

## **Saint Paul Audubon Society Grant Applicant Guidelines**

People or organizations requesting funding must complete the brief grant application.

Priority is given to projects or activities that work on SPA's priority focus areas (Education, Conservation, Policy/Advocacy)

Priority is given to projects or activities within SPA's geographic area (Ramsey and Washington Counties)

The Board will review applications at the March and November Board meetings. Applications must be received by January 15 and September 15. Email this document to: [general@saintpaulaudubon.org](mailto:general@saintpaulaudubon.org). In a genuine emergency, appeals outside the application window may be considered.

The Committee or Board may approve total funding, partial funding, decline, defer, or request more information on an application.

Grant recipients are requested to provide a short article about the project (with pictures if possible) for Chapter publications and be available for a 5-minute presentation at a member meeting.

Grants typically are for \$500-\$2000 and are awarded to projects or activities in areas such as

- Environmental Education
- Habitat restoration, preservation, or expansion
- Supporting opportunities for birders and birding trip leaders
- Diversifying participation in birding and nature activities
- Providing nesting support or native plants
- 501(c) (3) organizations

Preference is given to activities and efforts in Ramsey and Washington Counties that further our focus areas of education, conservation, and policy/advocacy.

# Saint Paul Audubon Society Grant Application

Please complete all fields. Use N/A if not applicable.

**Organization:** University of Belize Environmental Research Institute

**Tax ID#:** 175585

**Fiscal Agent (optional):** N/A

**Tax ID# (optional):** N/A

**The person making the request:** Abidas Ash

**Email:** aash@ub.edu.bz

**Phone:** +501-822-2701

**Project name:** Advancing Capacity Building in Bird Research among University of Belize Students.

**Amount requested:** \$2,000

**Date of request:** September 15th, 2024

**Date funds needed:** October 2024

**A brief overview of the organization, including its mission statement (links to information are acceptable):**

The UB ERI was inaugurated in January 2010 to address the gap in local capacity for research and monitoring that exists within Belize and is a semi-autonomous department of the University of Belize (UB). UB ERI's mission is "to continuously build national scientific capacity for the efficient management, sustainable use and conservation of Belize's natural resources."

**A description of the project, including location, activities, goals, timeline, and expected completion date (or is it for operational expenses?):**

The UB ERI has dedicated six years to the collecting of non-breeding bird data through its project "Improving Natural Resource Management through Bird Monitoring". This initiative has led to the establishment of a National Bird Program involving NGOs, government entities, the Institute for Bird Populations and UB ERI. UB ERI has been instrumental in standardizing data collection methods, enhancing data quality controls, and providing ongoing capacity building for rangers, students, tour guides and community members.

Over the years, UB ERI's Avian Biologist has co-authored four publications based on this dataset and has conducted several training sessions in bird monitoring techniques. Recognizing the importance of continuous capacity building efforts and improved data management, the Avian Biologist has worked closely with the Biology and Natural Resource Management Programs at the University of Belize. This collaboration has included assisting with delivering presentations

as part of the course in Wildlife Management and Field Methods, offering students valuable research and monitoring experience in bird monitoring. Notably, last year, the Avian Biologist led a bird identification training for University of Belize students. One of these students, Elsy Perez, was supported with her thesis project and has since joined UB ERI to contribute to the bird program.

The goal of this project is to advance capacity building and student research initiatives for further student development. The planned activities include:

1. Conducting a Data and Protocol Review Training for the field teams at each bird banding station.
2. Writing a manuscript analyzing bird community composition using the bird banding dataset.
3. Supporting a student interested in pursuing a thesis project with the bird banding dataset.
4. Providing introductory bird banding training for partners and interested students.

The activities are scheduled for October 2024 to ensure training is complete before the non-breeding field season begins in November 2024. The thesis project and the manuscript writing will start immediately. The requested funds will cover Elsy's salary for delivering training and conducting field efforts, as well as expenses for the thesis student's attendance at the bird banding training and participation in data collection.

**If approved, will these dollars be the sole funding mechanism for this project? If not, please list other partners and funders.**

This project will also receive support from our partners such as Belize Audubon Society, Foundation for Wildlife Conservation and the Toledo Institute for Development and Environment.

**Which of SPAS's priority focus areas does this project address?**

Environmental Education and Supporting Opportunities for Birders and Future Birders.

**Is this a one-time request, or are future requests anticipated? (Include frequency):**

The support we have received from grants provided by the St. Paul's Audubon Society has significantly advanced our conservation and education efforts in Belize. We plan to continue applying for these grants to sustain our work in protecting and conserving our shared birds.

**How will you determine whether the project is successful?**

The success of the project will be measured by the completion of the manuscript and thesis paper, as well as the performance of both the student and Elsy in the field efforts.

**Who will benefit from this project, and how will you measure these benefits?**

The project will enhance the growth of the National Bird Program by enabling us to begin publishing findings from the bird banding data. Additionally, it will support ongoing training in bird banding in order to expand the pool of experience banders in Belize.

**How can Saint Paul Audubon assist in the success of your project/organization?**

One challenge that we have identified in Belize is the need for banders and assistants to gain external experience to better understand the molt cycle of birds. A significant opportunity would be for Belizean banders and assistants to visit bird banding stations in North America during the breeding season. This experience would greatly enhance their understanding of the molt cycles and the ecology of migratory birds.

Approved by \_\_\_ Board \_\_\_Committee Name\_\_\_\_\_ Amount:

v.7 6/20/23