



2018 ANNUAL REPORT | BIRD CONSERVANCY OF THE ROCKIES





We know that full immersion of youth in nature creates life-changing experiences with lasting impacts. Year-round Bird Camps, field trips for schools, nature clubs, Bioblitzes and family programs are getting kids outside and connecting with the natural world. Our partnerships and collaborations with others enhance those experiences and expand our reach. Together, we are nurturing the minds and spirits of our youth, inspiring and helping to create future scientists, conservationists and bird lovers.

Partnerships also ensure that the culture and natural heritage of the West continues for future generations. Our grasslands are disappearing at unsustainable rates and birds are sounding the alarm. Bird Conservancy has extended its network of private lands biologists and partnerships from Canada to Mexico to ensure rangeland remains healthy for people and birds. We recognize our American West supports food, fiber, energy, natural and cultural history and national treasures. State and federal agencies, NGOs, landowners, industry, agricultural producers and individuals must join forces to ensure a viable interconnected landscape that supports healthy flocks of grassland birds, seas of grasses and grains, successful businesses, thriving ranches and farms, and healthy habitat for people and wildlife.

There's no time to lose, and science provides a guiding light. We are building on the discoveries that our research and monitoring programs have revealed. More than a decade of data on wintering and breeding grassland birds are being utilized to create an integrated population model to identify the leading causes of population declines starting with Baird's Sparrow. This innovative, collaborative approach will help pinpoint where on the landscape limiting factors occur and simulate the effects of conservation actions on the ground to inform future efforts.

We thank you for your support, partnership and investment that is changing lives, advancing science and discovery, and developing a unified approach for grassland conservation. Together, we create lasting impacts for people, birds and the land.

Two handwritten signatures in blue ink. The first signature is 'Krista Masten' and the second is 'Danny VanCantre'.

Looking Back at 30 Years of Migratory Milestones And Planning Ahead to the Next 30 Years and Beyond

In addition to highlighting 2018's accomplishments, this year's annual report also celebrates many milestones that have led to this moment. These achievements represent the passion, vision and determination that YOU—our supporters, partners, volunteers, board and staff—have contributed for over three decades.



A photograph of a flock of birds, possibly sparrows or similar small songbirds, in flight. The birds are dark-colored with some lighter streaks on their wings. They are flying in various directions against a clear, bright blue sky. In the foreground, there is a field of tall, dry, yellowish-brown grass that is slightly out of focus. The overall scene is bright and clear, suggesting a sunny day.

30 Years of Advancing Knowledge Milestones



1987

Colorado's Barr Lake becomes the genesis point for our organization, with bird banding stations established to monitor and collect data about migratory and resident birds, contributing to understanding about population changes among songbirds in the West. Bald Eagle Watch, which continues today, began with over 100 citizen scientist volunteers monitoring a rare pair of nesting Bald Eagles at Barr Lake.




1995

"Special Species" monitoring starts with Burrowing Owl, Least Tern and Piping Plover, and later expands to include Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Mountain Plover and more. In the 2000s, international efforts expand with monitoring of grassland birds on the wintering grounds of the Chihuahuan Desert. 2012's discovery of the wintering destination of the Black Swift receives international recognition.



2008

Integrated Monitoring in Bird Conservation Regions (IMBCR) program is launched, becoming one of the largest coordinated breeding bird monitoring programs in North America. Supported by a network of partners across public and private lands, data from IMBCR continues to enhance our understanding of bird populations.



Advancing Knowledge through SCIENCE

Our scientific research and monitoring programs seek to fill critical knowledge gaps and answer questions about the life cycle of birds, from the summer breeding grounds on the Northern Great Plains to the wintering grounds in Mexico. We share what we learn with others to maximize resources and develop practical tools that drive conservation action where it will be most effective. Each new discovery brings us closer to ensuring a future where birds are forever abundant and a part of our world for generations to come.

By The Numbers

281,882 birds of 363 species counted through IMBCR

759,573 square miles covered by IMBCR

31,775 Western Meadowlark detections during IMBCR surveys, the highest of all species counted by the program

2018 Achievements

Documenting Range Expansion

Before 2015, Baird's Sparrow (*Centronyx bairdii*) was considered a rare migrant songbird in Colorado. In July 2018, Bird Conservancy technicians documented the first evidence of successful breeding of the species in the grasslands of north-central Colorado, hundreds of miles from their known breeding range in the Northern Great Plains. This finding is noteworthy because Baird's Sparrows are grassland specialists formerly limited globally to the mixed-grass prairies of this region. This discovery indicates they may be capable of breeding in habitat far from historical norms, making it possible that their range will shift as grassland changes across North America.

Informing Forest Management

In collaboration with the U.S. Forest Service and Colorado Forest Restoration Institute, Bird Conservancy studied the effects on birds of Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program (CFLRP) treatments in ponderosa pine forests along the Colorado Front Range. CFLRP treatments involve thinning and prescribed fire to reduce canopy cover and encourage lower densities of large ponderosa pine. Preliminary analysis showed that while species varied in their relationships with treatments locally, more species occur in landscapes with some treatment. The results highlight the importance of diversity to support an array of species, and provides critical information for including habitat conservation into restoration efforts.

