



SMALL GRANT APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

Iowa Audubon, an independent, statewide organization dedicated to bird conservation, education, and science, is offering small grants for projects which advance these goals. Due to our sources of funding, we are offering small grants available for use *primarily* in the following six counties: Clay, Dickinson, Emmet, O'Brien, Osceola, and Palo Alto. We also offer additional small grants available for use anywhere else *statewide* in Iowa.

Funds for these special small grants are based upon bequests and memorial donations made to Iowa Audubon

Types of Projects Supported

- Research which may significantly contribute to further knowledge about, or conservation of, Iowa's avian resources.
- Educational projects targeted at schools, nature centers, or youth and/or adult organizations. May include interpretive displays, bird viewing blinds or similar infrastructure for enhancing avian education.
- Popular publications about Iowa's birds and/or their habitat. These publications are to be aimed at the general public rather than scientific audiences.
- Permanent protection of land in Iowa for the purpose of increasing or stabilizing bird habitat. Protection may be in the form of fee title, conservation easement, restrictive covenants or other devices in perpetuity.
- Improved management or enhancement of Iowa Audubon's designated Important Bird Areas (IBAs). Officially designated IBAs and information about them may be found on our website at www.iowaaudubon.org; click on the Important Bird Areas menu item in the right column.

Who May Apply

Iowa Audubon grants are available only to non-profit institutions or organizations. Examples include County Conservation Boards, schools, Audubon chapters, independent bird or nature clubs, The Nature Conservancy, Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation, and government conservation agencies. Applicants need not be Iowa residents, but *the project must be conducted in Iowa*. First priority will be given to groups or individuals that have not received an Iowa Audubon grant in the previous calendar year.

Contact Iowa Audubon president Doug Harr at iowaaudubon@gmail.com with any questions about eligibility for grant funding or the application process.

Application, Evaluation and Award Period

Proposals for projects must be received by March 1 for funding during the same calendar year. Submissions will be evaluated by the Iowa Audubon Board of Directors (or a board-appointed grant review committee) at their spring meeting, normally held in late March. All applicants will be notified no later than April 15 regarding the final disposition of each proposal. Cash award payments for selected projects will be made as soon as possible thereafter.

Grant Evaluation Guidelines

Proposals will be numerically scored and ranked according to the following 3 criteria, with up to 5 points awarded for each criterion and a maximum of 15 total points.

1. Intrinsic merits of the project—how it relates directly to conservation of Iowa’s avian resources, through research, education, or conservation measures.
2. Methods—purpose and methods are clearly defined, procedures described are appropriate to the proposed project or problem, methods employed will have negligible negative impacts upon the subject birds or their habitat.
3. Adequacy of Resources and Project Leadership—budget is suitable for achieving objectives (see *Reward Obligations*, below), management agency is clearly defined, project leader or agency has a demonstrated successful track record, student applicants include a positive letter of support.

(NOTE: Land acquisition projects must include a guarantee statement that title/easement/covenant will be secured within the project year, or if longer than one year, the guarantee must provide a projected date and a complete explanation of the need for grant extension beyond one year. Any acquisition project not complying with this requirement must return full award.)

Reward Obligations

Upon project completion, recipients will prepare a written report of 200-500 words and submit to Iowa Audubon (email to iowaaudubon@gmail.com) *or* make a presentation not to exceed 15 minutes at a meeting of the Iowa Audubon Board of Directors. Inclusion of project photographs is encouraged. For land protection projects, a photocopy of the deed, easement or covenant document shall be submitted along with the project report. Written reports, presentations and any printed materials that result from the project will acknowledge that the project was made possible (in whole or in part) by a grant from Iowa Audubon. For small grants awarded, acknowledgement shall indicate the project was made possible by the source(s) of funding, which will be listed in the award letter.

Disclaimer

Iowa Audubon assumes no responsibility or oversight for projects funded through its Small Grants Program and waives any claims for liability related to these projects. Any person, agency or organization receiving such grant funds agrees Iowa Audubon shall be held harmless for any claims related to the use of these funds.