



TRACY AVIARY CONSERVATION FUND GRANTS

Request for Proposals – due November 14, 2025

Overview

Founded in 1938, Tracy Aviary is the oldest and largest free-standing public aviary in North America. Located on 9 acres in the heart of Salt Lake City, Tracy Aviary provides an oasis for visitors and a home to over 400 birds representing 140 species. For 81 years, Tracy Aviary has been committed to our mission of inspiring curiosity and caring for birds and nature through education and conservation. Our Dollars for Conservation program collects \$1 from every ticket sale, \$2.50 from every membership, and donations to be strategically used as grants, pledges, and scholarships for avian conservation projects. Our goal is to support important avian research and effective conservation efforts.

We provide annual short-term grants to support avian conservation projects that require 1-2 years of effort and accomplish short-term goals and measurable successes. Projects should fall within one of the two categories:

- 1) Data Collection and Monitoring (e.g., data collection to inform management, evaluating restoration or conservation work)
- 2) Conservation Action (e.g., species assistance, habitat restoration projects)

Eligibility

Nonprofit organizations, public and private educational organizations, federal, state, local agencies and tribal governments are encouraged to apply. Applicants should provide a 1:1 dollar match. In-kind and cash are considered match.

Criteria

Proposals must:

1. Propose effective in-situ conservation research and/or actions.
 - a. Demonstrate why the species is/are a high priority for conservation action
 - b. Demonstrate the significance of the project to the future well-being of the species.
2. Explain links between the project and other large-scale conservation efforts.
3. Describe the applicant's previous experience working with the species or group of species.
4. Describe the support of other conservation partners and list project partners.
5. Be cost effective.
6. Be sustainable.
 - a. How will investments in this project be protected into the future?
 - b. What is the long-term support for this project and who will provide it?

7. Provide realistic measurable outcomes and indicators of success.
8. Consider human interests and benefits, and involve local communities, groups, and/or agencies as appropriate.
9. Identify target (human) audiences and include engagement and/or educational components with the local community.
10. Share results with stakeholders and scientific community through progress reports, presentations, scientific articles, and/or other methods.

Funds

Proposals for grants of up to \$10,000 will be considered.

Eligible Species, Habitats, and Geographic Locations

Eligible projects will 1) occur within North or South America, and/or 2) involve species in Tracy Aviary's collection. Preference will be given to local projects in Utah and the Intermountain West, and to species with identified conservation needs. Proposals must demonstrate why the species is a high priority for conservation action. Preference will also be given to projects that address one or more habitats considered priorities for avian conservation. For example, habitats considered priority for Utah and the Intermountain West Region are riparian, wetland, sagebrush steppe, and aspen.

Submission Information

Proposals must be submitted by November 14, 2025 via email to:

Angie Trumbo, Conservation Science Program, Tracy Aviary

Email: angiet@tracyaviary.org

Put "Tracy Aviary Conservation Fund Grant Application" in the subject line.

Evaluation

The projects will be evaluated by Tracy Aviary staff, members of Tracy Aviary's Conservation Science Committee, and members of Tracy Aviary's Conservation Technical Advisory Committee according to criteria #1-10 listed above.

Review and Selection Process

The awardee(s) will be notified via email by February 2026.

Fund disbursement

Tracy Aviary will disburse 80% of the funds when the proposal is accepted; the remaining 20% will be disbursed upon submission and approval of the final report.

Indirect Cost Policy

The budget for each grant should include “direct costs” that can be tracked directly to use in the grant project. Unless included as a line item in the budget proposal, Tracy Aviary does not fund “indirect costs” that are not related directly to the goals of the grant project, and cannot be tracked directly to use in the grant project. When included as a line item in the budget proposal, indirect costs may not exceed 10% of the direct costs.

Reporting

Once awarded, grantees will submit a final report no more than three months after completion of the project. The final report will include 1) whether and how goals were accomplished, 2) obstacles encountered, lessons learned, and/or shifting strategies, 3) project successes, and 4) how money was used during the project. Grantees will also submit a creative media item or items (e.g., video, photos, art piece) that can be shared through Tracy Aviary’s social media channels and/or displayed on our grounds. Guidelines for the final report and creative media pieces will be distributed to grant recipients at the beginning of the grant period. Reports will be reviewed by a panel of Conservation Science Committee members and Technical Advisory members.