Chicken Little and Little Brown Jobs

Bird Conservancy worked with livestock and agricultural producers in the Southern Plains to understand how Farm Bill programs like Lesser Prairie-Chicken Initiative (LPCI) and Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) contribute to the conservation of grassland birds. These initiatives provide resources for managing Lesser Prairie-Chicken, but other grassland birds that share its range are also declining and of high conservation concern. The study determined the extent that Farm Bill programs provide an umbrella for other grassland birds, and showed that LPCI prescribed grazing and CRP increased the biodiversity and population size of grassland birds. This strongly suggests Farm Bill programs for Lesser Prairie-Chicken are making meaningful contributions to wider grassland bird conservation.



The discovery of Baird's Sparrows nesting in Colorado presents intriguing questions about possible range expansion of grassland birds.



Rigorous monitoring methods verified how CLFRP treatments are providing benefits to a range of bird species.



Percentage contribution of the Farm Bill programs to grassland bird populations in the range of the Lesser Prairie-Chicken.

Applying The Data



The Integrated Monitoring in Bird Conservation Regions (IMBCR) turned 10 years old in 2018. One example of how this program's data is used is generating abundance and trend estimates for State Wildlife Agencies to inform their wildlife action plans and conservation efforts for Species of Greatest Conservation Need.

Modeling vegetation and monitoring data from IMBCR

is used to evaluate bird response to conservation and management actions, as well as natural disturbances like fire and bark beetle infestation.

A nested sampling design generates population estimates at different scales, providing context for changes on the landscape. For example, partners in the Northern Great Plains interested in conservation ranching practices can compare bird densities on participating ranches to the surrounding region to see if practices are benefiting the birds. Bird Conservancy and partners are creating an Integrated Population Model (IPM) using breeding data from IMBCR. This effort will help identify best management practices for several species across their full annual cycles, and target conservation action where it will provide the greatest effect to address declining grassland bird populations.





30 Years of Immersing People in Nature



1992

Our first summer camps were launched in Colorado to engage teens in science and nature through the wonders of birds. Today, our award-winning “Bird Camps” are providing experiences for youth ages 4-17, enabling young people to engage with real biologists, learn about natural ecosystems, experience the scientific process, and immerse themselves in the natural world through the beauty of birds.



2000

Educational offerings continue to expand with the development of new programs and facilities. Visitors of all ages flock to a newly-established Environmental Learning Center at Barr Lake. The new headquarters provides offices for staff, as well as outdoor trails and classroom spaces for educational programs, bird banding and citizen science initiatives.



2012

Outreach opportunities—including everything from speaker series to birding festivals—blossom thanks to partnerships with SCFD, Denver Museum of Nature & Science, Colorado Parks & Wildlife, Butterfly Pavilion, Nebraska Game & Parks, Nebraska Environmental Trust, Gardens on Spring Creek—and many, many more.



Immerse People In Nature EDUCATION

Bird Conservancy's environmental education activities provide inspiration and the sparks that ignite a life-long love of science and nature. Whether it's at Bird Camp, a homeschool program or a community event, we help people make lifelong connections to the natural world. Key to this is getting outside, having fun and building relationships. In 2018, our outreach and award-winning experiential programs touched over 44,000 participants. These stewards of the land were inspired to engage with the natural world, enhance their knowledge and skills, work together as a team, and build confidence in science, nature and the outdoors.

By The Numbers

22,079 kids that attended Bird Conservancy educational programs in 2018

72 unique K-12 schools that attended our programs in 2018

168 facilitated K-12 school programs, reaching 10,800 students

44 Denver backyards actively enrolled in Neighborhood NestWatch in 2018

2018 Achievements

Growing Scientists Collaborative

Growing Scientists is a robust collaboration between Bird Conservancy, Denver Botanic Gardens, Butterfly Pavilion, and Children's Museum of Denver serving at-risk K-3rd grade students for an entire school year with in-class visits, field trip experiences, and family nature nights to engage the whole family. The collaborative provides early exposure to Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) concepts that enhance a child's development and encourage future career paths. In 2018, we increased our engagement with emphasis on 3rd grade students, using prior knowledge to link insects, plants, birds and nature play while also promoting family learning opportunities.

Environmental Service Learning Program

In 2018, Bird Conservancy began planning and programming for the Environmental Service Learning Program at four schools in western Nebraska. Each class selected to participate in this incredible program has the opportunity to develop an original environment-focused project that creates meaningful change in their school or community. Empowered students become leaders and engage their chosen platform in civic and social responsibilities. Topics chosen include reducing food waste at school by composting, implementing a recycling program, creating a pollinator garden for use as an outdoor classroom, and creation of a pollinator plot to improve natural habitat.

