2018 Impact Report
Letter from the Executive Director

After a significant increase in grant dollars to beneficiaries from 2016 to 2017, March Conservation Fund ended 2018 very close to 2017 with $1,353,276 in contributions, an increase of just $2,350 over the prior year. We maintained a similar allocation of philanthropy across our three categories of impact (Biodiversity Conservation, Environmental Education & Advocacy, and Arts, Music, and Human Social Services) both in terms of number of organizations supported and money granted. However, in 2018 there was a reduction in grants to Latin American partners as MCF made a conscious effort to expand our Biodiversity Conservation work into a new region: Southeast Asia.

The scale of threats facing the tropical forests of SE Asia exceed what is found in most of Latin America. Indeed, most of the forest is gone, and existing parks are under constant pressure from illegal logging and land grabbing, forest fires, poaching, and wildlife trafficking. The entire region has a large human population, while demand for forest products of all kinds by a growing middle-class in China has led to a crisis of extraction, much of it illegal. Wildlife trafficking in the region includes local animal products, and others (such as Elephant ivory) that are imported from distant countries by organized crime syndicates. But it also includes live animals, with the illegal trade in live birds for pets now being one of the greatest threats to many bird species in Indonesia. Over 16,000 birds of 180 species were detected in one massive market in Jakarta. Java has the highest demand, where as many as 1.8 million wild-caught songbirds are traded annually, many now coming from other islands. Indonesia’s forests are going silent. MCF made its first attempt to address these issues by supporting work in Cambodia, Thailand, and Indonesia.

Yet the immense challenges of working abroad did not distract us from our core support to more local NGOs. Be it natural history education and experiential learning, forest advocacy and climate-smart conservation, island restoration or migratory connectivity, and the ongoing fight against fossil fuel development that is expanding across the lands and waters of North America. Ultimately, we know these challenges are linked, both locally and globally, and we hope to expand our vision to meet those challenges while there is still time.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Ivan Samuels

www.marchconservationfund.org
Although 41% of the organizations we supported were in the Arts, Music, and Human Social Services category, some of our grantees in Biodiversity Conservation and Environmental Education & Advocacy re-grant funds to many more organizations.

For the first time, in 2018 grants for Biodiversity Conservation exceeded $1 million. But the overall proportion of giving to different categories was similar to past years.
Grants to Latin American grantees declined slightly in 2018 as we shifted some of our focus to Southeast Asia.

Cover Photos, clockwise from lower-left:
Roosting shorebirds in Humboldt Bay/Maribel Guevara
Volunteers with the Jocotoco Foundation, Ecuador
Glacier National Park/Caeli Quinn, Climate Ride
Araripe Manakin, Brazil/Shutterstock
McCloud Soda Springs Working Forest Conservation Easement/Pacific Forest Trust
Narupa Reserve, Napo Province, Ecuador/Jocotoco Foundation

Below: Southern Cardamom National Park, Cambodia/Ivan Samuels
Updates from the Latin American Reserve Stewardship Initiative

In collaboration with our conservation partner, American Bird Conservancy, the Latin American Reserve Stewardship Initiative (LARSI) entered its fourth year in 2018 with $352,187 in grants to eleven organizations in eight countries. Brazil led the pack, with a total of $139,356 donated to four different organizations, all of which are working to protect the highly threatened Atlantic forest and its numerous endemic and endangered species. Other grants went to Bolivia, Peru, Guatemala, Jamaica, Ecuador, Chile, and the Dominican Republic.

LARSI continues to have a meaningful impact on the capacity of these organizations to fulfill their missions. We have helped build capacity by funding personnel training, ecotourism development plans, reserve infrastructure, marketing strategies, and key salaries that relate to fundraising and reserve administration. Collectively, these grants help organizations manage the protected areas they own or are tasked with stewarding, while also improving their ability to secure financial support from other donors and maintain good reporting and records. Selected highlights from the 2018 round of LARSI grants include:

**Aquasis – Brazil:** This grant was entirely focused on the Oasis Araripe Reserve in the state of Ceará. This is home to the endangered and endemic Araripe Manakin, which was a new species to science discovered in 1996. We provided support for the reserve manager and ranger salaries, as well as partial support for a development officer that will fundraise to support ongoing stewardship of the reserve and this unique species.

