



BELLA VISTA BLUEBIRD SOCIETY 2023 REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Program Overview. The Bella Vista Bluebird Society (BVBS) will provide annual funding up to \$1,500 for research on Eastern Bluebirds (*Sialia sialis*). Funding may be awarded to a single project or may be split among several projects.

Deadline. Applications are due **30 November 2023 at 11:59 pm CST**.

Eligibility. Applicants are restricted to non-professionals, undergraduate, and graduate students (M.S. or Ph.D.) conducting research on Eastern Bluebirds. Post-doctoral researchers and faculty are not eligible to apply. The applicant must be the individual conducting the research project and responsible for data analysis.

Research Categories. Research may involve, but is not limited to, the studies of life history, conservation, behavior, ecology, physiology, and genetics. Studies that involve research that increases our knowledge and understanding of bluebirds or bluebird conservation, or that contain elements that help bluebird societies solve practical field problems will be given priority over proposals that are completely theoretical in nature.

Project Evaluation Criteria. Projects will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- Degree to which the proposed research meets the purpose for a BVBS Research Grant. BVBS Research Grants are intended to support research that will facilitate conservation or enhance our knowledge of Eastern Bluebirds. As such, studies that involve bluebird conservation or contain elements that help bluebird societies solve practical field problems should be given priority over proposals that are completely theoretical in nature.
- Significance of the proposed research. Are the questions being asked relevant and important? Are the results likely to advance our knowledge of bluebird biology and/or conservation. Will the results be publishable?
- Quality of the proposed research. Is the project well-designed, is the project feasible within the proposed timeframe, is the budget practical, and are the methods appropriate to answer the proposed questions? Has the applicant considered how the data will be analyzed?
- Quality of the proposal itself. Does the proposal contain all the requested elements, is it in the requested format, and is it easy to read and understand?

Proposal Instructions. The grant application should be submitted as a PDF and cannot exceed 6 pages, which includes the cover sheet, proposal statement and budget, applicant's CV, and signed agreement. Name the PDF as follows: Bella Vista Bluebird Society Grant Application YYYY - your name.pdf. Applications must be typed using 11 or 12 pt font, one-inch margins, and may be single-spaced. Cite references within the text using the author-date format. Applications must be submitted in English. Include the following sections in order:

- 1 Cover Sheet (one page maximum)
 - Title of project
 - Name, email address, and university affiliation of the applicant
 - Name, email address, and affiliation of primary academic advisor

- Abstract - provide a concise, but specific summary of the scientific objective(s) of the proposed research, the rationale behind the objective/s, hypotheses, and expected results. This statement should stand alone and be comprehensible to a non-scientist.
 - Expected start and end dates for the project
 - Total funds requested from BVBS
- 2 Project Proposal (up to three pages including references and budget)
- 2.a Introduction
- Provide relevant background information as it pertains to this particular project.
 - Clearly state the specific objective(s) of the project.
 - Explain the uniqueness of this project, what unanswered question(s) this project will address, and the rationale for conducting the research.
 - Include the reason Eastern Bluebirds were selected as the study organism for this project as opposed to other species.
- 2.b Methods and Experimental Design
- Explain how the study will be carried out and why this approach was chosen.
 - Describe and/or list the facilities and equipment currently available to you. If this is a field study, provide location information for the study site.
 - If funding will be used for an ongoing project, provide a summary of preliminary results that have been obtained to date.
 - List any institutional, state, and/or federal permits required for this work and whether they have been secured.
- 2.c Literature Cited
- Cite references using the format in the *Journal Ornithology*. Pg. 15, drive.google.com/file/d/1f71sh9zhwl6jLPVeAGLtnNwF5mduZ_W/view
- 2.d Budget (1 page maximum)
- List budget items (i.e. itemize) and clearly indicate whether you are requesting funding for that item from BVBS or another source.
 - Provide the total budget amount for the project and the amount requested from BVBS.
 - Explain/clarify any budget items as necessary.
 - If you are applying via a university, indirect costs cannot exceed 5%.

Examples of appropriate budget item requests include: essential research related travel (e.g., to and from study sites), expendable supplies and equipment (e.g., mist nets, color-bands, radio tags, nest boxes and the like, lab equipment, and laboratory expenses if outsourced), as well as living expenses in the field.

Examples of inappropriate budget items include: routine living expenses, salary for yourself, travel to meetings, supplies and overhead normally provided by your institution, and requests for equipment with a life expectancy of longer than the project (e.g., binoculars, scopes, camping gear, and the like) unless they are to become property of the applicant's institution.

There are many helpful resources for how to write a successful grant proposal, e.g.:

- <https://americanornithology.org/ten-tips-for-applying-for-small-ornithology-grants/>
- https://americanornithology.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/Hints-for-Writing-a-Successful-Proposal_2019.pdf
- <https://conservationbytes.com/2015/05/04/twenty-tips-for-writing-a-research-proposal/>

- 3 Curriculum Vitae (one page maximum)
 - Include educational and research background
 - Include citations of papers, posters, and publications presented at meetings or in print. Do not send reprints or thesis proposals.
- 4 Signature Page: Download and sign the signature page and include it as the last page of the application.

Proposal Submissions. Submit your application via email as a single PDF file to bellavistabluebird@gmail.com. The email subject line for your email submission should read, "Bella Vista Bluebird Society Grant Application YYYY - your name", where YYYY is the current year, e.g., "Bella Vista Bluebird Society Grant Application 2022 - John Doe".

Terms. The grant award recipient will:

- Maintain accurate records of all expenditures pertaining to the grant award and submit such records to the Chair of the BVBBS Grant Committee at the end of the grant period.
- Provide a written, summarized report of the project results and/or accomplishments to the Chair of the BVBBS Grant Committee within sixty (60) days after the end of the grant period.
- Acknowledge their award from Bella Vista Bluebird Society in any publications that result from the project. Copies of any publications should be submitted to BVBBS when they become available.