Bird Tales

People living with dementia often experience feelings of isolation and frustration. Since 2013, Bird Conservancy has been dedicated to providing a source of learning and enjoyment for those living in local memory care units through the Bird Tales program. Demand for this program has grown tremendously. Seeing there was still room to grow, we were grateful to receive funds through a Broomfield Arts, Culture and Science grant that enabled us to extend our reach to yet another two facilities. In 2019, we expect to impact approximately 1,500 memory care residents with the joy and wonder of birds.



High quality, experiential programs like Growing Scientists connect students to the natural world, foster new skills, and develop interests beyond the classroom.



Arthur County fifth graders present their recycling project idea to their school as part of the Environmental Service Learning Program.



Bird Conservancy volunteer Cynde Barnes demonstrates the beauty and healing power of birds and nature through the Bird Tales program.

Saluting 30 Years of SCFD!



The Scientific and Cultural Facilities District (SCFD) is a special tax district that supports art, science and culture across Denver's seven counties. SCFD is an integral supporter of Bird Conservancy, enabling us to deliver innovative, experiential, science-based programs to people of all ages. SCFD opens doors by facilitating partnerships and

collaboration with others, including Denver Botanic Gardens, Butterfly Pavilion, Children's Museum and Denver Museum of Nature & Science. 2018 marked a shared anniversary between Bird Conservancy and SCFD with each celebrating 30-year milestones. To commemorate our partnership, SCFD produced a marketing video that highlighted our Bird Camps and featured testimonials from enthusiastic campers and instructors. Thank you to SCFD and the taxpayers of the Denver-Metro area for your ongoing support which is vital to the success of our organization and which makes it possible for us to provide life-changing experiences for students and families in Colorado.



For 30 years, SCFD has played a critical role in helping organizations like Bird Conservancy deliver award-winning education programs for people of all ages.

A tall, metal windmill structure with a circular fan of blades, standing in a flat, open landscape under a purple and blue sky. The windmill has a lattice-like tower and a large, multi-bladed wheel at the top. The sky is a mix of soft purple and blue hues, suggesting dusk or dawn. The ground is a flat, dry expanse of land.

30 Years of Delivering Conservation Solutions



1996

Prairie Partners—a voluntary, cooperative conservation program—is created to engage landowners and managers in the U.S. and Mexico to conserve shortgrass prairie and the birds that depend on it. Best practice manuals, workshops, pocket guides as well as other practical tools help guide conservation efforts on private lands to benefit people and birds.



2001

Mountain Plover private lands stewardship program launches in Colorado, then later expands to Nebraska. A suite of tools, resources and workshops are offered to raise awareness of prairie birds and provide guidance for landowners. Later, efforts expand to include habitat enhancement projects on thousands of acres of land in Nebraska, Wyoming and Colorado.



2008

The Private Lands Wildlife Biologist program is launched in partnership with state wildlife agencies and Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), starting with four biologists in Colorado. Today, this network has grown to 15 strategically-placed biologists working in communities across six states in the U.S. and two in Mexico, providing technical expertise and assistance to landowners and managers in key areas for priority birds.



Delivering Conservation Solutions

LAND STEWARDSHIP

Private working farms and ranches comprise 70% of the western landscape, home to many of our imperiled grassland birds. We work with farmers and ranchers as partners for conservation and land stewardship, using science to guide our actions and foster proactive, voluntary conservation by creating win-win scenarios for people and birds.

By The Numbers

40,156 acres enhanced through 39 different habitat projects.

\$1,246,721 leveraged in Farm Bill funds to deliver those acres.

20,233 people reached through landowner workshops, presentations, site visits and project collaborations.

2018 Achievements

Conserving Our Grasslands

North American grasslands are being lost at alarming rates, which is why we have expanded our network of private lands biologists across this landscape. The majority of grasslands are privately owned and the Farm Bill provides the largest amount of conservation dollars to working farms and ranches in the United States. Bird Conservancy is leading efforts to conserve grasslands and build new partnerships across the Great Plains, from Canada to Mexico. We have elevated grassland conservation as a priority along with our network of partners which includes federal, state, non-governmental, private landowners, industry, foundations and more.

Ranching for Profit

Ranching is a very compatible land use for grassland bird habitat, and keeping these working lands working is key to our conservation strategy. Stewardship workshops like Ranching for Profit help ranchers learn how economic and ecologic sustainability are intertwined, and explore approaches that can ensure profits while also helping wildlife. By addressing the business needs of ranchers and their bottom line, we help keep large tracts of working lands intact and ultimately from being sold and developed for other uses. We are sparking conversations about the links between grazing management, overall rangeland health, and viewing birds as indicators of thriving landscapes.

Diverse Partnerships Bring Exceptional Results

What can you get when you combine willing landowners, nonprofits, government and an oil and gas company? Beautiful, healthy wetlands filled with birds! In 2018, we collaborated with Natural Resources Conservation Service, USFWS Partners for Fish & Wildlife, Ducks Unlimited, Colorado Open Lands and Whiting Petroleum to enhance and restore wetlands at Prewitt Ranch outside Greeley, Colorado. Birds rely on these areas as havens during migration and places to reproduce and raise young. Wetlands also provide other benefits like flood mitigation, erosion control, groundwater recharge, water filtering and recreation. Today, thanks to this combined effort, these wetlands are filled with the chatter, quacking, and honking of birds.