Proposal Format

The proposal should be no more than 10 pages long (Times New Roman and 11 point font), and should include the following:

1. Title Page:
 - Title
 - Primary researcher First name, middle initial, and last name
 - Primary researcher Affiliation/Institution
 - Primary researcher Email Address
 - Focus of project (choose the category that best represents the project):
 - Data Collection and Monitoring OR Conservation Action
 - Species (or group of species) involved in the research
 - Species Scientific Name (list all species included)
 - Habitats involved in the research (if applicable)
 - Conservation status of the species (for all species included)
 - Project dates: beginning and ending (mm/dd/yyyy)
2. Executive summary (Max. 1 page): Outline the background of the conservation problem, your objectives for this project, any stakeholders involved, methods, expected and/or preliminary results and impact of the project.
3. Introduction and project description (Max. 2 pages). Describe the project’s background, goals, and objectives. Address the questions and topics listed below:
 - Why is/are the species a high priority for conservation?
 - Demonstrate the significance of the project to the future well-being of the species.

- How does the project contribute to larger conservation efforts
- Who are the conservation partners and what their support?
- How is the project cost-effective?
- How is the project sustainable?
- How will investment in this project be protected into the future?
- What is the long-term support for this project and who will provide it
- How will the project's impact be measured?
- Provide realistic measurable outcomes and indicators of success.
- How does this project consider human interests and benefits? Does it involve local communities, groups, and/or agencies?
- Identify target (human) audiences. How does the project ensure sufficient participation of the local community?
- How will you share the outcomes of the project with stakeholders and the scientific community?

4. Methods (Max. 1 page). Describe:

- Study Area – Include map
- Study Design
- Sampling Methods
- Data Analysis

5. Expected and/or Preliminary Results (Max. 1 page): Describe expected results of this project, and how they will contribute to the conservation of the species. If applicable, describe your previous experience working with a particular species or groups of species (e.g., cite reports or publications). Mention the results achieved by your project to date. Mention strategies that have led you to success, key partners, and learned experiences that would likely increase the success of your project.

6. Project Evaluation (Max. 1 page): Describe how the project's team will assess the project progress and success.

7. Goals Table: Fill out the following table with your project's overarching goal(s), objective(s), actions/methods, timeline, and indicators of success. Please be concise when drafting your table: Only include short summaries or headings in the table, and provide more details as text below the table when necessary. Numbers of goals and objectives may vary depending on the project.

Example goals table:

Goal(s)	Objective(s)	Action(s)	Timeline	Indicators of Success
1-Engage citizen scientists to assess site restoration activities in their effectiveness at increasing habitat value for the bird community	1a Collect year-round bird data before restoration takes place to establish baseline conditions for the area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Conduct 5 indoor and field training sessions for 15 citizen scientists - Conduct 10 bird surveys during the baseline year -Enter and proof data from the pre-restoration phase 	March – Dec 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 15 citizen scientists are successfully recruited and trained -Complete 10 bird surveys within survey period

	1b Collect year-round bird data during and after restoration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Train 15 citizen scientists to conduct surveys -Conduct 15 bird surveys -Enter and proof data from during- and post restoration phases 	Jan – Oct 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Successfully recruit and train 15 citizen scientists - Complete 15 bird surveys during second year survey period
	1c Compare species richness and bird occupancy of 10 key species at each project stage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Estimate and compare species richness between phases - Conduct occupancy analysis of 10 key species 	Oct 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Species richness analysis completed - Occupancy analysis is completed for 10 key bird species
2-Provide recommendations for future management practices that favor the bird community and contribute to the functionality of the ecosystem.	2a Write a report that includes recommendations for bird-friendly habitat management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Use findings from occupancy analysis and other research to write a report with management recommendations 	Nov 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Report is produced and distributed - Managers of the site make changes in stewardship based on report

	2b Present results and provide in-person recommendations to partner organizations	- Contact all partner organizations to schedule and conduct results-sharing presentations	Dec 2019	- Presentations to partner organizations are well- attended.
--	---	---	----------	--

8. Budget Table: List items separately and include calculation when necessary (e.g., mileage numbers, hourly rates for staff time). Include requested amount from Tracy Aviary, matching contribution, and total project cost.

Example Budget Table:

Item	Requested from Tracy Aviary	Matching Contributions	Total
Mileage to- and from- study site (500 miles at \$0.545/mile)	\$172.5	\$100	\$272.5
Staff time conducting point count surveys (60 hours at \$20/hour)	\$500	\$700	\$1200
GPS Unit	\$100	\$150	\$250
Total	\$772.5	\$950	\$1722.5