

Setting a Course For The Future



2017 Annual Report

Across North America, avian populations are declining.

Some grassland bird species have lost as much as 95% of their population since 1970. Landbird populations as a whole have lost more than 2.3 billion. What has caused such massive declines? How do we address such dramatic losses and ensure birds continue to grace our skies, grasslands, forests and backyards?

While challenging in scale and complexity, Bird Conservancy is working to find answers and reverse those trends. Our approach uses a combination of sound science, educating the next generation, and collaboration with others to foster land stewardship values.

In our first 30 years, we have played a leadership role by pioneering innovative approaches to conservation challenges. These include working with private landowners to conserve birds, building large-scale bird monitoring programs and leading the charge for conservation in Northern Mexico. At our Environmental Learning Center in Colorado, our mission comes to life on a more personal scale. Children inspired by our educational experiences today are tomorrow's scientists and conservation leaders.

We envision a world where birds are forever abundant, contributing to healthy landscapes and inspiring human curiosity and love of nature. To accomplish this vision, we will generate and share scientific data necessary to make intelligent, informed decisions about bird conservation. Partnering with others enables us to do even more to enhance, restore and deliver habitat conservation for the benefit of people. By connecting children and adults with nature and wild birds through firsthand experiences, we create champions for conservation. Supporting all these efforts requires a strong organizational infrastructure that ensures a thriving conservancy for the 21st Century.

You have been with us along the journey. With your investments, we have worked with farmers and ranchers to improve their land, learned where migratory birds go and led inner city students to become passionate about nature—all life-changing events. Today, we need you more than ever. Help make the future bright for people, birds and the land. One child, one acre, one conversation at a time—you make our vision possible. Give today, give tomorrow and give beyond your lifetime to protect the future of birds across the West.



Tammy VerCauteren
Executive Director



Larry Modesitt
Chairman of the Board



Achieving Our Vision

In 2018, Bird Conservancy celebrates 30 years of migratory milestones working to conserve birds and their habitats. While celebrating these accomplishments, we also look ahead to the future to achieve our vision through these four key outcomes:



1

Advance Knowledge

Generate and share cutting edge scientific data to advance knowledge and inform effective bird conservation.

2

Inspire People

Immerse children and adults in nature and foster stewardship values across generations.

3

Deliver Conservation

Enhance, restore and conserve bird habitat and improve overall landscape health working in partnership with others.

4

Ensure a Thriving Organization

Ensure a thriving conservancy for the 21st Century and beyond.



Science

Advancing Knowledge

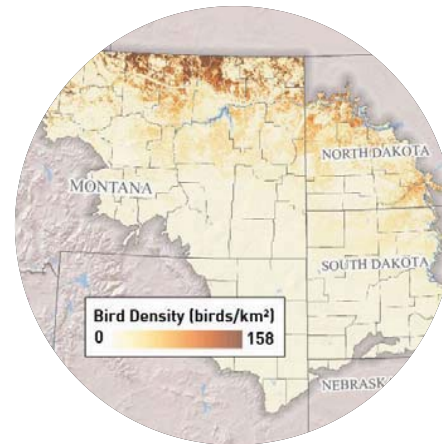
Science advances our knowledge about the dynamic relationships between birds and their habitats, from the breeding grounds on the Northern Great Plains to the wintering grounds in Mexico. Inventive and rigorous approaches are combined to fill critical knowledge gaps. We share what we learn with others to maximize resources and develop practical tools that inform conservation action where birds need it most.

Monitoring Birds Across the West

In 2018, the Integrated Monitoring in Bird Conservation Regions (IMBCR) program marks its 10th anniversary. With total surveys soaring above 18,000 and covering 740,000 square miles, it is the second largest bird monitoring program in North America. In 2017, 1754 surveys detected over 250,000 individual birds of 329 species. IMBCR data helps us understand bird population sizes at various scales to facilitate conservation. Data is shared through the Rocky Mountain Avian Data Center to guide strategy and planning on public and private lands throughout the Western U.S.

