



ConocoPhillips SPIRIT of Conservation

NFWF CONTACTS

Crystal Boyd

Senior Manager,
Pollinator Programs
612-564-7253
crystal.boyd@nfwf.org

Naomi Attaway

Coordinator,
Regional Programs
naomi.attaway@nfwf.org
202-595-2496

PARTNERS

- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- ConocoPhillips

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 6,800 organizations and generated a total conservation impact of more than \$10 billion.

Learn more at www.nfwf.org

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

1625 Eye Street, NW
Suite 300
Washington, D.C., 20006
202-857-0166



Mottled duck

OVERVIEW

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF), the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and ConocoPhillips announced a new round of funding for ConocoPhillips SPIRIT of Conservation projects. More than \$1.2 million in grant funding will support efforts to help conserve and recover populations of imperiled birds. The six awards announced leverage more than \$560,000 in matching contributions from the grantees, providing a total conservation impact of \$1.8 million.

The SPIRIT of Conservation Program supports efforts to restore bird habitat, improve bird-focused conservation on working lands and gather bird data that informs future conservation. With a focus on grassland, sagebrush, wetland and coastal habitats, the program helps advance voluntary solutions that improve the connectivity and quality of key breeding, stopover and overwintering habitats.

Within landscapes heavily dominated by working grasslands, wetlands and sagebrush, the program emphasizes voluntary partnerships with ranchers, farmers, and other private and public land managers. In this way, it strives to conserve bird populations and their habitats while providing important benefits to local communities.

(continued)



Piping plover chick

IMPACT

Spanning multiple regions, the ConocoPhillips SPIRIT of Conservation Program supports birds across their life cycles, secures essential migratory pathways and drives innovation that shapes the next generation of conservation. Since 2005, the program has awarded 140 grants worth more than \$17 million. Grantees have matched this funding with \$49 million, for a total conservation investment of \$66 million. This investment has supported the protection, restoration and enhancement of more than 560,000 acres of habitat for birds and other wildlife. Some of these outcomes include:

- Improving 11,000 acres at Aransas National Wildlife Refuge in Texas to conserve habitat for migratory birds
- Removing invasive brush to improve 1,400 acres for aplomado falcon and grassland birds in Texas
- Collaborating with private landowners across North Dakota to improve 3,000 acres for whooping cranes, piping plovers, and grassland birds

2024 GRANT AWARDS

In 2024, the ConocoPhillips SPIRIT of Conservation awarded \$1.2 million to six projects that are helping to conserve more than 21,000 acres of breeding, stopover and wintering bird habitat. These six projects are protecting and restoring grassland, sagebrush, wetland and coastal habitats; tracking and monitoring bird populations using innovative techniques; and facilitating conservation practices on working ranchlands.

In 2024, grants are supporting habitat conservation in Louisiana, North Dakota, Texas and Wyoming. The grants will leverage more than \$560,000 in matching contributions for a total conservation benefit of more than \$1.8 million. Among other outcomes, this combined investment is supporting work to:

- Create shallow wetlands and improve 2,200 acres for mottled duck and other migratory birds in southwest Louisiana
- Improve water conveyance infrastructure to enhance 3,400 acres for migratory birds and Wyoming toad in Wyoming
- Sustain the South Texas Grassland Restoration Incentive Program to improve 400 acres to support migratory birds in southern Texas

(continued)

2024 GRANTS

Creating Shallow Wetlands to Provide Brood Rearing Habitat for Mottled Duck (LA)

Grantee: Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Foundation
 Grant Amount:.....\$200,000
 Matching Funds:.....\$48,000
 Total Project Amount:.....\$248,000
 Create shallow wetlands on private working lands to support mottled duck and other migratory birds in southwest Louisiana. Project will improve 2,225 acres.

Enhancing Wetland Habitat in the Laramie Plains for Migratory Birds and Wyoming Toad (WY)

Grantee: Ducks Unlimited
 Grant Amount:.....\$205,800
 Matching Funds:.....\$105,000
 Total Project Amount:.....\$310,800
 Improve water conveyance infrastructure to enhance



Whooping crane

wetland habitat on public lands for migratory birds and Wyoming toad at Hutton Lake National Wildlife Refuge, Wyoming Toad Conservation Area and Toad Ranch in the Laramie Plains Wetland Complex of Wyoming. Project will improve 3,392 acres.

Expanding Migratory Bird Habitat through the Grassland Restoration Incentive Program (TX)

Grantee: American Bird Conservancy
 Grant Amount:.....\$125,400
 Matching Funds:.....\$93,000
 Total Project Amount:.....\$218,400
 Sustain the South Texas Grassland Restoration Incentive Program to implement conservation land management practices on private working lands and improve habitat for migratory birds in the Tamaulipan Brushland ecoregion of southern Texas. Project will improve 400 acres.

Improving Prairie and Wetland Bird Habitat at Aransas National Wildlife Refuge (TX)

Grantee: Texas Rice Industry Coalition for the Environment
 Grant Amount:.....\$200,000
 Matching Funds:.....\$135,000
 Total Project Amount:.....\$335,000
 Conduct invasive species control and prescribed burning to improve tallgrass prairie and freshwater wetlands on public lands to support Attwater’s prairie chicken, whooping crane, eastern black rail, mottled duck and other bird species at Aransas National Wildlife Refuge in Texas. Project will improve 11,000 acres.

Partnering to Restore Grassland Habitat for Whooping Crane and Other Migratory Birds (ND)

Grantee: U.S Fish and Wildlife Service - Devils Lake Wetland Management District
 Grant Amount:.....\$275,000
 Matching Funds:.....\$157,000
 Total Project Amount:.....\$432,000
 Restore native grasses and forbs and implement managed rotational grazing on private working lands through the Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program to benefit migratory birds including whooping crane, piping plover, western meadowlark and more across North Dakota. Project will restore 500 acres and improve 2,558 acres.

Removing Invasive Brush to Improve Aplomado Falcon Habitat in the Lower Rio Grande Valley (TX)

Grantee: The Peregrine Fund
 Grant Amount:.....\$260,200
 Matching Funds:.....\$24,600
 Total Project Amount:.....\$284,800
 Remove invasive brush and monitor response from grassland birds including northern aplomado falcon, eastern black rail and other bird species on public lands at Palo Alto National Historical Park and Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge in the Lower Rio Grande Valley of Texas. Project will improve 1,461 acres and complete one study to inform management decisions.