Bird Conservancy is focused on ensuring healthy grasslands for current and future generations of people and wildlife.



Ranching for Profit presenter Dave Pratt illustrates common ranching enterprises and introduces the concept of enterprise accountability in a budget sheet.

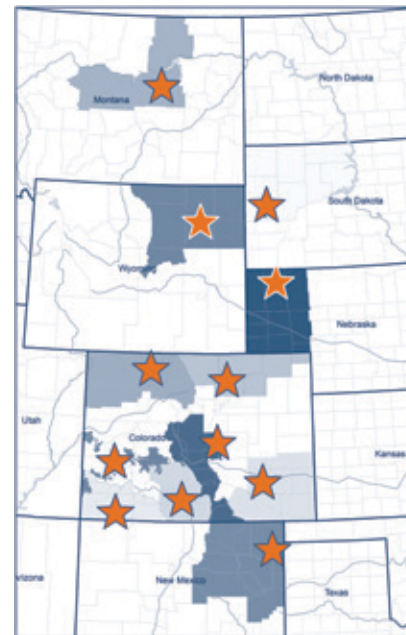


A Ruddy Duck enjoys the thriving wetlands at Prewitt Ranch during late spring.

Private Lands Wildlife Biologist Network

We believe successful bird conservation in the West requires engaging working lands. In 2008, we launched our Private Lands Wildlife Biologists (PLWB) program where biologists live and work in rural communities alongside landowners. Today, the network spans six states across the breeding, stopover and wintering grounds of the Central Flyway.

Using over a decade's worth of monitoring data, we target locations and habitat of importance to many species of conservation concern. These same robust datasets can also help gauge effectiveness by providing baselines to evaluate our conservation strategies and how birds are responding to action on the ground. Using a full annual cycle approach, we seek to learn the causes of population declines and determine priorities for outreach and conservation on the ground.



Our Private Lands Wildlife Biologists (PLWB) are positioned across the Western US. New offices in the San Luis Valley, prairies of southeast Colorado, and grasslands of northeast New Mexico reflect our commitment to conservation of grasslands, one of the most imperiled habitats in North America.



THE NEXT 30 YEARS—AND BEYOND



Ensuring healthy habitat for people and birds

The grasslands and aridlands of the American West will see continued growth in the next 30 years. Successfully balancing conservation and the demands of a growing population requires science, innovation and collaboration. Through diverse public and private partnerships, we will continue to fill knowledge gaps, develop achievable solutions and deliver conservation where it's needed most.



Inspiring future stewards of the land

Now more than ever, kids need the healing power of nature. Ensuring a world where birds are relevant to everyone requires removing obstacles and increasing opportunities. Using the wonder and beauty of birds, we will connect hundreds of thousands of young people to nature through immersive, hands-on experiences. In this way, we change both lives and landscapes.



Saving natural and cultural heritage

The fate of working lands is intertwined with birds. Healthy rangelands support both people and wildlife, sustaining life and family-owned livelihoods. We will partner with landowners, learning from their knowledge and experience, and help provide new tools and resources to create win-win solutions.



INSPIRING THE SCIENTIST

In All Of Us

By The Numbers

6,776 birds of 130 species banded at our banding stations in 2018

1,601 hours donated by Bald Eagle Watch volunteers in 2018



Banding Coordinator Colin Woolley with a male Cooper's Hawk, caught and banded in a Denver backyard during a Neighborhood Nestwatch visit.

Banding Birds

Bird banding stations help foster an appreciation of science, birds and nature to all who are able to visit and see a wild bird up close. 2018 was an extraordinary year, with huge numbers of migrating birds recorded at our fall stations. Our longest-running station at Barr Lake State Park caught 1,902 birds; the highest number in a single season in a decade! We hired a new banding coordinator in an expanded role to continue growing our bird banding programs. This includes adding new banding sites along Colorado's front range in 2019 to help monitor bird populations and provide educational opportunities for students and the public.

Our Neighborhood Nestwatch Project, in partnership with Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center and Denver Museum of Nature & Science, expanded to over 40 households in the Denver area. Homeowners then monitor the birds, gathering data about nesting success, annual survival rates and species composition in rural-to-urban settings. This helps us understand how—and which—birds are adapting to live in our cities.



In the first year of Bald Eagle Watch, 100 people volunteered over 1500 hours of time. That spring, the pair successfully fledged a male and female eaglet!



Wayne Mollhoff, pictured here with Karen Levad, receiving the Levad award at Bird Conservancy's 2018 fundraiser.

Bald Eagle Watch

Bald Eagle Watch program started in 1988 to monitor and help protect the Bald Eagle nest at Barr Lake State Park northeast of Denver. Today, citizen scientists continue to monitor eagle nests across Colorado to provide information to biologists on the nesting success of the population.