Sound Bytes for Owls

Bird Conservancy piloted the use of passive audio recording units as part of our Mexican Spotted Owl monitoring partnership with the U.S. Forest Service. We captured eight hours of sound each night for two weeks at 57 sites. Recordings are compared to standard surveys, which involve playing owl calls and listening for a response, to help confirm the effectiveness of this new method. Pilot testing continues, but so far the results are promising and demonstrate how cutting edge tools and technology can increase the efficiency and effectiveness of monitoring programs.



Among other things, IMBCR data is used to create population and distribution maps — a key management tool for declining species such as Baird's Sparrow.



By employing state-of-the-art methods, Bird Conservancy of the Rockies is able to accurately monitor trends in the Mexican Spotted Owl population within the United States. Photo by Danny Hofstadter

The Big Picture for Grassland Birds

Pilot testing of Unmanned Aircraft Systems (drones) was a huge success, enabling capture of high resolution 3D vegetation images across large areas. The data from these images allow us to quantify bird habitat characteristics at multiple scales like never before and gain new insights into factors affecting bird survival and reproduction. For the first time, geolocators were recovered from Baird's and Grasshopper Sparrows, providing information about migration and stopover behavior. Data pinpoints connections between the breeding grounds of the Northern Great Plains and wintering grounds in Chihuahua, Mexico. South of the border, our research has affirmed the negative impacts of shrub encroachment on winter survival, guiding future conservation efforts.



The first Baird's Sparrow geolocator recovery in 2017. Photo by Paulson Des Bresay.

Neighborhood Nestwatch Launches in Colorado

Launched in partnership with the Denver Museum of Nature & Science and Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center, Neighborhood Nestwatch brings Bird Conservancy of the Rockies biologists to backyards in the Denver area. Biologists collect scientific data about local birds and train homeowners to become citizen scientists. Data gathered by these volunteers helps scientists study nesting success, annual survival, species composition, resident and migratory bird habitat needs and more. The program received a warm reception by the community, filling quickly in 2017 with plans to continue in 2018 and beyond.



A Black-capped Chickadee, one of six study species monitored by volunteers as part of Neighborhood Nestwatch. Photo courtesy of Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center.



"The data collected through IMBCR in the Playa Lakes Joint Venture landscape are already giving us a better understanding of our grassland birds. We're now putting these data to work answering management questions for our partners."

Anne Bartuszevige
PLJV Conservation Science Director

Looking Ahead

Studying Dippers in the Black Hills

In 2018 we complete a two-year study of American Dippers in the Black Hills of South Dakota. Final products will include updated distribution maps and breeding information for this state-endangered species.

Analyzing Data, Providing Direction

Bird Conservancy will conclude analysis of an eight-year data set to assist Bureau of Land Management staff in Rawlins, WY to guide approaches for maintaining stable avian populations in tandem with resource development.

Capitalizing on IMBCR

As IMBCR's footprint, partnerships and data expand and mature, it opens new opportunities. Plans include a new database platform within the Avian Data Center, the application of new (Bayesian) analysis methods and increased use of IMBCR data to inform conservation on the ground through stewardship initiatives.

Partnering with NEON

We're collaborating with National Ecological Observatory Network (NEON) for a second, three-year term to monitor birds across the lower 48 states and Puerto Rico, using a protocol adapted from the IMBCR program. This effort contributes to NEON's mission to measure environmental change across the continent through a variety of surveys, ranging from soils and air to terrestrial organisms, including birds.

By The Numbers

1,709,746 individual birds of 415 species counted through IMBCR since 2008

50,000 additional acres in Mexico enrolled in the Sustainable Grazing Network in 2017

7 countries added to Partners in Flight Central American Avian Conservation Assessment Database



Education

Inspiring People

Birds, nature and science are powerful sources of inspiration. For 30 years, our organization has focused on connecting people of all ages with the natural world and helping them understand their role in it. In 2017, over 33,000 participants engaged in education and outreach programs. Our award-winning programs are known for their lasting impacts and transformative qualities. By fostering awareness, knowledge, skills and confidence, we're creating current and future generations of scientists, stewards and champions for bird conservation.

