



ConocoPhillips SPIRIT of Conservation Program

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ABOUT NFWF

Chartered by Congress in 1984, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) protects and restores the nation's fish, wildlife, plants and habitats. Working with federal, corporate and individual partners, NFWF has funded more than 5,000 organizations and generated a total conservation impact of \$6.1 billion.

Learn more at www.nfwf.org

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Aplomado falcon

OVERVIEW

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF), ConocoPhillips and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced the 2020 round of funding for the ConocoPhillips SPIRIT of Conservation Program. Nine new grants were awarded, totaling \$1.3 million and generating more than \$3 million in matching contributions from the grantees for a total conservation impact of more than \$4.3 million.

The nine projects recommended for funding address four strategies of the ConocoPhillips SPIRIT of Conservation program: 1) Implement Innovative Bird Data Gathering Techniques or Technologies; 2) Restore Grassland, Sageland, Wetland, and Coastal Habitats for Birds; 3) Protect key bird habitats along migratory routes; and 4) Technical Assistance on Working Lands. The ConocoPhillips SPIRIT of Conservation program seeks to award grants to restore bird habitat, gather bird data, and improve bird focused conservation practices on working lands, with an emphasis within focal geographies.

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Chestnut collared longspur

Restoring Coastal Prairie Habitat to Benefit Grassland Birds in the Lower Rio Grande Valley (TX)

Grantee: The Conservation Fund
 Grant Amount:..... \$156,674
 Matching Funds:\$335,000
 Total Project Amount:\$491,674
 Restore coastal prairie habitat in the Lower Rio Grande Valley, Texas to provide habitat for Gulf Coast grassland-dependent birds, including the federally endangered aplomado falcon, the proposed-threatened black rail and state-threatened Botteri’s sparrow and white-tailed hawk. Project will restore 525 acres of native coastal prairie habitat through invasive species management of encroaching brush and replanting of native grasses and forbs.

Upgrading Radio Tracking Infrastructure to Improve Migratory Bird Detection (TX)

Grantee: Gulf Coast Bird Observatory
 Grant Amount: \$32,021
 Matching Funds: \$32,055
 Total Project Amount: \$64,076
 Improve existing Motus infrastructure (an automated radio telemetry program that tracks migratory birds) with Cellular Tracking Technologies SensorStations which provide highly localized position information that is unable to be tracked through traditional Motus nanotags. Project will update 15 structures to support monitoring efforts of migrating birds throughout the Texas coast.

Restoring Marfa and Marathon Grassland Habitat for Wintering Migratory Birds (TX)

Grantee: Borderlands Research Institute-Sul Ross State University
 Grant Amount:..... \$180,674
 Matching Funds:\$180,674
 Total Project Amount:\$361,348
 Restore grassland in wintering habitat for migratory grassland bird priority species, including Baird’s sparrow, Sprague’s pipit, chestnut-collared longspur, and thick-billed longspur in the Marfa and Marathon grasslands of Texas. Project will treat 3,500 acres of mesquite invaded grassland to increase habitat connectivity and increasing grassland patch size for wintering bird populations.

Identifying Stopover Habitat Use by Shorebirds Along the Texas Coast Through GPS Tracking

Grantee: Manomet
 Grant Amount: \$86,160
 Matching Funds: \$86,333
 Total Project Amount:..... \$172,493
 Use GPS tracking devices to identify stopover locations of birds passing through the Gulf Coastal Plain of Texas to document habitat use, threats, and to develop a species distribution model to indicate areas of importance. Project will compile species data into a best management practices document that summarizes the state of knowledge for supporting migratory grassland shorebirds.

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Improving Habitat Connectivity for Grassland and Sagebrush-Dependent Bird Species (MT)

Grantee: Winnett ACES

Grant Amount:\$214,611
 Matching Funds:\$235,000
 Total Project Amount:\$449,611

Work with a diverse partnership of farmers and ranchers, non-governmental conservation organizations, state and federal agencies and local conservation districts to achieve bird habitat improvements and connectivity for greater sage grouse, Baird's sparrow, chestnut-collared longspur, and thick-billed longspur. Project will restore 800 acres and improve management on 25,000 acres.

Providing Technical Assistance to Improve Grassland Bird Habitat in Edwards Plateau (TX)

Grantee: Pheasants Forever

Grant Amount:\$236,322
 Matching Funds:\$236,322
 Total Project Amount:\$472,644

Promote habitat stewardship actions designed to conserve priority grassland and shrubland birds in the Edwards Plateau ecoregion by adding conservation technical assistance capacity to the Grassland Restoration Incentives Program. Project will restore 5,000 acres of grassland habitats and provides landowner technical assistance and planning to improve management on 4,000 acres.

Permanently Protecting Migratory Bird Habitat on Waliser Ranch Through a Conservation Easement (WY)

Grantee: Wyoming Stock Growers Land Trust

Grant Amount:\$165,000
 Matching Funds:\$1,275,000
 Total Project Amount:\$1,440,000

Acquire a conservation easement on the Waliser Ranch in Carbon County, Wyoming to permanently protect the agricultural, wildlife and other conservation values of the property. Project will place 1,432 acres under conservation easement, securing habitat for more than 160 bird species.



Sage thrasher

Protecting Migratory Bird Habitat on the Kasilof River Through a Conservation Easement (AK)

Grantee: The Conservation Fund

Grant Amount:\$100,000
 Matching Funds:\$392,511
 Total Project Amount:\$492,511

Place a property along the Kasilof River on the western Kenai Peninsula in Alaska under permanent conservation easement to secure migratory, breeding, and overwintering habitat for more than 160 bird species. Project will secure 309 acres of migratory bird habitat.

Restoring Habitat through the Northern Grasslands Restoration Incentives Program (MT, ND, SD, WY)

Grantee: Ducks Unlimited

Grant Amount:\$128,538
 Matching Funds:\$245,000
 Total Project Amount:\$373,538

Provide technical assistance through the Northern Grasslands Restoration Incentives Program to provide an additional set of conservation options for producers throughout the Northern Great Plains who provide habitat for declining grassland birds. Project will restore 2,000 acres of grassland habitat and place 16,000 acres under improved management.



Baird's sparrow