

Colorado Field Ornithologists'

Colorado Birding Challenge 2023 Project Proposal Submission Instructions

The Colorado Birding Challenge is a fun, county-based birding and conservation event organized by Colorado Field Ornithologists' and held in May every year. The objectives of the COBC event are to engage hundreds of birders in a fun day of finding and learning about Colorado's birds, to provide support for the expanding programs and work of Colorado Field Ornithologists (CFO), and especially to raise funds for an important conservation initiative. Past COBC projects have received over \$35,000 to support their important work to conserve Colorado birds and their threatened habitats. Qualifying organizations are invited to submit proposals. Proposed projects should have a lasting benefit to Colorado birds and the habitats on which they rely.

Guidelines for COBC Project Proposals

Projects should be conservation focused, including eligible activities such as on the ground habitat restoration and/or protection, research, monitoring, management, outreach and education.

Project proposals must not exceed 2 pages succinctly written using 12-font size Times New Roman or Arial. Additionally, a budget specifying how funding would be used to accomplish the goal should be included. The project proposal should include:

- Title of Project
- Brief synopsis of the organization's mission, past conservation accomplishments, and capability to accomplish the project's proposed work (less than half a page)
- Specify which entity will be receiving and administering the funding and who will be the project lead/manager (include contact information)
- Brief background placing the project in a broader conservation context
- Significance of project to the conservation of Colorado's birds and threatened ecosystems, including: goals, objectives, and deliverables of the project. Projects taking place outside of Colorado will be considered if the benefit to birds that breed, winter, or migrate through Colorado is clearly explained.
- Projects will be ranked based on their conservation impact. Considerations include: conservation status of the species (e.g., [T&E species](#) (including candidate species), [USFWS Birds of Conservation Concern](#), [Colorado Species of Greatest Conservation Need](#), [Partners in Flight Species of Regional Conservation Importance](#), etc., number of species affected, the conservation status of the habitats and ecosystem that will be impacted, the importance of the species to the Colorado birding community and the importance of Colorado for the species. Please reference the following websites for information about priority species/habitats/actions:
 - CO Species of Greatest Conservation Need (Colorado Parks and Wildlife) https://cpw.state.co.us/Documents/WildlifeSpecies/SWAP/CO_SWAP_Chapter2.pdf
 - FWS BCC list <https://www.fws.gov/sites/default/files/documents/birds-of-conservation-concern-2021.pdf>
 - Partners in Flight databases <https://partnersinflight.org/what-we-do/science/databases/>
- Concisely describe the methods, provide a clear time table, identify who will be conducting the work and the locations where the project will be conducted.
- Total budget of the project (in table format):
 - Budget should be written for a total project cost of around \$40,000 but with the knowledge that no specific amount can be guaranteed (it depends on the success of fundraising), indicating areas where budget can be adjusted and to what extent (up or down) to adjust for final available funding once the COBC event concludes.
 - include financial and in-kind resources from other sources
 - enumerate the labor (including rates and #hrs or weeks), equipment, and other items required for the project
 - include overhead/administrative costs to be charged, if any
- Additional material is optional but please limit attachments to material that you believe will help the Conservation Committee to better understand your project
- Letters of recommendation are encouraged but not required

CFO requests that the selected COBC project's organization assist in creating communication content leading up to the event to help promote it. Publishing a full length science article of their funded work in *Colorado Birds: The Colorado Field Ornithologists' Quarterly* and presenting their findings at the annual convention the next calendar year is highly encouraged as well. Unused funds must be returned.

All documents (the 2 page project proposal, budget, and optional letters of support) must be submitted in one (1) single electronic PDF file to Chuck Hundertmark at chundertmark@cobirds.org no later than 11:59PM on November 18th 2022. The Conservation Committee will review the proposals and notify applicants which project was selected for the COBC by early January 2023.