Inspiring Leaders

Bird Conservancy camp programs are designed to take kids on a progressive journey, building confidence, knowledge, awareness and leadership skills along the way. Our Leaders in Training program gives older campers an opportunity to use those skills and share their passion for birds with younger generations. LIT's learn to prepare and deliver educational programs, mentor their peers, and help others see the wonders of birds, nature and science through fresh eyes. This immersive program grew significantly in 2017, with twelve teens enrolled. The life-changing qualities behind this experience create ripple effects that extend well beyond the summer. We look forward to seeing where these champions for birds and conservation go with their careers!

Reaching Diverse Audiences

2017 saw an exciting focus on discovering and meeting the needs of persons with special requirements. We collaborated with Denver-area schools and organizations serving those with physical, emotional or cognitive challenges to create customized programs that enabled participants to experience nature on their own terms. Our efforts brought joy into people's lives through birds and nature. We helped persons who are blind learn to bird by ear, children who have sensory issues learn to explore nature, and adults with developmental disabilities learn to identify birds. These programs are vital to removing barriers for our diverse community to immerse in nature.



Leader in Training Chiara Pesce, age 13, shows young Habitat Explorers how to use binoculars and field guides at Barr Lake State Park. Photo by Allison Fowle



Birding By Ear participants from Colorado Center for the Blind enjoy a unique experience tailored to their needs, designed to help them connect with nature in a whole new way. Photo courtesy of Colorado Center for the Blind

Capturing Data — and Imaginations

Bird Conservancy coordinated two Bioblitzes in 2017, teaming children and adults up with natural resource experts to conduct a localized species inventory over a 24-hour time period. These fun, transformative events provide a stepping stone to get people outside, gaining an appreciation for the plants and animals in their local communities and learning about science in the process. The Bioblitzes were held in partnership with Nebraska Game and Parks Commission and Chadron State College at Wildcat Hills State Recreation Area in July, and Chadron State Park in September. Between both events, over 200 children, students and adults surveyed more than 300 species, including 80 species of birds.



Adults and kids alike delighted at the amazing critters they encountered during our Nebraska Bioblitzes. Photo by Tammy Fandrich

A Learning Adventure Across Countries

On May 17, 2017, an estimated 167,000 people world-wide tuned in for GrasslandsLIVE, a multilingual, multi-partner distance learning program designed to communicate the importance of North America's grasslands from Canada to Mexico. The live CBS4Denver webcast included presentations, hands-on activities, and a visit by fifth graders from Dos Rios Elementary School in Evans, CO. Students enjoyed the opportunity to interact with Bird Conservancy and U.S. Forest Service scientists and learn about grassland ecology. GrasslandsLIVE received the U.S. Forest Service's highest honor—a Chief's Award—in recognition of this innovative, highly impactful program.



Bird Conservancy biologist Erin Strasser shares stories about prairie ecosystems with middle-school students attending GrasslandsLIVE. Photo courtesy of Prince William Network



“On the Wing” - winner of the Colorado Alliance for Environmental Education (CAEE) 2017 Innovative EE Program Award for Excellence in Environmental Education.

Looking Ahead

Bringing Year of the Bird to Denver

In connection with National Geographic Society's Year of the Bird, we are collaborating with Denver Museum of Nature & Science and Audubon Society Greater Denver to deliver programs at the Museum's Free Days, Girls & Science event, and through our long-running educational speaker series.

Healing Power of Nature

Bird Tales is a unique program that aims to improve quality of life and create meaningful experiences for people living with dementia. By popular demand, Bird Conservancy will expand the program to several more Denver-area facilities in 2018.

Increasing Our Reach

We will increase our targeted outreach to underserved schools in the Denver area through new partnerships and programs and work to ensure every child, regardless of his or her situation, has opportunities to be inspired by nature.

By The Numbers

91 unique Denver-area schools that participated in educational programs in 2017

4,947 birds banded at our banding stations in 2017

108 kids attended Bird Conservancy nature camps



Stewardship

Delivering Conservation

For over 22 years, our organization has operated a private lands program working alongside landowners and managers to enhance bird habitat at the local level. Together, we're creating win-win situations. Our collaborative conservation landscape extends from Montana to Mexico, fueled by the expertise of strategically-placed Private Lands Wildlife Biologists. The knowledge gained through our scientific research enables us to create practical tools and solutions that restore and conserve habitat for birds while making the land healthier and more productive.

