

Cape Cod Bird Club Conservation Fund

Title: Promoting Citizen Science through Birding!

Overall Goal/Objective: By the end of 2019, a cadre of local citizen scientists is trained to identify and monitor birds in three wetlands designated as Important Bird Areas, providing valuable data, and building in the participants, an appreciation for the value of wetland ecosystems.

Importance of Conservation Work:

- Participants gain knowledge of and appreciation for the integral part birds play in maintaining balance in our everyday lives.
- Updated knowledge of bird species diversity at three wetland sites, species of particular interest will be Regional Endemics such as West Indian Whistling-ducks, and migrant species, particularly those of conservation concern.
- Added data to existing information on eBird, providing up-to-date information and furthering local knowledge of population trends.
- Participants understand the value of wetlands and their associated ecosystem services.
- Provides outlet for discovery of alternative recreational activities that provide skills, confidence and wellness, simultaneously contributing to useful scientific data.

Specific Action:

Action	Outcome
Conduct classroom training sessions	Trained and dedicated volunteers understand the importance of conserving birds and will continue to monitor them in the future.
Conduct field training sessions	
Conduct simultaneous counts at three wetland IBAs	Continual updated information at key wetland sites that can be fed into international platforms such as eBird and local servers such as the Environmental Information Management and Advisory System (EIMAS), to assist with policy-making and strategic decision-making.
Repeated counts	An EAG Bird Club that will charge itself with the regular monitoring of key sites that will feed data to the local EIMAS and internationally to eBird.

Budget and Matching Funds/Resources:

Item #	Item	Requested from CCBCCF	In-kind Contribution	Cash Contribution	Comments
1	<i>Equipment</i>				
1.1	Binoculars& Spotting Scopes	\$ -	\$ 2,500.00		EAG's stock from previous projects
1.2	Notepads	\$ 40.00	\$ -		
1.3	Field Guides - Birds of the West Indies	\$ -	\$ 300.00		Donated from BirdsCaribbean
1.4	Range Finders	\$ -	\$ 1,600.00		Donated from BirdsCaribbean
1.5	Bird Cards	\$ 300.00	-	1,000.00	Partly covered from separate EAG project
1.6	Tally Counters (12)	\$ 20.00	\$ 5.00		
		\$ 360.00			
2	<i>Communications</i>				
2.1	Telephone	\$ -	\$ 300.00		
2.2	Internet	\$ -	\$ 450.00		
3	<i>Training</i>				
3.1	Meeting Room	\$ -	\$ 850.00		Donated by the Department of Environment
3.2	Refreshments (in class and field sessions)	\$ 350.00			
3.3	Printing and Stationery	\$ 270.00			
		\$ 620.00			
4	<i>Personnel</i>				
4.1	Trainers x3	\$ -	\$ 900.00		EAG and Fauna & Flora International (FFI) staff time
5	<i>Travel</i>				
5.1	Local travel to field sites	\$ -	\$ 200.00		
		\$ -			
6	<i>Other</i>				
6.1	Bank Charges	\$ 20.00			Transfer fees for funds to arrive at account
6.2	Educational Outreach about the project	-	5,000.00		
		\$ 20.00			
	TOTAL	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 12,105.00	\$ 1,000.00	

Timetable:

The project is expected to take place from May to October 2019 as follows:

Activity	May	June	July	August	September	October
In-Class Training (Intro to birding, bird identification techniques, use of eBird)	■	■		■		
Field Training (Use of data sheets, flock estimation, familiarization with monitoring equipment)	■	■		■		
Field Counts					■	■
Wrap-up session (Certificates of Completion)						■

Continuity:

The project is not a cash-intensive one. Once the participants are trained, they will be able to continue to hone their skills in the field as well as cross-train their colleagues, family and friends.

Further, it is hoped that this project will be the precursor to the establishment of the EAG Birding Club which will see to the continued monitoring of key sites across the country on a regular basis.

Implementing institution:

The Environmental Awareness Group (EAG)
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Project officer:

S.K. Natalya Lawrence is based at the EAG office and is responsible for project administration and coordinating/ implementing conservation activities. Her competences include biosecurity, bird monitoring, education and outreach. She has a track record of successful project implementation and completion (e.g. USFWS NMBCA 2010–2012 #AC-N1001, CEPF 2012–2014, MBZSCF 2015-2016, PBNF 2015-2016). She has a Masters Degree in Project Management.

Shanna Challenger of the EAG/FFI and **Sophia Steele** of FFI will also play key roles in the implementation of this project. Shanna has worked with the organization since 2016 and has successfully led the restoration of one of our largest offshore islands, Redonda. Sophia is FFI's Eastern Caribbean Project Coordinator. Sophia has worked closely with Shanna and Natalya for the successful execution of conservation projects. Both ladies with Natalya will ensure that the logistical and training needs of the project are met.