**Biodiversitas – Brazil:** This year our support to this organization was very straightforward – a new truck! This vehicle will be used for all activities related to the management of the Canudos Biological Station and Reserve in the state of Bahia. Previously, the organization was dependent on a very old and unreliable vehicle. The new pickup truck now allows reserve staff to perform multiple functions with far more confidence.

**Jamaica Conservation and Development Trust – Jamaica:** This organization is contracted by the government to provide much of the stewardship and management of the Blue and John Crow Mountains National Park. For several years, MCF has been helping them improve infrastructure at key visitation points, which ultimately led to an improved visitor experience and income generation for the park through entry fees and accommodation. In 2018 our support provided site improvements at the Hollywell and Portland Gap Recreation Areas in the park, as well as salary support for their Tourism & Marketing Coordinator.

**Jocotoco Foundation – Ecuador:** MCF’s most long-standing beneficiary in Latin America (see land purchase), our support this year had two parts. First, we helped them launch a new volunteer program, including salary support for a new volunteer program coordinator. These volunteers will pay to work at select reserves, thus generating income for the organization while benefiting the reserves. And second, we provided support for a new IT Network & Cloud System to help staff that are spread throughout the country organize and share documents.

A new truck (right) made a huge difference at the Canudos Reserve, owned by Biodiversitas, home of the Lear’s Macaw.

Right: A poster promoting the improved visitor experience at the Blue & John Crow Mountains National Park, Jamaica.
Reserve expansion: MCF heads back to the Amazonian foothills

We are continuing our annual support to the Jocotoco Foundation of Ecuador to help them expand the size of their reserve network, which now includes 13 reserves located in highly threatened biodiversity hotspots. This year we returned our focus to the Narupa Reserve in Napo Province, which March Conservation Fund started in 2006 with a grant to Jocotoco for the initial land purchase there. This type of premontane tropical forest is both one of the most diverse and most threatened habitats in Ecuador, with an annual deforestation rate of 9.8%. In 2018 330 ha of land were added to the reserve, with more acquisitions planned. Of that, MCF paid for 108 ha (267 acres), but our contribution was matched by our conservation partner Rainforest Trust, thus effectively doubling our impact. As of this writing, the reserve stands at 1718 ha.

Expansion of the reserve was very strategic this year, as a new road was being constructed to access cattle pastures, which would lead to further colonization, deforestation, and fragmentation of the forests around Narupa, impeding the goal of Jocotoco to increase connectivity to the nearby Antisana Ecological Reserve. These timely acquisitions succeeded in stopping construction of the road, but also expanded the reserve in a western direction and beyond the core of the reserve. This required the addition of a third park guard. The guards here also serve as guides for visitors, and help manage the hummingbird feeders, which are now visited by 18 species. Tourism and visitation by local school groups (see photo insert) have also increased, and together with new signage and trail maintenance have turned the Narupa Reserve into a popular destination. Records of rare and threatened species are increasing. Orange-breasted Falcon, Military Macaw, and Cerulean Warbler have all been sighted recently, and Military Macaws in particular are regular now on recently acquired properties, with groups of 2-12 individuals seen almost daily. The park guards also perform regular monitoring of migratory bird species.

MCF expands work into SE Asia to fight wildlife trafficking

In 2018 March Conservation Fund funded three organizations that are working to fight wildlife trafficking in SE Asia, while simultaneously addressing the drivers of tropical deforestation that threaten the habitats where these species live. Until now, MCF has directed nearly all international funding to Latin America, and Neotropical forests continue to be our priority. However, the scale of issues facing forests in SE Asia exceeds that of Latin America. In particular, wildlife trafficking poses a huge threat to a diversity of species, even within “protected” areas. This includes animals that are killed for trade in wildlife products, and animals that are captured alive to be sold as pets. And within this latter category, the capture and sale of birds for the caged songbird trade has become a crisis, especially in Indonesia. While this is not “new news” to the conservation community, there are not enough conservation dollars being invested in the region. Thus in 2018, MCF made its first serious effort to support conservation work in SE Asia by funding proposals with three different organizations working in Cambodia, Thailand, and Indonesia respectively.