Broadening Our Wingspan through Partnership

Colorado Parks and Wildlife continues to be an invaluable sustaining partner of our Private Lands Wildlife Biologist program, helping us connect with landowners and managers across the state to restore and enhance wildlife habitat. Along the South Platte River, we've enhanced wetlands with easements and studied the effects of wetland practices on birds. In the northwest, we're working together on grouse habitat improvement and population monitoring, wildlife friendly fence installation, and stream and wet meadow restoration for Sandhill Cranes. We're collaborating on grazing plans and drought resilience in State Wildlife Areas, and forest management at Kiowa Creek Ranch in El Paso County. And in southwest Colorado, we've joined forces to enhance habitat for waterfowl and songbirds.

Changing Lives, Changing Landscapes

Children are naturally curious about their world, which is why we don't limit ourselves to engaging only adult private landowners about birds and conservation. When Private Lands Wildlife Biologist MaryBeth Albrechtsen visited the Lamont family, their youngest child, Cole, rode along to tour the property. MaryBeth shared her binoculars and pointed out wildlife along the way. Later, the family hosted a rangeland tour on their ranch. Oldest son Logan grabbed a Pocket Guide to Northern Prairie Birds and some binoculars, ran to his dad's truck and flipped through the guide to try and identify the birds on his property. We look forward to seeing where a love of birds and nature takes Logan and his family in the future.



Greater Sandhill Crane. Photo by Stepan Mazurov via Flickr Creative Commons



Young Logan Lamont explores his family ranch through the lens of birds, opening up a whole new understanding of the world and his role as a steward of the land. Photo by Mary Beth Albrechtsen

Guiding Habitat Conservation

We're using science to measure effectiveness of on-the-ground conservation efforts. One example is support for a community-led monitoring effort within the Musselshell River watershed. Conservation efforts there are already showing positive results on bird populations. This initiative draws upon successful pilot monitoring exercises Guiding Habitat Conservation Southeast Colorado, which showed how management for an umbrella species (Lesser Prairie-Chicken) can provide benefits for other birds using the same habitat. In 2018, we will conduct similar assessments of private land stewardship efforts in the Northern Great Plains and begin showing impacts of conservation investments.



Lesser Prairie Chicken. Photo by Greg Kramos, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Providing Winter Habitat for Sharp-tailed Grouse

A small population of Columbian Sharp-tailed Grouse exists in the quiet, open country of Lewis, Colorado. Although there are active lek sites, high-quality winter habitat containing fruiting shrubs along riparian corridors is lacking. One of these leks exists on Chuck and M.B. McAfee's 2,000-acre ranch, which is managed with a strong conservation ethic in mind. The McAfee's worked with our biologist and the Natural Resources Conservation Service to create much-needed winter habitat to support the lek. Grouse were spotted this past fall, moving across the landscape where they had never been seen before—headed straight for the newly created winter habitat, just as the seasons were changing.



Buds, catkins, and persistent fruits of deciduous shrubs and trees provide critical foods for Columbian sharp-tailed grouse during winter. Photo: The Weather Network



“Ecological health drives the bottom line, and my main measure of ecological health is diversity. Birds are the absolute best monitoring tool because they’re mobile. If I’m doing my job right in managing the ecosystem, those birds will show up”

Grady Grissom, Rancho Largo Cattle Co.

Landowner Profile

Grady Grissom

Bird Conservancy first started working with Grady Grissom, manager/partner at Rancho Largo Cattle Co., over 15 years ago when he hosted a landowner workshop to showcase conservation efforts for playas and grassland health. His energy sparked contagious conservation efforts in Southeast Colorado with many of the attending landowners enrolling in the Colorado Birding Trail, having follow-up visits with biologists to discuss conservation opportunities, and participating in a watershed initiative to rid the Purgatoire River of invasive tamarisk trees.

Since then, Grady has continued inspiring landowners, both nationally and internationally, through his philosophy that maximum ecosystem health equals maximum ranching profit. He spreads his view through articles, speaking events, radio spots and YouTube videos. He is a leader in his local community and an active member of many conservation groups and the birding community. He has been a Bird Conservancy board member since 2011.

