

**FORT COLLINS AUDUBON SOCIETY**

**Alex Cringan Memorial Grant**

***For the Support of***

***Environmental Education***

**Fort Collins Audubon Society**

**Mission**

The Fort Collins Audubon Society (FCAS) is a non-profit organization dedicated to nature appreciation and understanding, environmental education, and conservation. FCAS is a chapter affiliated with the National Audubon Society (NAS). Incorporated in 1976, the chapter currently has more than 1200 members, most of whom reside in Larimer County. The mission of the FCAS is to promote the appreciation, conservation, and restoration of ecosystems - focusing on birds and other wildlife - through education, participation, stewardship, and advocacy. Foremost in that mission is education, which we provide to our membership and the public through monthly field trips, guest speaker programs and partnerships with other natural resource and conservation entities in Colorado. Another strategy to provide education, especially to youth, is the Alex Cringan Memorial Grant.

**Alex Cringan**

Dr. Alex Cringan was a Colorado State University Professor of Wildlife Biology, a founding member and past President of FCAS, a frequent field trip leader, a friend, and a role model for many FCAS members. He was instrumental in the early development of Gustav Swanson Natural Area in Fort Collins and the initiation of the Colorado Breeding Bird Atlas. Dr. Cringan died in October 2012. To honor his life, his work, and his vision, FCAS created the Alex Cringan Memorial Grant. This grant provides funding support for environmental education projects in the K-college environments --either teacher-led or student-led -- that educate youth about our natural environment and encourage outdoor experiences connecting them to our environment. Solid environmental education develops a sense of stewardship and an understanding of the importance of conservation in the next generation.

**Goal of the Cringan Grant**

The purpose of the Alex Cringan Memorial Grant is to provide funding support to formal or non-formal educators or students involved in a project focused on teaching or learning more about our natural environment and issues of critical importance to protecting, preserving, and improving aspects of our natural environment. The project should have the goal of enhancing teaching or research skills; of promoting critical thinking, communication, and problem-solving skills and include sharing that knowledge with others to help provide long-lasting benefit to all wildlife and the environment.

**Goal of the Cringan Grant (cont.)**

The Grant Committee is looking for depth and breadth in the project, as well as the number of people with whom the knowledge will be shared. Examples of projects include:

* Attending a training or workshop
* Developing and delivering a presentation or project at your school
* Developing a research study that contributes to wild bird research and a strategy for sharing it with others

**Our Accomplishments**

Since the Grant has been available, we have provided funding support for the following projects:

1. **Sage GriffisWest**, a Front Range Community College (FRCC) student in the Forestry, Wildlife, and Natural Resources Program, researched the effects of barbed wire on wildlife and birds. She collected data from wildlife rescue and rehabilitation centers across the country, then set up field surveys in Larimer and Weld counties to understand the number of injuries and deaths caused by barbed wire. After compiling the data, she created a flyer to educate landowners about alternative wildlife-friendly fencing which she also shared with conservation and agriculture agencies.
2. **Nolan Bunting,** a Colorado State University (CSU) student, and officer for the CSU Field Ornithology Chapter (CSUFO), used the grant to start a Cornell Lab of Ornithology FeederWatch program on the CSU campus to educate the public about the behavior, ecology, and conservation of bird species. Three feeders were established around campus and, after training in monitoring protocols and bird identification, over 40 students volunteered as monitors. Signage and presentations educate people about conservation organizations and ways to get involved in the conservation community.
3. **Tallon Nightwalker**, Director, and Founder of the Northern Colorado Wildlife Center (NOCO Wildlife) received funding to purchase two spotting scopes to provide outreach and education in the community on guided bird walks. The Center protects wildlife and provides education on rescue, rehabilitation, and advocacy. The spotting scopes engage more people on their guided bird walks and allow participants to get an up-close view of local bird species.
4. **Noelle Mason**, is a CSU student and former employee with the Bird Genoscape Project, a large multi-institutional effort to harness genomic methods for migratory bird conservation, and part of the Department of Biology at Colorado State University. Noelle used the grant funding to develop a lesson plan that can be used by local science teachers to share the innovative work being done by the lab. The lab uses the DNA of bird feathers collected from banding stations all over the country to create habitat connectivity maps of migrating birds in North America.

**Grant Application**

Individual Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Organization (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Contact: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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Amount Requested: $ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Would you accept a partial Grant?

 ⬜ Yes ⬜ No

How will you acknowledge the Fort Collins Audubon Society if you receive this grant?

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Upon completion of the learning experience, the recipient must submit a two-page written account of the project to the FCAS.

Recipient will deliver a 5 to10 minute prepared presentation on their project and their accomplishments during a regular FCAS program meeting.

Summary (description of the learning experience): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
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Applicant’s goal: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
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Identify the problem or the need addressed by this project and explain why you require funding support.

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How and with whom will you share your new knowledge/skills? Describe the age, level of experience and approximate number of participants.

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Describe **three** clear and measurable outcomes you expect from this experience.

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**Project Budget**

1. Total cost of learning experience, class, workshop etc.

 (including donated time, source of matching funds, etc.) $\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. How will the funds be used? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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1. Other grants applied for: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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1. Total funds Requested: ($500.00 is the maximum allowed).

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**Criteria for selection**

* must be a formal or non-formal educator or student in Larimer County
* depth, breadth, impact, and target audience of the project
* goal and need for the funding
* clear and measurable outcomes of the project

 ● if used to attend a training or workshop, details of the value of program in training/educating others

**Timeline**

* Application due: November 1, 2024
* Notification will be made by December 1, 2024
* Grant Period: January 1, 2025 – December 1, 2025
* Report due: December 1, 2025 (Due upon completion of the learning experience)

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Signature of applicant Date

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Signature of supervisor (if applicable) Date

**Please send completed application to:**

**Fort Collins Audubon Society**

**P.O. Box 271968**

**Fort Collins, CO 80527-1968**

**ATTN: Grant Committee**