In Cambodia we supported the Southern Cardamom Forest Protection Program run by Wildlife Alliance, who has been working to protect the S Cardamom National Park since 2002 after being invited by the Cambodian Forestry Administration to conduct a rapid crisis intervention due to rampant wildlife poaching and forest clearing in the park. Since then, Wildlife Alliance in collaboration with the Cambodian military and police have dismantled and removed over 180,000 snares and nets, rescued thousands of trapped animals, confiscated thousands of chainsaws and home-made guns, and pros-
ecuted hundreds of poachers and land grabbers. Law enforcement is done in concert with the development of more sustainable alternative livelihoods such as ecotourism; see photo insert of the staff from their Chi Phat Community-based Ecotourism Project. Collectively this has both reduced deforestation and increase wildlife populations. For example, no elephants have been poached since 2006. Wildlife Alliance is now completing the Southern Cardamom REDD+ carbon project, covering 445,339 ha of the park, which will help generate long-term financial support to continue their forest protection work. Support for WA was made through our conservation partner Global Conservation.

In Thailand we have funded work to tackle the illegal and unsustainable bird trade. The work is being conducted by a Canadian NGO called Monitor Conservation Research Society in collaboration with Thai nationals and government. The work is being led by Dr. Chris Shepherd, formerly of the group TRAFFIC, who has published extensively on the bird trade in SE Asia. The project aims to address Thailand’s illegal and unsustainable songbird trade through 1) Monitoring markets and reporting illegal trade in native species to law enforcement, 2) Lobbying for increased vigilance on the part of authorities, and stronger penalties for offender, and 3) Making the case for the amendment of Thailand’s current legislation to include all CITES-listed non-native songbirds. Results so far indicate that Thailand is a far greater importer of birds than exporter, including globally threatened species. The data collected will be published in peer-reviewed papers, and will be used to identify gaps in regulation, enforcement, and prosecution and to lobby the government to exert better control over illegal songbird trade.

In Indonesia, MCF is helping address sustainability issues in and around the Gunung Niut Nature Reserve in West Kalimantan, Borneo. Our grant is helping the organization Planet Indonesia to patrol the reserve, to conduct research within the reserve, and to work with the indigenous Dayak people to mitigate resource use conflicts. By funding SMART Patrols (Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool) we are helping provide the first, if basic, law enforcement on the ground in the reserve. By funding a new research station, PI staff will have a more reliable base of operations to monitor hornbill nests and operate trail cameras. And by working in collaboration with local Dayak communities, PI has become both a stakeholder and an employer, placing them in a strong position to address tricky issues that govern how the Dayak utilize natural resources and how those uses may conflict with conservation objectives. Planet Indonesia is also working in large urban centers to close down bird shops and present alternative income opportunities to reduce the trade in songbirds, a Javanese tradition that is now popular in Borneo too. Finally, through the Oriental Bird Club (see bird conservation awards), we supported two additional projects that relate to the bird trade in Indonesia.
Climate Ride empowers participants to actively engage in the fight against climate change by completing multi-day bicycling and hiking events to fundraise for the organizations they value most, and by taking action together for the planet. So after a decade of riding and fundraising, what do they have to show for themselves? A: $5,308,014 granted to 248 projects and organizations, with 135,000 people engaged to give, serving 36 US states! Over 3,000 people from 47 states and 12 countries have participated, with nearly 40% of participants returning for another challenge. Indeed, MCF ED Ivan Samuels is now a five-time rider. The rides (and hikes) support sustainability, active transportation, and environmental causes in two main ways. First is through dollars, the money raised to support a diversity of organizations that are working to address climate change in a diversity of ways. And second is through community, as participants engage in transformational, life-changing events with a group of like-minded deep thinkers. Climate Ride has also organized over 600 advocacy meetings over the past decade and brought hundreds of people to congress to talk to their elected officials. In addition to being a repeat participant, raising money for groups like the San Francisco Bicycle Coalition and San Francisco Green Film Festival, March Conservation Fund is also a major contributor to the Annual Fund. The fund supports Community Leader Scholarships, which are prioritized for people of color, youth activists, and applicants from underserved communities. In 2018 and 2019 Climate Ride will award 20+ scholarships for community leaders who work on climate change, clean energy, environmental justice, and transportation issues.

PFT expands ecological forestry into the Pacific NW

Since 1993, the Pacific Forest Trust has been dedicated to conserving and sustaining productive forest landscapes by working with forest owners, communities, and policy makers to advance innovative, incentive-based strategies to conserve working forestlands. A land trust at heart, PFT has over 100,000 acres under easement. But this visionary organization goes well beyond easement acquisition by helping policy makers both draft and execute legislation that will provide the resources to sustainably manage our forests in a changing climate.

