



## 2024 Ben Fusaro Conservation Grant

**Grant overview:** The Big Bend is one of the most biodiverse regions in the country, nestled among pristine longleaf pine forests, expansive coastal marshes, diverse carnivorous plant bogs and savannas, untamed rivers, and stately hardwood forests. The mission of Apalachee Audubon society is to protect birds and their habitats through education, appreciation, and conservation, and we are proud to serve the communities inhabiting these rich ecosystems. We are excited to offer an annual conservation grant to help grassroots efforts that align with our mission. This includes individuals or groups wishing to conduct local scientific research, habitat improvement, and environmental education/outreach.

**Application period:** Applications will be accepted from January 1 – March 15, 2024. Grantees will be announced by April 10.

**Grant amount:** up to \$500

**Eligible Applicants:** Any individual or group wishing to conduct bird-related research, habitat improvement projects, environmental education/outreach, and community engagement within Leon, Jefferson, Wakulla, Gadsden, Liberty and Franklin counties.

**Grantee Requirements:** If awarded, grantees must complete a write-up of their project for our newsletter, The Limpkin Times, and provide content for our social media. Grantees will be required to provide a summary or short presentation at the end of the project during one of our monthly meetings. A representative from the Board will follow-up with the grantee during the completion of the project.

**Application and Instructions:** Please review the scoring rubric before submitting your application. Reviewers will use this rubric to score all applications. Applicants must submit:

- (1) A project description that includes an overview of the project, its importance, and how outcomes will be measured
- (2) A budget and brief budget justification
- (3) A curriculum vitae (CV) or resume
- (4) One letter of recommendation

Please submit your materials to [apalacheeaudubon@gmail.com](mailto:apalacheeaudubon@gmail.com) with the subject line 'Ben Fusaro Conservation Grant Application'.

# Ben Fusaro Conservation Grant Application Rubric

Applicant's name: \_\_\_\_\_

**Instructions:** Fill in the Score column for each Category to evaluate to what extent the application addresses the corresponding Description. *(Note: Some descriptions have an OR stipulation such that fulfilling either criterion merits full marks.)*

Category	Description	Score
<b>Mission</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Application aligns with AAS mission statement (above)</li> </ul>	<b>/15</b>
<b>Project Description</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Research contributes to greater body of knowledge</li> </ul> <p><b>OR</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Project focuses on effective community education or outreach</li> </ul> <p><b>OR</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Project addresses conservation need within community</li> </ul>	<b>/15</b>
<b>Measurable Outcomes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Application outlines a metric for project success. Answers:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>How will a research project be deemed successful?</li> <li>How will an education/outreach project determine its effectiveness?</li> <li>How will a conservation project be maintained to achieve lasting results?</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<b>/10</b>
<b>Feasibility</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Project is a feasible solution to a conservation problem, program to be implemented, or research study</li> </ul>	<b>/10</b>
<b>Bonus points (award one point per item)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Project has potential for a future AAS partnership</li> <li>Project has potential for future AAS speaker</li> <li>Project reaches underrepresented communities</li> <li>Project has multidisciplinary approach combining research, outreach, education, or conservation</li> </ul>	<b>/5</b>