

ABC DECEMBER 1999 CONSERVATION GRANT AWARDS WILL EMPHASIZE BIRDS IN AGRICULTURAL LANDSCAPES AND PARROT CONSERVATION PROJECTS

American Bird Conservancy announces that it will give special attention to proposals on the topic of 'Birds in Agricultural Landscapes' during its December 1999 Small Grants round. Please note that these grants apply only to projects in Latin America and the Caribbean and that the deadline for receipt of proposals is 15 September 1999. Notes on specific program priorities appear below along with full application guidelines which can also be obtained, together with application forms from ABC's website at www.abcbirds.org or by regular mail from American Bird Conservancy, P.O. Box 249, The Plains, VA 20198.

To follow up on last year's grant round, ABC working again in partnership with World Parrot Trust will also consider parrot conservation projects both from current grantees and from new applicants. ABC has produced a list of priority species for conservation action, and proposals addressing the needs of these species are particularly encouraged. Please find below the list of species which is based on the needs identified in the forthcoming IUCN Parrot Action Plan.

Although primary emphasis will be given to these themes, as usual ABC will also consider proposals for other bird conservation programs. The aim of these grant awards is to stimulate in situ field conservation projects in Latin America and the Caribbean undertaken by or involving local conservation groups and individuals. Most grants will be for amounts below the maximum of \$5,000. ALL proposals should use the general application form below.

BIRDS IN AGRICULTURAL LANDSCAPES

ABC seeks proposals the results of which will provide information on innovative approaches to farming methods and techniques that improve land-use while increasing or improving habitat for birds. We are also interested in projects aimed to test hypotheses to examine the importance of different land-use patterns for bird populations and communities, as well as proposals for implementing training programs based on models of alternative agriculture beneficial to birds and other elements of biodiversity.

Proposals are welcomed for projects which assess the benefits to birds of different land-use patterns or farming techniques by using comparative surveys of bird diversity. We encourage researchers to concentrate on evaluating remaining populations of species in agricultural landscapes which are native to the original primary habitats in those areas, as well as to estimate overall species diversity and bird abundance. Ideally, surveys should compare study sites with differing land-use techniques in nearby areas at similar altitudes and/or life-zones and, hopefully, to examine gradients of disturbance from pristine habitats through fragmented and secondary habitats to fully farmed agricultural and monocultural areas. We expect proposals which are carried out alongside economic assessments of differential quality of living for farmers in the study areas, resulting in specific recommendations for land use and new techniques that can improve carrying capacity for birds, and either reduce farmer's work, or increase crop yield or both. It is also desirable that the projects contain community outreach components to ensure that results are communicated to those individuals who can benefit from acting on the findings.

Some examples of the kind of projects we are willing to support on this round of the Small Grants are:

- Bird community composition and structure in heterogeneous agricultural landscapes as opposed to monocultures,
- Evaluation of the importance for birds of pastures mixed with forest patches, living fences, and protected watersheds,
- Estimates of bird diversity in different kinds of poly-cultural organic systems and,
- Comparisons of bird populations in agricultural systems under different regimes of pesticide use.

Special consideration will be given to new ideas and innovations as alternatives to degrading production systems.

LIST OF WEST INDIES PARROT SPECIES OF SPECIAL INTEREST

Cuban Parakeet *Aratinga euops*
Hispaniolan Parakeet *Aratinga chloroptera*
Black-billed Parrot *Amazona agilis*
Puerto Rican Parrot *Amazona vittata*
St Lucia Parrot *Amazona versicolor*
Red-necked Parrot *Amazona arausiaca*
St Vincent Parrot *Amazona guildingii*
Imperial Parrot *Amazona imperialis*

GRANT APPLICATION AND GUIDELINES

American Bird Conservancy has a small endowment that allows it to make a few grants each year for projects related to avian conservation activity in Latin America and the Caribbean. Any project to be funded must be located in the neotropics, involve active participation of local scientists, and have a strong, direct conservation component.