Two easements of note closed in 2018, adding 6,352 acres of working forests to their portfolio, both located in the Mt. Shasta area. The McCloud Soda Springs property is 1,346 acres and borders the historic lumber town of McCloud. The property was at risk of development when PFT worked with Schroll Timberlands LLC to preserve its unique natural history. Multiple streams on the property contribute to the McCloud River, which ultimately drains into the Sacramento River. PFT is helping Schroll Timberlands manage the property through sustainable forestry, fuels reduction (thus protecting the town of McCloud too), and the establishment of special habitat zones where conifer encroachment threatens unique aspen and oak forests and a volcanic soda springs complex.
The Black Butte working forest conservation easement closed at the very end of 2018. At 5,006 acres on the outskirts of the town of Weed, the site is most well known for the ancient cinder cone of Black Butte itself. Granted by the Michigan-California Timber Company, with special funding by CAL FIRE, the easement will prevent development, create a more diverse and resilient forest, retain local forestry jobs, and ultimately reduce the risk of catastrophic fire to the towns of Weed and Mt. Shasta.

Beyond easements, it was a great year for PFT. They made big strides in forest policy through passage of sponsored bill AB 2551, which directs state agencies to work with private parties to execute forest and watershed restoration goals. This builds on their earlier success in helping to pass AB 2480, which thanks to their Healthy Watersheds California work was able to establish the importance of source watersheds (and the need to restore them) in the long-term security of the state’s water supply. PFT has also been active in discussions related to climate legislation in Oregon, engaging stakeholders there in the conservation community, trade associations, private industry, and state agencies. Finally, PFT hosted a sold-out affiliate event at the Global Climate Action Summit in San Francisco, featuring a panel of leaders from California, Oregon, and Washington to pursue similar goals across state lines to manage forests for climate benefits.

Above Left: Black Butte/Cindy Diaz (Michigan-California Timber Company)
Above Right: A sign acknowledging the institutions that made it possible to acquire the McCloud Soda Springs working forest conservation easement/Pacific Forest Trust

**Researchers identify Humboldt Bay as a critically important wetland for shorebirds**

Humboldt Bay is the second largest estuary in California after San Francisco Bay. Its importance to shorebirds has long been known, yet the last attempt to conduct a bay-wide survey was in 1994. Despite some of the limitations inherent to that survey, it led to the Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network (WHSRN) recognizing Humboldt Bay as a site of International Importance. The WHSRN recognizes over 100 sites in 16 countries.

Since the 90s, the bay has increasingly faced new threats including oil spills, oyster farming operations, and now the threat of sea level rise. Efforts to protect the bay demand more current data on the number of shorebirds using intertidal habitats. Dr. Mark Colwell of Humboldt State University led the bay-wide, single-survey effort in 1994, and wanted to improve on that to get a more accurate and current count. Using a multi-observer, multi-count high-tide survey protocol designed to minimize double-counting, Colwell and his collaborators found that over 500,000 shorebirds used the bay during Spring migration 2018, mostly Western Sandpipers but 26 species in total. This led the WHSRN to recommend that Humboldt Bay be upgraded to Hemispheric Status, the highest level of importance. Even prior to this announcement, however, MCF provided a grant to Audubon California to work with Dr. Colwell and his students on a winter survey of the bay using the same protocol. A winter survey will estimate the population sizes of winter residents instead of migrants, and when combined with the Spring data will better represent shorebird use of the bay. Stay tuned for the results in our 2019 Impact Report.
Above Left: Shorebirds roost together at known spots during high tide at Humboldt Bay. Estimating total numbers for the bay therefore requires simultaneous counts at all known roost sites/Maribel Guevara
Above Right: Drone shot showing the contrast between the brosa plot (above red line) and control plot (below red line)/Zak Zahawi and Rebecca Cole, Organization for Tropical Studies

**Update from the field: The use of coffee waste to jump-start tropical reforestation**

In our 2017 Impact Report, we discussed a study funded by MCF and conducted by the Organization for Tropical Studies in Costa Rica where coffee waste (locally called “brosa”) was spread 0.5 meter deep over abandoned pasture, land that once held lush tropical forest. This project was inspired by another study in Costa Rica 20 years prior where orange peel was used for the same purpose. The idea is to use nutrient-rich organic waste to speed up the process of reforestation by smothering pasture grasses while providing an ideal compost for shrub and tree species to colonize on their own.