As a true champion for stewardship responsibility, it is no surprise that on March 31, Grady was awarded the 2017 Leopold Conservation Award for Colorado by Sand County Foundation, the Colorado Cattlemen's Association, the Colorado Cattlemen's Agricultural Land Trust, Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association and American AgCredit. We are honored to have worked with Grady on his journey to having won this award and for his continued involvement and expertise on private landowner engagement efforts and stewardship programs.

By The Numbers

9364 people reached through landowner visits, workshops and outreach

\$702,162 in Farm Bill funding acquired for conservation projects

88,771 acres enhanced through technical assistance, habitat & infrastructure improvements



Banding, Citizen Science Programs

Banding Birds

A Salute to Our Banding Station Volunteers!

The youngest are pre-teens, the oldest in their 80's. Some have volunteered for a decade or more, and a few come every day. They arrive before dawn on their designated morning each week, working alongside Bird Conservancy's staff bander to open and close nets, safely extricate birds, record data and make sure the day runs smoothly. It's a family affair for some. Veterinarian Alison Hazel first visited a banding station in 2006 when she was pregnant with her second child, August ('Augie'), and soon became a regular volunteer. Augie, now 11 years old, is an accomplished photographer, an alumni of Bird Conservancy's summer camps, and one of our youngest volunteers in 2017. Put simply, the stations could not run without the contributions of these dedicated individuals and we thank them for their support.



Augie Hazel, banding station volunteer and birder.



One of Augie's favorite photos, of a Common Yellowthroat, taken at our Barr Lake Banding Station.

Engaging Citizens in Science

Tiny Owls Inspire Big Hearts

2018 marks our fifth year monitoring Eastern Screech-Owls along the Poudre River in Fort Collins, CO with the support of Patagonia and New Belgium Brewing Co.

It's one of the most common owls in North America, yet we know little about its ecology. As an indicator species of riparian forest health, we use data about them to help inform habitat restoration efforts by the City of Fort Collins along the Poudre River. Counting these tiny, secretive owls is not for the timid or those with a fear of darkness. Last year, 47 volunteers conducted night surveys along the river, braving mosquitoes and other nocturnal critters to listen for the signature whinnies of screech-owls. Data gathered by this small army of 'night owls' is not only establishing trends for the species in Northern Colorado, but is also shedding light on the role of forest diversity in relation to avian communities.



“Birds are the bellwether of not just planet health but of human health. Your work is invaluable.”

Greg Owsley, Eastern Screech-Owl Monitoring Program Volunteer and Friend of Bird Conservancy. Read more about Greg on page 18





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The Bird Conservancy team in November, 2017

* employment began in 2018
 ** deceased

2017 Volunteers

We extend our deepest thanks to these citizen scientists, naturalists, bird banders, board members and other volunteers who generously donated their time and talents to help conserve birds and their habitats.

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Volunteer Profile

Cynde Barnes

2017 Nelda Gamble Award

Named after Nelda Gamble who started Bald Eagle Watch in 1988, this award recognizes exceptional service as a volunteer. With so many amazing and committed individuals to choose from, it's never easy to pick just one. Cynde Barnes has soared to great heights as a volunteer in a short amount of time. Her journey as a Bird Conservancy volunteer began in 2014 when dropping off her granddaughter for Wild Nestling Day Camp. Intrigued by our mission, talented staff, and unique programs—and inspired by a lifelong love of birds—she signed on to become a Bird Tales program and Education volunteer. With her boundless enthusiasm and ability to help others connect to nature, Cynde continues to be a vital spark that awakens others to the wonders of birds in their daily lives.



Members and Donors

Our Flock of Supporters

All donations make a difference! Your gifts to Bird Conservancy, in any amount, are greatly appreciated and are critical in helping us conserve birds and their habitats.

We would like to thank all anonymous donors, as well as 2017 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, Membership and Development Coordinator, at (720) 634-1076 or sarah.burnett@birdconservancy.org.

