The Partners in Flight Awards Program Nomination Guidelines

Description

The landbird mission of Partners in Flight (PIF) is keeping common birds common and helping species at risk through voluntary partnerships. PIF has been recognizing outstanding individuals and groups for their efforts in landbird conservation and management since 1996. PIF Awards recognize exceptional contributions to the field of landbird conservation in the Americas.

Nominees will be considered who have significantly furthered the mission of PIF and its goal of protecting priority migratory and resident landbirds and their habitats. To be eligible, projects or activities must have been initiated after 1990. Nominees will be evaluated in five award categories: Leadership, Investigations, Public Awareness, Stewardship, and the David N. Pashley Lifetime Achievement Award. All category descriptions remain the same.

The Nomination Process

Before submitting a nomination please read these guidelines, which include the description of each category so you can select the most appropriate category for your nominee. Also check the List of Previous PIF Award Winners to make sure your nominee has not previously received a PIF Award. Complete one nomination form, using the Word document, for the category you have selected in which to nominate an individual or group. If the nomination is for an individual who works as part of a group, provide examples of the specific accomplishments of that individual within the context of the larger group effort.

Because the success of a nomination depends greatly on its quality and thoroughness, please read carefully and provide all information requested in the nomination form. Provide specific examples reflecting firsthand knowledge of the nominee's accomplishments relative to the selected award category. Do not assume that your nominee's accomplishments are known to reviewers, and avoid relying on references to other information sources such as website links. Ensure that you have contacted, in advance, three people familiar with the nominee, to discuss or collaborate on the submitted nomination. Explain fully the significance of the nominee's accomplishments, and identify clearly the scale of those accomplishments. Add space as needed to fully answer each nomination section. The nomination must stand on its own merit. **No PDFs.**

If you have questions about the nomination process or form, or about the appropriate category for your nomination, contact Carol Beidleman, PIF Awards Committee Chair, at cbeidleman@environmentamericas.org. Please do this sufficiently in advance of the deadline to allow for timely assistance.

Your nomination must be emailed to Carol by **the deadline of 5 p.m. Mountain Standard Time on Tuesday, January 12, 2027**, at cbeidleman@environmentamericas.org. Nominations submitted after this deadline will not be considered, and any issues related to a nomination submitted last minute will not be able to be remedied.

The Selection Process

PIF takes pride in recognizing outstanding individuals or groups for their efforts. As such, we have assembled an Awards Committee with a broad range of experience and expertise within the bird conservation community. The Awards Committee Chair is responsible for announcing the awards process, soliciting nominations from the bird conservation community, and managing the review and selection of nominees for awards by the Committee. The Committee members vote individually and make their recommendations to the Chair. Once

all votes are compiled, the Committee arrives at a consensus for all award winners. After decisions are made the nominators will be notified of the outcome of their nomination. The Committee reserves the right to reassign a nomination to a different category from which it was originally submitted.

Award Categories

Leadership: An individual or group that demonstrates outstanding guidance and direction that contributes, or has contributed to, advancing PIF conservation efforts. This award can apply to a range of levels, from individual projects to large programmatic efforts, but should have far-reaching implications at least at the Bird Conservation Region level. Examples could include creation of or participation in significant partnerships, demonstration of leadership skills at a regional, national, or international level, or coordinating groups and individuals with diverse interests and expertise to effectively plan and implement bird conservation efforts.

Investigations: An individual or group that conducts outstanding research and/or contributes scientific data and interpretations that improve our understanding of avian ecology, habitat management, or other scientific factors important to the PIF initiative. Important criteria include the advancement of scientific knowledge, refinement of inventory, monitoring or scientific research methodologies, and development of models and other methods of interpreting scientific data to benefit bird conservation planning and implementation. These efforts should be applicable to regional, national or international conservation efforts, with a focus on priority bird species and habitats.

Public Awareness: Activities by an individual or group that contribute significantly to increasing the public's awareness and appreciation for birds, their habitats, or the need for conservation. Proposals will be judged based on the development of outreach efforts that enlist volunteers and promote public education. Emphasis will be placed on the effectiveness of the nominee to reach beyond the local level to a state, Bird Conservation Region, or national level.

Stewardship: An individual or group that contributes significantly to the management, conservation, or restoration of landbird habitat or priority species. Important criteria could include incorporation of a priority habitat in a stewardship program, designation of protected status for a reserve, designation of Important Bird Areas, development and implementation of Bird Conservation Plans, or conservation of significant stopover habitat.

David N. Pashley Lifetime Achievement: An individual who has made outstanding contributions, consistently over the entirety of his or her career of 15 or more years, to advancing PIF's mission, bird conservation efforts for PIF priority birds and habitats, and/or through PIF's various committees or working groups. These contributions may have been made through leadership, investigations, public awareness and/or stewardship activities, as described in the other awards categories.

Recognition

Award recipients are presented their awards in front of an audience of their peers, either physically or virtually.