As reported last year, the researchers made square plots 15x15 meters in size, and while this did increase shrub recruitment, invasive pasture grasses invaded from the sides. Ultimately, the effect of the brosa was not very strong because of the heavy grass invasion. They hypothesized that the plots need to be significantly larger in order to eliminate grass for enough time for woody plants to establish and begin attracting seed dispersing birds.

In the second phase of this project they experimented with a larger, 20X30 meter plot, and the results were dramatic (see photo). After six months there was dense establishment of early successional woody seedlings in the brosa plot, but mostly pasture grass in the adjacent control plot. And after 10 months, woody seedlings dominated the brosa plot, with some reaching five meters in height. This is therefore a very promising tropical forest restoration tool, although with limitations. The brosa is free, but requires transportation by truck and ideally a tractor to spread it, factors that may rule out this method on steep terrain.

**Promising young scientists find career-building opportunities in California**

March Conservation Fund recognizes the importance of capacity building at both individual and institutional levels. Promising young conservation professionals often lack opportunities to build up their careers, while promising young conservation organizations often lack the capacity to secure long-term support, and this is sometimes due to lack of leadership. Capacity building at the individual level helps to cultivate the next generation of scientists and conservationists to lead the organizations we support. So for the past several years, MCF has helped support promising young leaders from developing countries by funding fellowships for them to travel to California and work with both peers and senior scientists at both The Institute for Bird Populations and Point Blue Conservation Science. Both opportunities provided hands on training in bird-bandaging techniques and other ecological field methods.
This year’s recipient with IBP was Stefanny Villagomez from Nayarit, Mexico. Stefanny had worked at two MoSI (Monitoring Overwinter Survival) Program stations in Western Mexico. The IBP MoSI program is the Latin American counterpart to the MAPS (Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship) Program that has more than 1,200 bird banding stations across the USA and Canada. After initially staying eight weeks at the South Sierra Research Station, Stefanny joined a MAPS crew in Yosemite National Park where she had an opportunity to refine her ornithology skills, often working with breeding bird species that spend the winter where she lives and bands birds in Mexico. She found it to be a very valuable opportunity to share experiences with other banders, and to learn more about the protocols of banding, handling, and molt cycles of birds. Towards the end of her stay, she gave a presentation to Yosemite National Park Natural Resources staff. This kind of cross-pollination effort between MoSI and MAPS is helping connect the people behind the programs, much the way migration connects the birds themselves between both regions. MCF also funded IBP to provide micro-grants to purchase bird banding supplies for MoSI stations in Latin America.

And Point Blue Conservation Science was honored to work with Françoise Benjamin from Haiti. After studying Natural Resources at Quisqueya University, Françoise learned about the long-term bird banding program at the Palomarin Field Station, one of Point Blue’s keystone datasets. Despite limited English, she applied and was accepted, and soon found Bolinas, CA to be her home for the summer. Point Blue staff welcomed her with open arms, and she soon felt at home and began to engage and learn like never before. In particular, she was surprised the opportunity brought so much more than birds, like the opportunity to interact with other scientists and participate in presentations. In her own words “Apart from teaching me how to work with birds, I learned to become a true professional here, sometimes I even think that I am a soldier, it may sound funny but it’s true. By following the way people organize things here, I also learned things that will help me when I go back to Haiti to implement my plan so I can achieve my goals.” Support for her fellowship was part of a larger grant to Point Blue to support migratory connectivity research (see below) and the Palomarin Field Station.

Left: Françoise Benjamin from Haiti holding a Sharp-shinned Hawk/ Sarah Fensore
Right: Stefanny Villagomez from Mexico in Yosemite NP/Ivan Samuels

Revisiting a decade of migratory connectivity research supported by MCF

Over the past decade, MCF has been helping Point Blue Conservation Science and their collaborators conduct migratory connectivity research on birds in California. Migratory connectivity is the degree to which individuals that breed in a given area migrate to the same wintering area. See MCF 2016 and 2017 Impact Reports for more details. This form of research has skyrocketed over the past 10 years due to advances in technology that now allow us to track the movements of small songbird species, although you still often need to recapture the bird to retrieve the tag. Entirely unknown migratory behaviors have been discovered, and researchers are starting to gain a deeper understanding of the entire lifecycles of migratory birds, such as the habitats they occupy during the non-breeding season and the migratory routes they use. Below is a list of the primary literature that resulted from studies that were either partly or entirely funded by MCF.