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Karla Younessi
Young Americans Center for Financial Education
Robert Youngberg
Joseph Yurkovic
Kelley Zaino
Amanda Ziegelbauer

*deceased

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Denver Center for the Performing Arts
Denver Film Society
Denver Museum of Nature & Science
Denver Zoological Foundation
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Jack Ferguson
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Journeys of Change

Jen Kaiser
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Larry Modesitt
Museum of Contemporary Art
New Belgium Brewing Company

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Edward M. Warner
Jack and Joan Whiting
Wild Birds Unlimited of Arvada
Wild Birds Unlimited of Denver
Wild Birds Unlimited Fort Collins
Steve and Joy Wooten
Zapata Ranch / Ranchlands



Your Giving – Today and Tomorrow

Your gift has the power to help conserve birds and their habitats – now and in the future. To find out easy ways you can support Bird Conservancy both now and beyond your lifetime, contact Kelli Hirsch, Development Manager, at (303) 659-4348 ext.12 or kelli.hirsch@birdconservancy.org. By including Bird Conservancy of the Rockies in your will or estate plans, you can support yourself, your loved ones and your feathered friends.



Partners and Funders

Working Together to Achieve Success

Our conservation efforts are empowered through collaboration with over 200 partners working together to meet shared objectives, leverage resources and build upon each other's successes. Together, we form a network of allied organizations working to immerse people of all ages in nature and conserve, enhance and restore critical bird habitat across North America.

| | |
|---|--|
| Adams County Commission | Brighton Chamber of Commerce |
| Adams County Government | Brighton Legacy Foundation |
| Adams County Parks and Community Resources | Brown Mill Ranch LLC |
| Aiken Audubon Society | Bureau of Land Management |
| AloTerra Restoration Services | Butterfly Pavilion |
| American Bird Conservancy | Cache la Poudre River National Heritage Area |
| American Birding Association | Canadian Wildlife Service |
| Arizona Game & Fish Dept. | CBS4Denver |
| Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies | Chadron State College |
| Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies - Southern Wings | Chadron State Park |
| Audubon Center at Bent of the River | Chase Bank |
| Audubon New Mexico | Chatfield State Park |
| Audubon Rockies | Chico Basin Ranch |
| Audubon Society of Greater Denver | Children and Nature in our Parks |
| Audubon Texas | Children's Museum Denver, Marsico Campus |
| Avian Science Center | Christian Living Communities |
| Bader Ranch | City of Fort Collins Natural Areas Program |
| Barr Lake State Park | City of Brighton |
| BBC Natural History Unit | City of Fort Collins Fort Fund |
| Beattie, Chadwick & Houpt, LLP | Fort Collins Natural Areas Program |
| Birds Caribbean | Coalition for the Poudre River Watershed |
| Black Canyon Audubon Society | Colorado Alliance for Environmental Education |
| Bobolink Foundation | Colorado Association of Conservation Districts |
| Bohemian Foundation | Colorado Cattlemens Agricultural Land Trust |
| Borderlands Research Institute, Sul Ross State University | |
| Boulder County Parks and Open Space | |

Colorado Department of Agriculture
 Colorado Mountain Club
 Colorado Department of Natural Resources
 Colorado Natural Heritage Program
 Colorado Open Lands
 Colorado Outdoor Partnership (CO-OP)
 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 University
 Colorado State University - Ascend
 Colorado State University - Extension
 Colorado State University - Warner College of Natural Resources
 Comisión Nacional de Áreas Naturales Protegidas
 Comisión Nacional para el Conocimiento y Uso de la Biodiversidad (CONABIO)
 Commission for Environmental Cooperation
 Connecting Conservation
 ConocoPhillips
 Conservacion de Islas
 Cooper Foundation
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 Denver Botanic Gardens
 Denver Museum of Nature & Science
 Desert Landscape Conservation Cooperative
 Dixon Water Foundation
 Ducks Unlimited
 EDM International Inc.
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 Elevated Outdoor Sales, LLC
 Emergency Management and Research Institute