In 2018, Bald Eagle Watch collected data on more than 100 Bald Eagle nests, with volunteers donating 1600 hours to that effort. With Colorado's Bald Eagle nesting population approaching 200, Bald Eagle Watch is now monitoring approximately half the nests in the state and maintains the most complete Bald Eagle nesting database in Colorado.

Data gathered through Bald Eagle Watch is shared with Colorado Parks and Wildlife and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to help inform Bald Eagle management across the Front Range landscape.

2018 Richard G. Levad Award Wayne J. Mollhoff

(nominated by Joel Jorgensen on behalf of the Nebraska Ornithologists' Union)

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 inspired others about conserving birds by sharing his or her personal knowledge and experience. Wayne has made a huge impact on bird conservation in Nebraska since the early 1980s, playing a critical role in the creation of both of Nebraska's Breeding Bird Atlas projects. He led comprehensive studies documenting Northern Saw-whet Owls in Pine Ridge, Wildcat Hills and elsewhere. Wayne's contributions were provided outside of his regular profession, and he frequently devoted personal resources to support the efforts. Wayne shares his enthusiasm with people across Nebraska, encouraging budding bird enthusiasts at every opportunity.

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Brighton Headquarters

14500 Lark Bunting Lane
Brighton, CO 80603
(303) 659-4348 | Fax (303) 654-0791

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Fort Collins Office

230 Cherry Street
Fort Collins, CO 80521
(970) 482-1707 | Fax (970) 472-9031

Tammy VerCauteren, Executive Director
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Nebraska Office

4502 Avenue I
Scottsbluff, NE 69361
(308) 633-1013

Amber Schltz, Environmental Educator

Field Offices

Emily Chavez, Private Lands Wildlife
Biologist (Alamosa, CO)
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Biologist (Woodland Park, CO)

Former Staff and Board Members at Bird Conservancy of the Rockies in 2018

Mary Beth Albrechtsen, Private Lands
Wildlife Biologist (Sturgis, SD)
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Veronica Grigaltchik, Private Lands
Wildlife Biologist (Jordan, MT)
Becky Jones, Private Lands Wildlife
Biologist (Steamboat Springs, CO)
Peggy Marston, Grant Manager
Alexandra Mayes, Outreach Coordinator
Jennifer Watson, Education
Program Manager

Volunteers

Thank you to these citizen scientists, naturalists, bird banders, and other volunteers who donated their time and talents to help Bird Conservancy of the Rockies conserve birds and their habitats. In 2018, over 170 individuals generously volunteered over 6,500 hours in support of our mission.

Antonio, Bradley
Barman, Aarohi
Barnes, Cynde
Baumann, Luke
Bender, Elizabeth
Bentley, Perry
Boswell, Mary
Breda, Alyssa
Brooke, Dan (john)
Burns, Gregory
Carey, Lauren
Carr, Page and Cairn
Chenkin, Nelson
Chernicky, Kiley
Clawson, Carolyn
Colpitts, Ann
Comina, Matias
Commercon, Francis
Commercon, Joyce
Cormack, Catherine
Curlee, Charlie
Davila, Carlos
Dempsey, Leah
D'Oenchw, Holly
Donoghue, Ann
Doyle, Katherine
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Grass, Jeffery
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Hendrick, Cliff
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Holden, Jill
Horberg, Miro
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Hundertmark, Charles
Hutton, Diane
Hyink, Barbara
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Koss, John
Loper, Deborah
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Manzella, Brynn
Martinez, Thomas
McCarthy, Casey
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McLean, Hailey
McManigle, Ty
Miller, Megan
Morgan, Nancy
Myers, Tia
Nelson, Marissa
Nickolaus, Cacie
Ohlin, Calli
Osborn, Blake
Pasko, Karrin
Patterson, Barbara

Peterson, Ted
Petroski, Ken
Prom, Corissa
Purifoy, Lindsay
Ratico, Jennie
Rodriguez, Barbara
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Ross, Elizabeth
Ross, Matthew
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Sloan, Wendy
Snoder-Brenneman, Emily
Snyder, Bruce
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Sparks, Richard
Spotten, Sarah
Swartz, Doug
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Thompson, Isabel
Thompson, Jeff
Tyler, Amber
Uyeda, Karen
Vanek, Lois
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Wall, Jake
Washington, Andre
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Welch, Jim
White, Diane
White, Sara
Whitehurst, E. Anne
Williams, Tom
Wright, Nancy
Ziegelbauer, Amanda



2018 Nelda Gamble Award Larry Modesitt

Volunteers are an integral part of our organization and allow Bird Conservancy to complete all aspects of our mission. Each year, a volunteer is recognized with the Nelda Gamble Award, named after the volunteer who started the Bald Eagle Watch citizen science program in 1988. The award recognizes exceptional volunteer service and dedication. In 2018, no one better exemplified these values than our outgoing Board Chairperson, Larry Modesitt. Larry is infectiously passionate about birds, conservation and Bird Conservancy. As a constant source of inspiration, he serves as a great coach, cheerleader, and friend to staff and fellow volunteers. Using his financial knowledge and skills, Larry broadened support and donor investments, grew the board of directors, inspired collaboration, and played a key role in advancing our organization's mission. His investment of thousands of hours as a board member was instrumental in helping the organization grow, and his passion enabled Bird Conservancy to soar. Thank you to all volunteers who made this a great, impactful year, and thank you to Larry for his continued dedication!