Fraser, K. C., Roberto-Charron, A., Cousens, B., Simmons, M., Nightingale, A., Shave, A., Cormier, R.L., and Humple, D.L. 2018. Classic pattern of leap-frog migration in Sooty Fox Sparrow (Passerella iliaca unalascensis) is not supported by direct migration tracking of individual birds. The Auk 134: 572-582.


In addition, MCF funding indirectly helped Point Blue scientists contribute to three other publications in this field by helping to position the organization as an early contributor to migratory connectivity research. In our 2017 Impact Report, we also promised to report back on the results of GPS tags that were placed on Black-headed Grosbeaks. This was a collaborative effort with Point Blue Conservation Science tagging birds in Marin County, CA and The Institute for Bird Populations tagging the same species in Yosemite. Unfortunately, Black-headed Grosbeaks proved hard to recapture! Just one bird from each location was recaptured. The limited results show the species wintering in Western Mexico close to where previous tagging by IBP had tracked them.
Birds of Prey Get Their Day: The Data Analysis & Publication Fund of the Golden Gate Raptor Observatory

For over 30 years the Golden Gate Raptor Observatory (GGRO) has been a program of the Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy in cooperation with the National Park Service. The Observatory conducts long-term studies of the seasonal movements of birds of prey (raptors), mostly over “Hawk Hill” in the Marin headlands near the Golden Gate Bridge. They are also committed to education, with hundreds of volunteers and interns dedicating their time to tally and band birds, while Hawk Hill itself has served as an outdoor classroom to thousands of visitors.

Over the years, the GGRO collected immense amounts of data, and in 2004 they established the Data Analysis and Publication Fund (DAP), a restricted account that could continue from year to year to support the “organization and analysis, presentation and publication of GGRO data, science, and resulting stories so that they may be seen, valued, checked, and distributed to the world.” Enthusiasm for the DAP was high, and to date nearly 40 peer-reviewed publications have resulted. MCF has been supporting the DAP for several years now.

One of the benefits of the GGRO is that raptors are not just counted flying over, but are also captured and banded, and sometimes are fitted with radio-telemetry or satellite tracking devices. But there’s more, as birds in the hand also allow you to take blood and feather samples, and take detailed measurements. In fact, over 100,000 data points of raptor measurements have been collected since 1983. These kinds of data allow researchers to ask more detailed genetic and ecotoxicology questions. In 2018, publications, presentations, and submitted manuscripts by the GGRO included studies on the effects of mercury and anticoagulant rodenticides, use of stable isotope analyses to track migratory patterns, and even prey identification through DNA analyses of tissue collected from the beaks and talons of raptors in the hand! Photo: Rachel Miller with a Ferruginous Hawk/Theresa Ely.

MCF support to the ornithological societies listed below helps fund research on threatened bird species around the world, and the four species shown above were profiled in 2018 proposals. From left to right: Southern Ground Hornbill, Gray-crowned Crane, Yellow-breasted Bunting, and White-headed Duck/Shutterstock.

2018 bird conservation awards around the world

MCF continues to be a lead supporter of four British ornithological societies that each administer a conservation awards program to provide small grants for projects that seek to identify and mitigate the threats to declining bird species. With the help of expert review committees, hundreds of proposals are vetted each year, with the top ranked applicants receiving funding in the range of $1,500-$5,000.

In 2018, MCF helped fund or entirely funded projects in 20 countries totaling $80,500 in grants. These include:

**African Bird Club**

Gladys Kung’u (Kenya) – Status of the Hinde Babbler (*Turdoides hindei*) in Nairobi

Wanyoike Wamiti (Kenya) – Status of Gray-crowned Crane (*Balearica regulorum*) at Lake Oi’Bołossat