Environment for the Americas
 Environmental Defense Fund
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 Fort Collins Audubon Society
 Fort Collins Rotary Club
 Fundacion Cuenca Los Ojos
 Gardens on Spring Creek Fort Collins
 Gates Family Foundation
 Grand Valley Audubon Society
 Great Basin Bird Observatory
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 Gunnison Conservation District
 Highlands Presbyterian Camp and Retreat Center
 Hudson Gardens and Event Center
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 Klamath Bird Observatory
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 Land Trust of the Upper Arkansas
 Larimer County Department of Natural Resources
 Las Damas Ranch / Pasticultores del Desierto, A.C.
 Legacy Land Trust
 Lesser Prairie-Chicken Initiative
 LightHawk
 Local Color Magazine
 Mexican Fund for the Conservation of Nature
 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
 Mule Deer Foundation
 National Association for Interpretation
 National Association of Conservation Districts
 National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM)
 National Ecological Observatory Network
 National Fish & Wildlife Foundation
 National Park Foundation
 National Wild Turkey Federation
 National Wildlife Federation
 Nebraska Educational Service Unit 13
 Nebraska Environmental Trust
 Nebraska Game and Parks Commission
 New Belgium Brewing Co.
 New Mexico Dept. of Game & Fish
 North American Bird Conservation Initiative (NABCI)
 North Dakota Game and Fish Dept
 North Dakota Resource Trust
 North Platte Natural Resource District
 Northern Great Plains Joint Venture
 Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation
 Oklahoma State University - Extension
 Oregon State University
 Partners for Conservation
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 Paskwa Consultants Ltd.
 Pheasants Forever
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 Purgatoire Wildlife Ranch
 Rainwater Basin Joint Venture
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 Rancho Largo Cattle Co.
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 Sand County Foundation
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 Scientific & Cultural Collaborative
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 South Dakota Dept. of Game, Fish & Parks
 Southwest Climate Science Center
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 Sterling Ranch Development Co.
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 The Storied Brand
 The Wildlife Experience
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 Three Rivers Alliance
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 Tropical Agricultural Research and Higher Education Center
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 University of Colorado, Denver
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 University of Manitoba
 University of Montana
 University of Oklahoma
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 U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)
 USDA - Agricultural Research Service
 USDA - Farm Service Agency
 USDA - Forest Service
 USDA - Forest Service, Cooperative Forestry
 USDA - Forest Service, Intermountain Region
 USDA - Forest Service, Northern Reion
 USDA - Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Region
 USDA - Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)
 USDA - Northern Plains Agricultural Research Laboratory
 U.S. Forest Service (USFS)
 USFS - International Programs
 USFS - State and Private Forestry
 U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS)
 USFWS - Monarch Butterfly Habitat Development Project
 USFWS - National Wildlife Refuge System
 USFWS - Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act
 USFWS - Partners for Wildlife

USFWS - Region 2
 USFWS - Region 6
 Utah Division of Wildlife Resources
 Vail Health Foundation
 Valley Bank & Trust
 Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University
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 Wyoming Association of Conservation Districts
 Wyoming Game & Fish Department
 Wyoming Natural Diversity Database
 Wyoming Wildlife and Natural Resource Trust
 Xerces Society
 Your True Nature
 Zamorano University

Partner-Funder Profile

Colorado Parks and Wildlife

In 2018, we celebrate 30 years conserving birds and their habitats, a milestone shared with our oldest partner, Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW). CPW has been with us since the beginning, providing the original challenge grant that got Colorado Bird Observatory airborne.

CPW has consistently supported our efforts to connect and engage people of all ages in science and nature through bird banding, creation of an Environmental Learning Center at Barr Lake, and school programs through their Students in Outdoor Learning Environments.

CPW's leadership role in supporting conservation on private lands has been instrumental to engaging landowners through pocket guides, workshops and the Colorado Birding Trail. They helped launch our Private Lands Wildlife Biologist program, an idea that has expanded to five states. CPW's sustaining support has increased our reach and capacity, helping build consensus for habitat conservation among diverse stakeholders, maximizing resources and directly supporting habitat restoration and enhancements across the state.

CPW was a pioneering partner in our collaborative approach to bird monitoring through the Integrated Monitoring in Bird Conservation Regions Program. Early in our history, CPW recognized the critical role bird monitoring plays in their ability to manage habitat and bird populations. They helped implement the IMBCR program and bring partners together to achieve seamless monitoring efforts across Colorado's private and public lands.