"I've served on Bird Conservancy's Board for 11 years and as Chairperson for 9 years, and continue to be energized by our achievements. Birds have overcome natural hazards for millions of years, but today must contend with man-made challenges. Bird Conservancy's dedicated team of staff and volunteers are making a difference and helping ensure a better world for people, birds and the landscapes we share."

LARRY MODESITT
BOARD CHAIRMAN, VOLUNTEER AND 2018 NELDA GAMBLE AWARD RECIPIENT

Our Flock

Every donation makes a difference! Your gifts to Bird Conservancy, in any amount, are greatly appreciated and critical in helping us conserve birds and their habitats. You help Bird Conservancy weather unexpected situations by diversifying funding streams and increasing resilience during challenging times.

Thank you to all anonymous supporters as well as all 2018 supporters not listed here who donated under \$35.

If your name is misspelled or accidentally omitted, please accept our sincere apologies and let us know. You can contact Sarah Burnett, Development Coordinator, at (720) 634-1076 or sarah.burnett@birdconservancy.org

| | |
|--|------------------------------------|
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Friends of a FEATHER

Friends of Bird Conservancy of the Rockies give leadership support of \$500 or more annually. Generous gifts from Friends in 2018 provided critical discretionary funds to help us achieve our mission, retain a talented team of staff and volunteers, and deliver programs that continue three decades of migratory milestones.

You helped make the successes listed in this annual report for people, birds and land a reality. Thank you for soaring with us now and for the next 30 years and beyond.

Can you stretch your wings and become a Friend in 2019? Contact Kelli Hirsch, Development Manager, at (303) 659-4348 ext. 12 or kelli.hirsch@birdconservancy.org to find out how you can become a Friend.

Friends of Bird Conservancy 2018

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 Wild Birds Unlimited of Fort Collins
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 Page and Katheryn Whitesides
 Steve and Joy Wooten
 Paul and Bea Slingsby

Golden Eagle Society

Your gift has the power to help conserve birds and their habitats – both now and in the future. Have you included Bird Conservancy of the Rockies with a gift in your estate plan? If so, please let us know so you can become a member of the Golden Eagle Society. We would be honored to recognize your lasting legacy and faith in our mission.

Are your wings outstretched willing to make an estate gift, yet you haven't been able to take flight on making that a reality? There are simple ways you can include Bird Conservancy of the Rockies in your estate plan that won't affect your budget today and still ensure your loved ones and your feathered friends are cared for beyond your lifetime.

To find out more, contact:
 Kelli Hirsch, Development Manager
 (303) 659-4348 ext. 12
kelli.hirsch@birdconservancy.org

2018 Golden Eagle Society

Chuck and Nancy Bell
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 Jim Duggan *
 Dick and Barb Holme
 Kathanne Lynch
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 Larry Modesitt
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* in memoriam



Doing Good for Others: Greg and Stephanie Thomas

For Friends Greg and Stephanie Thomas, Bird Conservancy espouses values important to them throughout their lives: birds, nature, education and shared experiences with family and children.

Greg grew up outside – whether just playing with neighborhood friends and siblings or hunting pheasant and quail on the family's farm with his parents, brothers and uncles. He was a summer camp counselor in Rocky Mountain National Park for inner city kids from Chicago. Throughout his career as a geologist, he spent much of his time outdoors in rural areas where he could experience wildlife and natural landscapes.

During busy years parenting two children, Greg and Stephanie shared a love of nature and the outdoors with them—as well as underserved youth. Their many endeavors included working with at-risk kids wrapping and planting trees as part of the Denver Parks Program, and supporting local schools. Family trips included time outdoors in both snow and sunshine.

Greg and Stephanie never lost a love for birds. They took birding trips through DMNS and remembered what one of the guides, Jack, said, “in lieu of tips, support organizations doing good work to conserve birds.” Now that Stephanie has retired from thirty-seven years in administration at Denver Health, her mission dedicated to serving others, they have more time to take birding and trips exploring new geographies and cultures. Today, their Denver home is an oasis for birds, pollinators, neighbors, friends and family allowing them to remain true to their roots and values— especially by doing good for birds and people.

“We’re passionate about Bird Conservancy and want to see it succeed. We especially love seeing kids understand that it is a fragile world and they need to see they can make a difference.”

GREG THOMAS
 FRIEND OF BIRD CONSERVANCY OF THE ROCKIES

Maximizing Bird Conservation Through Collaboration

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.

