



## NEWS RELEASE

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# Connecting Youth and Families to the Natural World in the Nebraska Panhandle

## Bird Conservancy Receives Grant from Nebraska Environmental Trust

Scottsbluff, NE – Bird Conservancy of the Rockies will receive \$42,526 from the Nebraska Environmental Trust (NET) to fund the “Connecting Youth and Families to the Natural World in the Nebraska Panhandle” project. The Trust is funded by proceeds from the Nebraska Lottery and has awarded more than \$349 million to more than 2,400 conservation projects across the state of Nebraska since 1994. The Trust works to preserve, protect and restore our natural resources for future generations.

April 8, 2021 the Trust Board announced the award at their quarterly meeting in Lincoln, NE. This is the first year of the award with a potential for second year funding totaling \$38,925. The project is one of the 113 projects receiving \$18,350,515 in grant awards from lottery proceeds in 2021. Of these, 42 are newly funded grants and 71 are carry-over projects.

Bird Conservancy of the Rockies’ mission is to conserve birds and their habitats through science, education and land stewardship. In Nebraska, we fulfill this mission through conservation education programs in partnership with Nebraska Game and Parks Commission (NGPC). Support from NGPC and NET enables us to increase environmental literacy and promote stewardship, engaging over 1,500 Nebraska residents each year. Bird banding stations and BioBlitz’s combine science, exploration and education to reach school students, community members and local resource experts, and take place in two Biologically Unique Landscapes. Family Nature Club allows local families to immerse and connect with nature around them in the Scottsbluff area.

Programming from this project fulfills a need for environmental education programs and services in western Nebraska by empowering communities to care for local natural resources, and inspiring the next generation of Nebraska conservation stewards. Through partnerships, collaboration and support from local partners: The Trust, NGPC and Chadron State College, all of Bird Conservancy’s education programs and services in the Nebraska Panhandle are provided at no cost to the participant. Together we are empowering communities to learn, appreciate and conserve their local natural resources through the lens of bird conservation.

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# Bird Conservancy of the Rockies

*Connecting People, Birds and Land*



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



**Bird Conservancy of the Rockies** is a Colorado-based nonprofit that works to conserve birds and their habitats through an integrated approach of science, education and land stewardship. Our work extends from the Rockies to the Great Plains, Mexico and beyond. Together, we are improving native bird populations, the land and the lives of people. We envision a world where birds are forever abundant, contributing to healthy landscapes and inspiring human curiosity and love of nature. Visit [www.birdconservancy.org](http://www.birdconservancy.org) for more information.

For more information about Bird Conservancy's education initiatives in Nebraska, visit [www.birdconservancy.org/nebraska\\_programs](http://www.birdconservancy.org/nebraska_programs).

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Student participating in bird migration activity.

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