In 2016, CPW organized the Colorado Outdoor Partnership (CO-OP), a coalition of 32 member agencies and organizations, including Bird Conservancy, working together to ensure our private and public lands are viable to support our wildlife, outdoor and agricultural heritage and economic well-being for generations to come. We look forward to working with CPW to achieve our shared goals and vision, over the next 30 years and beyond.

“Bird Conservancy of the Rockies has been a consistent and effective partner in bird conservation for many years. The programs we have jointly implemented have proven beneficial and effective throughout Colorado and beyond.”

Bob D. Broscheid, Director, Colorado Parks and Wildlife





Friends of Bird Conservancy

Your Friendship

Thank you to the growing number of Friends of Bird Conservancy of the Rockies. Leadership support from each of our Friends in 2017 provided critical discretionary funds to help us achieve our mission, retain a talented team of staff and volunteers and deliver programs to connect people, birds and land.

You helped make the successes listed in this annual report a reality. Thank you for connecting your generosity with our mission. Your friendship is leading the path forward for Bird Conservancy's next 30 years and beyond. Thank you!

Demonstrate why bird conservation is important to you – become a Friend today or encourage others to join our flock!

Contact Kelli Hirsch, Development Manager, at (303) 659-4348 ext. 12 or kelli.hirsch@birdconservancy.org to find out how you can help us make more Friends.

\$50,000 - \$249,999

The Bobolink Foundation
Thornburg Foundation
Warner Family Charitable Fund / American Endowment Foundation

\$10,000 - \$49,999

Steve and Mike Bloom
Dixon Water Foundation
Jack and Leslie Ferguson
Barbara and Dick Holme
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Tiffany and Chris Watts
Wild Birds Unlimited Fort Collins
Jim and Marilyn Wilson
Xcel Energy Foundation
Karen and Richard Yust

Greg Owsley and The Storied Brand

Have any of your friendships begun with a truck sale? That's how we met and wooed newest Bird Conservancy Friend, Greg Owsley. We needed a truck to help our biologists, conservationists and educators get out in the field, and Greg was kind enough to give us a pretty good deal on one.

That truck was just the beginning, though. We had gained an ally whose company, The Storied Brand, helped us migrate from our former name (Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory). Greg would also become one of our adventurous Eastern Screech-Owl monitoring program volunteers.

Greg has always loved nature, and protecting the environment is ingrained in all facets of his life – especially his business. After branching out from New Belgium Brewing Company to start The Storied Brand, Greg knew he wanted to support organizations that were making a difference for the environment.

The Storied Brand is a member of 1% for the Planet, a global network of businesses who commit to donating 1% – or more – of their sales to organizations like Bird Conservancy. We are the only organization Greg supports, in part because he believes that smaller organizations are nimble and able to adapt to meeting the changing needs of the environment.

Thanks to The Storied Brand and 1% for the Planet, we now have more Friends to help protect birds, the land and the people that truly care about them. Thanks, Greg, for giving even more mileage to that old truck.



Financials

Bird Conservancy of the Rockies Statement of Activities

Years ended December 31, 2017 and 2016

| | 2017 | 2016 |
|----------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Support and Revenue | | |
| Government Grants & Contracts | \$4,159,000 | \$4,094,000 |
| Contributions | \$622,000 | \$540,000 |
| SCFD | \$330,000 | \$327,000 |
| Program & Other | \$54,000 | \$62,000 |
| Total support and revenue | \$5,165,000 | \$5,023,000 |
| Expenditures | | |
| Program | \$4,239,000 | \$4,187,000 |
| Administration | \$684,000 | \$772,000 |
| Fundraising | \$168,000 | \$149,000 |
| Total expenditures | \$5,091,000 | \$5,108,000 |
| Change in Net Assets | \$74,000 | (\$85,000) |



2017 Revenues
\$5,165,000



2016 Revenues
\$5,023,000

The 2017 summary financial information has not yet been audited
Please visit www.birdconservancy.org after May 31, 2018, for the
audited financial statements including all note disclosures.

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.

Our Reach

The ripple effects of our work radiate from our headquarters in the Rocky Mountains to the Great Plains, Mexico and beyond.



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Brighton, CO 80603
(303) 659-4348
www.birdconservancy.org

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