

## **NEWS RELEASE**

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Photos: Available on request; Contact William Bevil, Communications Manager ([william.bevil@birdconservancy.org](mailto:william.bevil@birdconservancy.org))

### **Volunteers Needed for Outdoor Education**

BRIGHTON, Colo. – Bird Conservancy of the Rockies is seeking individuals in the Denver Metro area for its Volunteer Naturalist program.

Volunteers are needed to help Bird Conservancy educators teach citizens of all ages the importance of bird and habitat conservation through interactive classroom programs, field trips and outreach events. No experience in the fields of environmental education or ornithology is necessary.

Trainings will be held for new Volunteer Naturalists on Tuesdays and Thursdays from March 3-17 at Bird Conservancy's Environmental Learning Center, located at Barr Lake State Park in Brighton, Colo. Volunteers receive about 40 hours of classroom and in-the-field training in topics including basic ecology, ornithology, teaching techniques and public speaking.

Volunteer and Outreach Coordinator Peggy Watson said being a Volunteer Naturalist is a great way to learn about our natural world and gain valuable and rewarding experience in environmental education. "Our volunteers get the chance to take kids outdoors and teach them about birds and nature," she said. "They are a part of a community that cares about the environment and inspires others to appreciate it."

Volunteers must be able to pass a background check; have transportation to and from education sites around the Denver area, especially Brighton. Training includes approximately 40 hours of classroom and in-the-field training starting with an orientation on Saturday, February 27, followed by five sessions over a period of three weeks in March (3<sup>rd</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>).

Those interested should contact Watson at [peggy.watson@birdconservancy.org](mailto:peggy.watson@birdconservancy.org) or 303-659-4348 ext. 10 by the third week of February.

Founded in 1988, Bird Conservancy of the Rockies is a Colorado-based nonprofit that conserves birds and their habitats in the Rocky Mountains, Great Plains, Mexico and beyond through science, education and stewardship.

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