  
Georgie Bohlender  
Denise Bretting  
Glenda Brown  
Mary Cay Burger  
Quinn Burrell  
Nicole Buyck  
Yee & Reagan Campbell Family  
Wendy Carlino-Jaques  
Gunn Carolyn  
Carolyn Clawson  
Joyce and Francis Commercon  
Meg Cooper  
Kevin Corwin  
Mike Crosby

Charlie Curlee  
Maruicio Delgado  
Leah Dempsey  
Coen Dexter  
Xavier Díaz Cruz  
Christy Dowling  
Georgia Doyle  
Ken Ecton  
Bill Eden  
Becky Elkerton  
Lee Farrell  
Linda Farrell  
Stacey Ferdinands  
Michelle Flanagan  
Sean Flanagan  
Ron Friedrich  
Kate Frost  
Jim Gano  
Janet George  
Ren Gobris  
Mackenzie Goldthwait  
Jim & Susan Gruber  
Fran Haas  
Joanne Haller  
Alison Hazel  
Cliff Hendrick  
Mike Henwood  
Dona Hilkey  
Jill Holden  
Charles Hopton  
Diana Hornick  
Charles Hundertmark  
Diane Hutton  
Jennifer Hyppio  
Heather Jackson  
Jacob Job  
Dale Jones  
Carolyn Jones  
Oscar Juárez  
Michael Kiessig

Nic Korte  
Anna Joy Lehmicke  
Tom Litteral  
Oscar Enrique López  
Forrest Luke  
Diane Luck  
Marcia Maeda  
Tom Martinez  
Edna Mason  
Gary Mattes  
Kylie Mattes  
Veronica Mattes  
Tom McConnell  
Dave Mehlman  
David Menough  
Scott Menough  
Karen Metz  
Katie Merewether  
Jennifer Meyers  
Lucinda Miller  
Megan Miller  
Lynne Miller  
Alejandro Morales  
Isaac Morales  
Brittany Mosher  
Jenny Nehring  
Wendy Lizzet Olivarez  
Ric Olson  
Brad, Kim, Camden & Olivia Opfer  
Todd Patrick  
Natalie Patterson and family  
Susan Perry  
Esteban Ramos  
Jennie Ratico  
JoAnn Riggle  
Michelle Robbins  
Glenn Rodriguez  
Paul and Daniel Schkade Family  
Ed Schneider

Doug Shoffner  
Paul Slingsby  
Taylor Smith  
Chris, Karen & Noah Spagnuolo and Family  
Jordan Spalding  
Dan Staley  
Jean Stevenson  
Doris Sumrall  
Joyce Takamine  
Jeff Thompson  
Cindy Tormohlen  
Valeria Torres  
Jan L. Turner  
Amber Tyler  
Karen Uyeda  
Teresa Alaid Vázquez  
Norma Verhoeff  
Angel Villalva Leal  
Tiffany Watts  
Jamie Weiss  
Cecilia White  
Jim Wilson  
Ronda Woodward  
Brenda Wright  
Aaron Youngberg



Nelda Gamble Award  
2015 Recipient Stephen  
M. Fischer

Although our mission focuses on birds and the natural world they inhabit, we still have operational needs just like any other business. Fortunately, there are people like Steve Fischer who are willing to volunteer their extensive knowledge and skills to support that aspect of our work.

As a member of our Board, Steve jumped in with both feet, wings, beak and all. With more than 50 years of experience in finance and accounting, he has been invaluable in evaluating needs and developing solutions that ensure a solid financial foundation for the organization. Steve led efforts to secure our CFO, helped prepare documents for the audit and provided direction on new accounting software and internal systems. His tireless efforts better enabled biologists and educators to focus on their strengths and finance staff to concentrate on operations, ensuring the organization is efficient and mission-focused.

Stephen Fischer shows off his award and some new Bird Conservancy of the Rockies gear!



Richard G. Levad Award  
2015 Recipient Nic Korte

(nominated by Peter Robinson)

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, like Rich, has provided distinguished service to the ornithological community, made scholarly contributions to the field of ornithology and/or has enthused others about conserving birds and their habitats through sharing his or her personal knowledge and experience.

Nic Korte assumed responsibility for the Western Screech-Owl (WESO) Monitoring Project in the Grand Valley of Mesa County when Rich Levad was no longer able to continue. Nic is trained as a geochemist and uses his science background regularly in his bird monitoring work. He is well-known in the birding community as someone who persistently gives voice to environmental challenges and a tireless advocate for wildlife and conservation issues. The WESO population in Mesa County continues to thrive due in no small part to Nic's ongoing efforts and leadership of the program.