Adams County Commission
Adams County Parks Dept.
Aiken Audubon Society
AloTerra Restoration Services
American Bird Conservancy
American Birding Association
Animas Watershed Partnership
Arizona Game & Fish Dept
Arkansas Game & Fish Commission
Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies
Audubon Center at Bent of the River
Audubon Nebraska
Audubon New Mexico
Audubon Rockies
Avian Science Center
Bader Ranch
Barr Lake State Park
BBC Natural History Unit
Beattie, Chadwick & Houpt, LLP
Birds Caribbean
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
Brown Mill Ranch LLC
Bureau of Land Management
Butterfly Pavilion
Cache la Poudre River National Heritage Area
Canadian Wildlife Service
Centro Agronómico Tropical de Investigación y Enseñanza
Chama Peak Land Alliance

Chase Bank
Chico Basin Ranch
Christian Living Communities
City of Brighton
City of Fort Collins Natural Areas Dept.
Coalition for the Poudre River Watershed
Colorado Alliance for Environmental Education
Colorado Association of Conservation Districts
Colorado Cattlemen's Agricultural Land Trust
Colorado Dept. of Agriculture
Colorado Dept. of Natural Resources
Colorado Mountain Club
Colorado Open Lands
Colorado Parks and Recreation Association
Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW)
CPW Habitat Partnership Program
Colorado State Board of Land Commissioners
Colorado State University (CSU)
CSU Ascend
CSU Colorado Natural Heritage Program
CSU Extension
Commission for Environmental Cooperation
Comisión Nacional para el Conocimiento y Uso de la Biodiversidad
Comisión Nacional de Áreas Naturales Protegidas
Connecting Conservation
ConocoPhillips
Conservacion de Islas
Cornell Lab of Ornithology
Denver Audubon
Denver Botanic Gardens
Denver Museum of Nature & Science

Desert Landscape Conservation Cooperative
Dixon Water Foundation
Ducks Unlimited
EDM International Inc.
Eide Bailly LLP
Elevated Outdoor Sales, LLC
Emergency Management and Research Institute
Environment for the Americas
Environmental Defense Fund
ERO Resources Corporation
Especies, Sociedad y Habitat
Educational Service Unit #13
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Fort Collins Rotary Club
Fundacion Cuenca Los Ojos
Gardens on Spring Creek
Gates Family Foundation
Grand Valley Audubon Society
Great Northern LCC
Gunnison Conservation District
Highlands Presbyterian Camp and Retreat Center
IMC-Vida Silvestre, A.C.
Intermountain Bird Observatory
Intermountain West Joint Venture
Jefferson County Open Space
John Austin Cheley Foundation
Kansas Dept. Wildlife, Parks and Tourism
Klamath Bird Observatory
La Plata Open Space Conservancy
Land Trust Alliance
Land Trust of the Upper Arkansas
Larimer County Department of Natural Resources
Las Damas Ranch / Pasticultores del Desierto, A.C.
LightHawk
Mexican Fund for the Conservation of Nature
Michael Bennet, Western Slope Regional Director
Middle Park Conservation District
Middle Park Land Trust
Missouri Department of Conservation
Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks
Montana Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative

Montezuma Land Conservancy
Mountain Studies Institute
Mule Deer Foundation
National Association for Interpretation
National Association of Conservation Districts
National Autonomous University of Mexico
National Ecological Observatory Network
National Fish & Wildlife Foundation
National Wild Turkey Federation
National Wildlife Federation
Nebraska Environmental Trust
Nebraska Forest Service
Nebraska Game & Parks
New Belgium Brewing Co.
New Mexico Dept. of Game & Fish
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
North Dakota Game and Fish Dept
North Dakota Natural Resources Trust
Northern Great Plains Joint Venture
Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation
Oklahoma State University
Oregon State University
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Pheasants Forever
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Plum Creek Timber Company
Point Blue Conservation Science
Prince William Network
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Purgatoire Wildlife Ranch
Rainwater Basin Joint Venture
Ranchers Stewardship Alliance
Rio Grande Joint Venture
RiversEdge West, Dolores River Restoration Partnership
Riverside Discovery Center
Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation
Sand County Foundation
Sandhills Task Force
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Save The Poudre
Scientific & Cultural Collaborative
Scientific & Cultural Facilities District
Shavano Conservation District

Sky Island Alliance
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The Nature Conservancy
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The Wildlife Experience
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Thunder Basin Grasslands Prairie Ecosystem Association
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USDA Farm Service Agency
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USDA Forest Service, Intermountain Region
USDA Forest Service, Northern Region
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USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
USDA Agricultural Research Service
US Department of Defense
US. Department of State
US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)
USFWS Migratory Bird Program
USFWS Monarch Butterfly Habitat Development Project
USFWS Partners for Wildlife
USFWS National Wildlife Refuge System
USFWS Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act
US Forest Service (USFS)
USFS State and Private Forestry
USFS International Programs
US Geological Survey
US National Park Service
Universidad Autónoma de Nuevo Leon
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 Western Rivers Conservancy
 Whiting Petroleum
 Wild Birds Unlimited
 Wild Wings Environmental Education
 Wildcat Hills Audubon Society
 Wildlands Restoration Volunteers
 Wildlife Conservation Society
 Wind River Indian Reservation
 Wineinger-Davis Ranch
 World Wildlife Fund
 World Wildlife Fund Mexico
 Wyoming Association of Conservation Districts
 Wyoming Game & Fish Department
 Wyoming Natural Diversity Database
 Wyoming Wildlife and Natural Resource Trust
 Xerces Society
 Zamorano University

