

## **Sassafras Audubon Society Grant Proposal Guidelines**

Sassafras Audubon Society (SAS) annually provides a limited number of monetary awards of up to \$2000 each to support individuals or organizations planning to undertake efforts in Monroe, Lawrence, Owen, Greene, Morgan, Jackson, Brown, or Bartholomew counties that will help to achieve the mission of SAS. Our mission is to ‘advocate public understanding of the value and need for conservation of wildlife, its habitat, our natural resources, and of the relation of intelligent treatment and wise use of these resources to human progress.’ We will fund projects that fall within one or more of the following categories: ‘**research**,’ ‘**education**,’ and ‘**habitat**.’ Examples of what projects fall within these categories can be found below:

**Research** - A student at Purdue University is studying avian ecology in Brown County, and requires funds to buy transmitters to track Worm-eating Warblers.

An experienced birder is interested in how Chuck-Wills-Widows respond to particular forestry practices in Morgan-Monroe State Forest, and requires gas money to travel to various sites to conduct presence/absence surveys.

**Education** - A concerned citizen in Columbus wants to educate others about how artificial light at night endangers migrating birds, and requires funds to advertise the event and reserve space.

An elementary school teacher in Bloomington wants to teach students about birds, and requires funds to buy bird feeders and ten binoculars.

**Habitat** - A farmer in Greene county has a couple acres that she’d like to remove invasive plants from and plant native wildflowers on to benefit wildlife, and isn’t eligible for state or federal habitat enhancement programs. She requests money to achieve these goals.

A boy scout wants to do a project that involves building and installing Barn Owl nest boxes. He requests funds so that he can buy materials.

Proposals should be submitted by e-mail to [treasurer@sassafrasaudubon.org](mailto:treasurer@sassafrasaudubon.org) and include 3 documents in this order:

- 1.) completed application form (available on the SAS grants webpage)
- 2.) narrative of 1,000 words or less describing how the funds requested would be utilized and how the project would help to fulfill the SAS mission
- 3.) itemized budget overviewing requested funds

**Proposals requesting more than \$500 are due on December 1<sup>st</sup>.** The grants committee will evaluate such proposals received by December 1<sup>st</sup> and inform applicants whether or not their grant proposal will be funded by February 1<sup>st</sup>. Proposals requesting \$500 or less can be submitted anytime. The grants committee will evaluate such proposals within two months of when they are

received. The decision to fund a project will depend upon the amount of money available for grants in a given year, and the degree to which the applicant has convinced the committee that their project will help to advance the mission of SAS. Requests for expensive items that will only be used for a short-term purpose, but then would be used for personal use (e.g., a spotting scope), will receive low priority unless it is specified that the item will be supplied to SAS upon the completion of the project and that item would be useful to SAS. Projects may be partially funded.

Any scientific publication that results from a project funded by SAS must include acknowledgement of our support. At the conclusion of the project, a report must be provided to SAS and recipients may be asked to present about their project at the annual banquet, or at another SAS event.