Karen Levad and Executive Director Tammy VerCauteren present the Richard G. Levad award to Nic Korte.



Engaging Citizens in Science

Citizen science programs offer a way for everyone to participate in research that helps inform bird and habitat conservation. These volunteers go the extra mile to learn how to identify, monitor, track and make observational records about birds. With volunteer leadership, we coordinate six formal Citizen Science programs including ColonyWatch, Eastern Screech-Owl Monitoring on the Poudre River, Bald Eagle Watch, HawkWatch, Barrow's Goldeneye Count and the Colorado Bluebird Project. We also participate in many informal citizen science events including the Christmas Bird Count for Kids, which aims to engage children and families in annual bird counts.

Citizen Scientists take their bird watching to the next level. Photo by Chuck Hundertmark.



Friends Profile – Tom Abbott

Tom Abbott first came to us through our Volunteer Naturalist Program in 2013. As conservationists at heart and avid birdwatchers, Bird Conservancy (then RMB0) was a perfect fit for Tom and his wife Isabel, along with the rest of his immediate family. Daughter Valerie is one of our most dedicated and talented Bird Tales program volunteers. Meanwhile, Tom's son Reef helped construct the 1½-mile trail at the Old Stone House.

We often hear from Friends that the most significant benefit they receive is knowing that their contributions allows us to grow, and shape our own future as we direct resources where they are needed most. Tom says, "You want to know how your contribution is used. With Bird Conservancy, you feel welcomed and included as part of the organization. You get to hear from the professionals about their projects and see firsthand how much they love what they do, how hard they work and the difference it's making."

"Everyone you meet is so enthusiastic and encouraging. Once involved, you want to stay and help Bird Conservancy achieve its mission to conserve birds and create healthy places for people. It's a snap."

Tom has volunteered for school programs, special events and handled many maintenance projects around the Old Stone House. He plans to continue supporting Bird Conservancy as a Friend and hopes to get into the field as much as he can in the future. "It's good for your heart, good for your soul."

The Abbott family, from left to right: Reef, Valerie, Isabel and Tom



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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. They also allow us to direct our conservation and education efforts where they're needed most and build organizational capacity.

In the past few years, Friends' funding has helped make environmental education programming accessible to people of all ages and economic abilities; increased and improved delivery of citizen science programs; contributed to the conservation of tens of thousands of acres of habitat for the benefit of people, birds and land; enhanced scientific knowledge to forward bird conservation, and allowed for the creation of a much-needed Development Division.

To become a Friend of Bird Conservancy of the Rockies, contact Sonja Macys, Development Director at (970) 819-4260 or by email: [sonja.macys@birdconservancy.org](mailto:sonja.macys@birdconservancy.org).



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Harnessing the Power of Partnerships

Bird Conservancy of the Rockies works with more than 200 partners to meet shared conservation objectives, leveraging and stretching every dollar to ensure our programs are inspiring the next generation and helping conserve, enhance and restore bird habitat where it’s needed most.

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Partner-Funder Profile Bobolink Foundation

Partnerships and collaboration are critical to the success of our work. We are always aware that our achievements are the result of combined efforts, aligned missions and shared values. Each year we honor our partners in this annual report. This year, we recognize a new one, Bobolink Foundation, a private foundation that has generously supported our efforts in 2015.

We thank the Bobolink Foundation for championing our international programs, providing needed funding to allow our private lands wildlife biologists to continue working with landowners in Chihuahua, Mexico. The Foundation’s support also helps sustain our strong partnership with Audubon Rockies and the use of our applied research to guide conservation action where it is needed most.

Bobolink’s mission is to “advance conservation and stewardship of biodiversity through the protection of natural areas, education, and building local constituencies for nature.” It is a bright day to find a funding partner who so closely shares our vision and approach--and invests in making it happen.

We are grateful to have Bobolink Foundation as a partner who shares our belief that people are part of the solution for conservation, that collaboration is vital to building capacity and that fostering a conservation ethic is key to long-term success.



Photo by Todd Patrick

Collaboration and partnerships are vital to scientific research. In 2015, Bird Conservancy staff and partners wrote and contributed to multiple scientific journals and papers including reports about the dietary habits of Black Swift, site occupancy of Mexican Spotted Owls, banding studies of nesting Northern Saw-Whet Owls, colonial and semi-colonial waterbird inventories in North Dakota and the impact of gas extraction infrastructure on the occupancy of sagebrush-obligate songbirds.

Scientific publications are available at [www.birdconservancy.org](http://www.birdconservancy.org) under Resource Center.





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