Financials

Bird Conservancy of the Rockies Financial Summary FY 2018

Revenues

Contracts & Grants
 \$4,252,000

Contributions
 \$562,000

SCFD Grant
 \$392,000

Other
 \$42,000

Total Revenues
\$5,248,000

Expenses

Program
 \$4,336,000

Administration
 \$678,000

Development
 \$160,000

Total Expenses
\$5,174,000

Change in Net Assets
\$74,000

Bird Conservancy of the Rockies
 is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization.



Partner Profile Denver Museum of Nature & Science

The Denver Museum of Nature and Science has been an integral partner with Bird Conservancy since our inception 30 years ago. Together, we have advanced science and knowledge of nature and birds through citizen science programs, scientific research, special events and collaborative educational programs.



We were excited when Garth Spellman joined DMNS as Curator of Ornithology, representing not only a renewed commitment to birds at the

museum, but also a wonderful opportunity to grow our partnership. Garth boosted our efforts through his leadership and support for public programming, such as the annual Speaker Series which brings national experts to Colorado to share the latest in cutting edge avian science, conservation and discovery. 2018's series highlighted bird intelligence, the evolution of beauty and new understandings of avian evolution. Garth also worked closely to launch the Neighborhood Nestwatch Project, and contributed his considerable knowledge of genetics and population dynamics to our collaborative research on Brown-capped Rosy-finches in Colorado.

Our partnership is both professional and personal. George Sparks, President and CEO of DMNS, has taken our Director, Tammy, under his wing to help her grow as a leader. His generous spirit and sage advice guided our donor engagement and investment efforts. George's critical thinking was instrumental to developing our strategic direction and ability to serve as an inspiration point to nature. A firm believer that together we do it better, we are fortunate to have such a visionary leader as a friend and supporter.

We look forward to continuing to work with our partners at DMNS to connect people of all ages with nature, help extend the reach of the museum beyond its walls and add to the quality of life of our residents and visitors.

Thank you for your investment in our mission.
We look forward to continuing our efforts together!

Photo credits:

Cover: Soapstone Prairie. Photo by Teddy Parker-Renga.
Brewer's Sparrow nest. Photo by Brittany Woiderski.

Page 2: Burrowing Owl. Photo by Dawn Wilson.

Page 3-4: Red-winged Blackbirds. Photo by Mark Byzewski (CC BY 2.0).
Black Swift. Photo by Todd Patrick.
IMBCR survey near Devil's Tower, WY. Photo by Nick Van Lanen.

Page 5: Western Meadowlark. Photo by Mark Byzewski (CC BY 2.0).

Page 6: Baird's Sparrow. Photo by Andy Bankert.
Forest fire. Photo by Front Range Roundtable.
Eastern Meadowlark. Photo by John Sutton (CC BY 2.0).
IMBCR survey. Photo courtesy of Playa Lake Joint Venture.

Pg 7-8: Bird Campers at Barr Lake. Photo by Stacey Monahan.
Barr Lake Environmental Learning Center. Photo by Kacie Miller.
Scientists in Action Program. Denver Museum of Nature & Science.

Pg 9-10: Bird Campers. Photos by Stacey Monahan.
Bird Tales at Northglenn Heights. Photo by William Bevil.

Pg. 11-12: Lark Bunting. Photo by Bill Schmoker.
Mountain Plover. Photo by Colin Woolley.

Pg. 13-14: Bluestem Prairie. Photo by Justin Meissen (CC BY 2.0)
Northern Colorado grasslands. Photo by Angela Dwyer.
Ranching for Profit. Photo by Lauren Connell.
Ruddy Duck at Prewitt Reservoir. Photo by Kelsea Holloway.

Pg. 15-16: Golden Finch. Photo by Lee Ferrell.

Pg. 17-18: Red-eyed Vireo. Photo by Susan Rosine.
Colin & Cooper's Hawk. Photo by Ty McManigle.

Pg. 23: American Avocet. Photo by Dan Walters.

Pg. 26: Girls & Science Event. Denver Museum of Nature & Science.

Back cover: Biologist Rob Sparks & Black Swift. Photo by Todd Patrick.



Research biologist Rob Sparks poses with a Black Swift before releasing it back into the wild at Box Canyon State Park in Ouray, CO. Bird Conservancy is studying the foraging distances and behavior of Black Swifts — which is still largely unknown — in order to gain a critical understanding of their conservation needs.

Our Mission

Conserving birds and their habitats through science, education and land stewardship

Our Vision

Birds are forever abundant, contributing to healthy landscapes and inspiring human curiosity and love of nature.



14500 Lark Bunting Lane
Brighton, CO 80603
(303) 659-4348

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