

Proposals for Birdathon Grants 2026

Organization	Plan for Grant
Blackacre Conservancy, Inc.	Funding is requested to convert the back side of an existing nature education building to an observation center focused on introducing visitors, including hundreds of JCPS school children, to the avian diversity within Blackacre Nature Preserve. Finally, we hope to purchase binoculars, posters, and field guides.
Creasey Mahan Nature Preserve	<p>This request is to support a Creasey Mahan based initiative across our property to identify keystone pollinator-supportive plants. We also will distribute seeds and plants to gardeners/homeowners in the area.</p> <p>This project will be effective at promoting native plants, and will provide homes, food, and shelter to pollinators. It takes advantage of our native seed bank, builds community knowledge about native plants and pollinators, inspires our students, and spreads beauty while helping pollinators.</p>
Jefferson Memorial Forest	Our goal is to increase bird education through 3 programs with Raptor Rehab. Two of the programs will be for 1 st grade students meeting their EL curriculum as part of the Louisville ECHO program. The third program will be a family program through one of the schools.
Josephine Sculpture Park	Support from BBC will enable JSP to complete essential habitat restoration and environmental education projects that protect our landscape, deepen public understanding of local ecosystems and pollinators. JSP focuses time, energy, and resources on being a bird sanctuary.
KY Conservation Committee	<p>In 2026, KCC continues to monitor the effects of federal cutbacks to core programs that impact state-level initiatives.</p> <p>The requested grant will be used for research and to develop online/print resources, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Printing of a “Bird Conservation Advocacy Toolkit” and hosting of “Issues to watch” webinar about some of the policies in Kentucky that can affect birds and their habitats. • Research and design of a public-facing online and print resource about the best bird-friendly practices around solar energy. • An update the KCC handout “A Citizen’s Guide to Preventing Bird Collisions” to educate the public about practices and policies that can help prevent bird loss through collisions with glass and transmission lines.
KY Natural Lands Trust	<p>In 2026 we are working on an acquisition to safeguard a 1,150-acre forested tract in Kentucky on Little Black Mountain. This area lies within the same range as Black Mountain, KY’s highest peak, forming a connected landscape that supports thousands of plant, animal, and fungi species. This high-elevation habitat hosts many species found nowhere else in Kentucky, such as the state’s only breeding habitat for several bird species, including Canada Warbler, Veery, Rose-Breasted Grosbeak and Dark-eyed Junco.</p> <p>In addition, KNLN will establish & promote birding hotspots on KNLN preserves to support long-term monitoring & research.</p>

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<p>KY Resources Council</p>	<p>KRC requests funding to support our work providing expert environmental, pro-bono legal services for conservation efforts benefiting natural habitats and wildlife. KRC will continue to review state and federal permits and authorizations to ensure compliance with the environmental laws designed to protect Kentucky's wildlife, communities, and ecosystems.</p> <p>Last year, KRC provided more than \$1.7 million worth of legal services (market value) across the Commonwealth.</p>
<p>Lexington Bird Cult</p>	<p>We believe everyone should be able to experience the joy of birding- by starting our group, we have aimed to provide opportunities to engage in birding in a safe and inclusive environment. Many members are new to birding and do not own their own binoculars. We would like to purchase 4-5 pairs of loaner binoculars to be offered to people who come to our bird walks and do not have their own binoculars yet.</p>
<p>Sunnyside Master Gardeners Bluebird Team</p>	<p>Sunnyside works at Bluebird conservation by making numerous bluebird nesting boxes available, installing & monitoring trails, & providing educational materials to the public.</p> <p>Our operation is funded by grants, gifts, & donations with 100% of the funds going for purchasing materials, tools, & supplies for the construction of BB boxes, trails, & education. All work is completed with volunteer time & any facility use is donated.</p>
<p>The Parklands of Floyds Fork</p>	<p>In 2026, we are requesting funding for another series of Raptor Rehab programs, as well as a Song Meter Micro 2 and Kaleidoscope Pro software to record and analyze bird song in The Parklands for use during our educational classes. This software can sort, label, and identify bird songs in each recording giving us a reliable list of species present in The Parklands. We can then use this baseline data to monitor habitat level changes in real time with our students.</p> <p>Raptor Rehab programs have become a staple of our Outdoor Classroom programming, inspiring participants with up-close encounters with raptors.</p>
<p>Woods and Waters Land Trust</p>	<p>At the Backbone Wetland, Woods and Waters Land Trust is working to protect and care for one of the most important wetland bird habitats in the Lower Kentucky River watershed. The Backbone wetland represents a special opportunity to conserve a place where birds can continue to thrive. Our work is centered on maintaining and improving the ecological conditions that birds depend on, while also preparing for low-impact ways for the public to experience the site through bird observation and education.</p> <p>In the long term, WWLT is working to expand protection at the Backbone through additional conservation and future property acquisition. Each step forward helps build a larger, more connected wetland habitat that will support bird life and watershed health for years to come.</p>