General priorities are:

- Conservation actions for threatened species
- Research on threatened species
- Conservation actions for threatened habitats containing significant numbers of threatened or endangered species
- Research on threatened habitats containing significant numbers of threatened or endangered species
- Joint conservation or management efforts by Latin Americans/Caribbeans and those from outside the region on threatened habitats containing significant numbers of threatened or endangered species
- Training and environmental education

These are guidelines and are not inflexible. The Council will consider exceptions when justified on a conservation basis.

THE PROPOSAL

We receive many more proposals than we can fund. Proposals are more likely to be funded if they explain:

1. Why your project is important
2. Exactly what you are going to do
3. How you are going to do it
4. What effect it is going to have
5. Why your budget is the most efficient use of the funds

We will welcome a second proposal from someone who has done well before. Grants provided in recent years have ranged from \$100 to \$5,000.

Proposals should be submitted using the guidelines outlined in this application form. Proposals are accepted in English, Spanish, and Portuguese.

The following criteria for project development and proposal submission should be observed:

- The proposal must demonstrate a clear conservation objective
- Killing of birds is not allowed
- Transport for project personnel from outside Latin America and the Caribbean will not be funded
- The project budget may include reasonable amounts for equipment purchase, salaries, assistance, transportation, field expenses, etc.
- Proposals should be accompanied by (or followed by) a letter of support or review from at least one of the following: national scientific institute, university, or organization; national or international conservation organization; governmental agency involved in research and/or conservation; well-

known national ornithologist or conservationist

Proposals should be sent to:

Luis Naranjo
Director of International Programs
American Bird Conservancy
P.O. Box 249
The Plains, VA 20198, USA

DEADLINE: 15 September 1999 for consideration in December 1999.

The award: If you are awarded a grant, you are expected to furnish us with an accounting of how the funds were spent and, at the end of the grant period, to produce a report explaining what you did and how we can evaluate your success in fulfilling your objectives. If you do not provide a report and accounting, you will not be eligible for further funding from ABC.

GRANT APPLICATION COVER SHEET

Name of Applicant: _____

Date Submitted: _____

Address of Applicant:

Country: _____

Telephone: _____ Fax: _____ E-Mail: _____

Names and contact details for other project officers:

Title of Project: _____

Amount Requested: _____

Project Start Date: _____ End Date: _____

Where did you hear about the Grants Program: _____

Have you applied for funding before? _____

Have you been funded by ICBP or ABC in the past? _____

Names of two referees from whom you have requested letters of support (these can be sent directly to ABC or attached):

1. _____ 2. _____

Please attach a resume or curriculum vitae to your proposal.

PROPOSAL GUIDELINES

- Summary of Project: (Please limit your narrative to two pages.)
- Describe the objectives of your project and its importance to bird conservation.
- How will this work advance related work that has already been done?
- Describe your methods and expected outcomes.
- How best can the project be evaluated?
- What institutional support (other than financial) do you have for this project?
- Provide a map showing your project location.

BUDGET INFORMATION

Please provide us with information on not only the amount of funding you are requesting from ABC, but also

the overall budget for your project and program.

I. Amount requested from ABC. Detail by line-item the amount you are requesting (see below). Please footnote any line-item you feel needs explanation.

II. Cash from Other Sources. Detail by line-item the amount you are receiving from other funding sources. Please indicate the names of the other funding sources and whether these funds have been received or applied for (see below).

III. In-Kind. Detail by line-item any in-kind equipment or services you are receiving for this project. Please indicate at the bottom of this form the sources of these in-kind contributions.

Is this project a part of a larger program? _____. What percentage of funding does this request comprise of the total? _____.

Please provide a budget matrix showing amount requested from ABC, cash from other sources, and in-kind contributions using the following categories:

- Salary
- Overhead/Benefits
- Travel
- Equipment
- Supplies
- Printing
- Contractual
- Services
- Miscellaneous
- Cash from Other Sources (state whether pledged or applied for):

In-Kind Contributions (state whether pledged or applied for):

Other remarks:

GRANT APPLICATION CHECK LIST

- Names and addresses of all researchers listed on Cover Sheet
- Telephone and fax and e-mail contact numbers listed on Cover Sheet
- Amount requested listed on Cover Sheet and budget included
- Project start and end dates listed on Cover Sheet
- Letters of support attached or requested from referee to be sent to ABC Budget information form completed
- Resume or curriculum vitae attached