



NFWF

ConocoPhillips SPIRIT of Conservation

NFWF CONTACTS

Bridget Collins

Program Director,
Working Lands
202-595-2655
bridget.collins@nfwf.org

Ernest Newborn

Coordinator,
Regional Programs
202-595-2444
ernest.newborn@nfwf.org

PARTNERS

- ConocoPhillips
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

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 6,000 organizations and generated a total conservation impact of \$7.4 billion.

Learn more at www.nfwf.org

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

1133 15th Street, NW
Suite 1000
Washington, D.C., 20005
202-857-0166



Rock sandpiper

BACKGROUND

Birds are critical to the health of natural communities everywhere. Their migrations represent a vital and irreplaceable flow of energy and nutrients among ecosystems across the globe, and they include some of the most spectacular phenomena of the natural world. In addition, they drive many economically important activities such as bird-watching, hunting and tourism.

In 2005, ConocoPhillips, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) came together to help sustain imperiled bird populations and the many values they provide. Under the banner of the ConocoPhillips SPIRIT of Conservation program, this partnership supports work to improve the quality and connectivity of important bird habitats and accelerate innovations for understanding bird conservation needs across their ranges.

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)



Lesser prairie chickens

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. During the past 18 years, the program has awarded 128 grants worth more than \$14.9 million. Grantees have matched this funding with \$46.5 million, for a total investment of \$61.5 million. This investment has supported the protection, restoration and enhancement of more than 528,000 acres of habitat for birds and other wildlife. Some of these outcomes include:

- Restoration of more than 14,000 acres of bird habitat along the Gulf of Mexico. This migratory hotspot attracts and sustains a large portion of the bird species that occur in the United States, and the work supported there has provided important benefits to millions of individual waterfowl, shorebirds and songbirds.
- Restoration and enhancement of 476,000 acres across the plains and sagebrush regions of the United States. This work has improved habitat for imperiled birds such as Sprague's pipit, Baird's sparrow, chestnut collared longspur, thick billed longspur, and lesser prairie chicken, and many other wildlife species.
- Protection of more than 33,000 acres of bird habitat from Alaska to Texas. Through conservation easements and other voluntary land transactions, these projects have secured high-quality habitats for hundreds of bird species, including greater sage-grouse, rock sandpipers, waterfowl and shorebirds.

2022 GRANT AWARDS

In 2022, the ConocoPhillips SPIRIT of Conservation awarded \$1 million to six projects that are helping to conserve more than 7,000 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 2022 grants are supporting habitat conservation in Alaska, South Dakota, Texas, and Wyoming and bird data collection across a large area of the Central Flyway. The grants will leverage more than \$7.9 million in matching contributions for a total conservation benefit of more than \$8.9 million. Among other outcomes, this combined investment is supporting work to:

- Protect over 2,600 acres in Alaska and Wyoming to secure prairie, sagebrush and riparian forest habitat for birds and other wildlife
- Help landowners implement conservation practices to improve bird habitat on more than 1,500 acres of working lands in Texas and South Dakota
- Restore nearly 3,000 acres of grassland and wetland on public lands and easements for mottled ducks and whooping cranes
- Complete a multi-phase expansion of the Motus radio-telemetry network across the Great Plains and Chihuahuan Desert, using data gathered on grassland bird migration patterns to strategically prioritize habitat conservation