

CFO-FUNDED RESEARCH

Ten Years of Project Funding by CFO

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Least Tern, Long-eared Owl, Lark Bunting, and Loggerhead Shrike not only alliterate, they are also among the species that have been studied under Project Fund grants made by Colorado Field Ornithologists. The CFO Project Fund is set up for projects that will have a lasting benefit to Colorado birds and the habitats upon which they rely. Since the first project was funded more than ten years ago, CFO has allocated over \$21,000 to 25 projects, including three two-year grants.

Along with the “L” birds noted above, projects have been funded to study Mountain and Piping Plovers, Boreal and Flammulated Owls, Three-toed Woodpecker, Gunnison Sage-Grouse, and Black Swift.

Table 1. Grants made by the CFO Project Fund, 1998 – present, including a partial list of presentations and publications that have been funded in part by the grants.

Year	Recipient	Agency	Focus	Amount	Publication or Presentation
1998	Duane Nelson	CDOW	Least Tern and Piping Plover	\$1,500	see below
2000	Duane Nelson		Least Tern and Piping Plover	\$950	CFO convention (2001)
2000	William Merkle	CU	American Robin and Yellow Warbler	\$950	
2001	William Merkle	CU	American Robin and Yellow Warbler	\$500	
2001	Susan Craig		Loggerhead Shrike	\$500	Colorado Birds (Jan 2002); CFO convention (2002)
2001	Heather Swanson	CU	Ponderosa pine (habitat)	\$500	see below
2002	Heather Swanson	CU	Ponderosa pine (habitat)	\$840	Wilson Journal of Ornithology (Sep 2004)
2003	Amy Adams	CSU	Lark Bunting	\$585	Condor (Aug 2004)
2003	Gretchen Jehle	CSU	Prescribed fire (habitat)	\$1,000	Colorado Birds (Apr 2004); Condor (Aug 2006)
2003		RMBO	Treetop peeper for nest monitoring	\$593	
2003	Chris Metterbrink	CNHP	Mountain Plover	\$808	
2004	Elizabeth Reynolds	CSU	Three-toed Woodpecker	\$1,600	Colorado Birds (Apr 2004)
2004	Steve Bouricius		Hummingbirds	\$560	Colorado Birds (Jan 2005)
2005	Carolyn Gunn		Black Swift	\$1,000	Wilson Journal of Ornithology (Dec 2007)
2005	Kim Potter		Flammulated Owl	\$600	
2005		RMBO	Winter raptors	\$865	
2006	Clinton Francis	CSU	Nests and noise (habitat)	\$1,200	
2006	Duane Nelson	CDOW	Salt cedar removal (habitat)	\$1,200	Colorado Birds (in prep.)
2006	Tony Leukering	RMBO	Aspen cavities (habitat)	\$700	
2006	Susan Craig		Loggerhead Shrike	\$300	Colorado Birds (April 2007)
2007	Kim Potter	Vail Mountain	Rosy-finches	\$400	
2007	Tyler Hicks	Western State	Boreal Owl	\$1,400	Colorado Birds (July 2008)
2008	Tyler Hicks	Western State	Gunnison Sage-Grouse	\$500	
2008	Todd Patrick		Long-eared Owl	\$550	
2008	Brandon Doyle	Boulder County	Golden Eagle	\$1,000	(funds rolled over into 2009)
2008		Denver East HS	Feeders (habitat)	\$150	CFO convention (2009)
2009	Carolyn Gunn		Black Swift	\$835	
				\$21,586	

But projects cover more than just these Colorado “showcase” species: American Robin and Yellow Warbler research has been funded, as well as winter raptor and hummingbird studies. And over \$6,000 has been granted to seven projects with a focus on a habitat rather than a single species.

All applications to the CFO Project Fund go through a review process. Currently, three individuals read all of the proposals and submit evaluations. The evaluators are all Ph.D.s or doctoral students themselves and have experience in evaluating projects. The evaluations are summarized and presented to the CFO Board of Directors for a final funding decision. Whether they are successful in the funding process or not, applicants receive feedback generated through the review process. In the past two years, five projects have received some funding out of a total of nine applications.

Projects have been undertaken by individuals, organizations, and individuals on behalf of organizations. One odd fact about our projects is that while at the beginning many of the projects were grants to graduate students at the University of Colorado and Colorado State University, we have not had any applications from these institutions recently.

One requirement made of Project Fund investigators is that they report back on their findings, as CFO wants to allow its members the opportunity to read about or hear about the outcomes of the work that they have funded. Table 1 provides a partial list of the results of these studies that have been published or presented to date.

The goal of the CFO Project Fund is a lasting benefit to Colorado birds and habitats, and members’ support of the Project Fund has added to our understanding of birds in Colorado in meaningful ways. The Board would like to extend its thanks to members and donors for their valuable contributions.

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