Merlyn Nkomo (Zimbabwe) – Status of Southern Ground Hornbill (*Bucorvus leadbeateri*) in the Matobo Hills
Rogers Makau (Kenya) – Status of Gray-crowned Crane (*Balearica regulorum*) in the Lake Victoria basin
Jonah Gula (Zambia) – Population demography of the Saddle-billed Stork (*Ephippiorhynchus senegalensis*)
Samuel Bakari (Kenya) – Population study of Sharpe’s Longclaw (*Hemimacronyx sharpie*)
John Salehe (Tanzania) – Raising bird conservation awareness in Tanzania
Jim Kairu (Namibia) – Breeding ecology of Southern Carmine Bee-eaters (*Merops nubicoides*)

**Ornithological Society of the Middle East the Caucasus and Central Asia**
Victor Fedosov (Russia) – Monitoring Sociable Lapwing (*Vanellus gregarius*) Migration through the Kuomo-Manych depression
Cansu Özcan (Turkey) – Breeding Success of the Imperial Eagle (*Aquila heliaca*) in the Dörtdivan-Gerede Region
Nurlan Mammadli and Saida Valadzada (Azerbaijan) – Besh Barmag Bird Camp and Migration Count
Robert J. Burnside (Uzbekistan) – The Breeding Ecology of the Turkestan Ground Jay (*Podoces panderi*)
Karen Aghababyan (Armenia) – Modelling population of White-headed Duck (*Oxyura leucocephala*) in the socio-economic context of carp-farms of Armenia

**Oriental Bird Club**
Bas van Balen (Indonesia) – Repeating historic Javan White-eye (*Zosterops flavus*) surveys (2006-2009) to measure the impacts of bird trapping and habitat loss in coastal Java
Mitra Pandey (Nepal) – Establishing a monitoring program for Yellow-breasted buntings (*Emberiza aureola*) and studying their ecology and threats on their wintering grounds
Dorji (Bhutan) – establishing a structured baseline monitoring program for waterbirds and habitat condition at the Gangtsey-Phobji Ramsar wetland
Harry Marshall (Indonesia) – Interview-based surveys to understand the demand for wild-caught birds and identify ways in which adverse impacts on wild populations can be mitigated
Muhammad Kabir (Pakistan) – Importance of the Tarbela Lake for migrating waterbirds
Tulsi Subedi (Nepal) – GPS-tracking of the recently-split Indian Spotted Eagle (*Clanga hastata*) on its breeding grounds
Hari Basnet (Nepal) – Status and ecology of Wood Snipe (*Gallinago nemoricola*) in Langtang National Park
Siqi Liang (China) – Studying the impacts on birds of overgrazing in montane forests

**Neotropical Bird Club**
Nestor Delgado (Colombia) – Distribution, presence, and important areas for the Yellow-headed Manakin (*Chloropipo flavicapilla*) in the Eastern Andes
Facundo Barbar (Argentina) – Actualization of the conservation status and threats to Crested Eagles (*Morphnus guianensis*) and their environment in Northern Argentina
Tatiana Galluppi (Paraguay) – Conservation actions for the Ibera Seedeater (*Sporophila iberaensis*): An endangered species in Paraguay

Maria Florencia Pucheta (Argentina) – Colony guardians for the Saffron-cowled Blackbird (*Xanthopsar flavus*)

Emerciano Rivera (Mexico) – Non-traditional conservation schemes to protect pine-oak forests and habitats for Neotropical-Nearctic migratory and resident bird species in Chiapas

Bennett Hennessey (Bolivia) – Defining the optimal conservation stronghold for the Critically Endangered Horned Curassow (*Pauxi unicornis*)

Yohana Lopera Salazar (Colombia) – Status, ecology, and conservation of the Antioquia Brush-finch (*Atlapetes blancae*) in northern Antioquia

Fernando Medrano (Chile) – Nest sites and conservation of Ringed Storm-Petrel (*Oceanodroma [Hydrobates] hornbyi*) in the Atacama Desert

**In 2018, March Conservation Fund also supported the following organizations working in biodiversity conservation, environmental education, or advocacy**

- UCSC Foundation
- The Bird School Project
- Friends of Hakalau Forest NWR
- GG National Parks Conservancy
- Island Conservation
- Forestry Educators Incorporated
- Appalachian Voices
- Bay Nature Institute
- Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center
- The San Francisco Foundation, YANF
- Nature in the City
- Mendocino Land Trust
- Land Trust Alliance
- San Francisco Parks Alliance
- Cornell Lab of Ornithology
- RARE
- WildAid
- Earthjustice
- Natural Resources Defense Council