

## **The Pamela and Alexander F. Skutch Research Award for Studies in Avian Natural History, Association of Field Ornithologists**

The Fund was established by Dr. and Mrs. Skutch following the joint meeting of the Association of Field Ornithologists, Asociacion Ornitologica de Costa Rica, and the American Birding Association in San Jose, Costa Rica, in 1997. At that meeting, Dr. Skutch was honored by AFO for more than sixty years of contributions to Neotropical ornithology by the creation of the Skutch medal for excellence in field ornithology.

Dr. Skutch is known for his hundreds of scientific papers and more than forty books, focused on the behavior and life histories of birds. His intention in establishing the fund was to support the kind of research to which he devoted his life, and especially, to encourage studies by people who live in the new world tropics.

**Purpose of the Award:** To support the study, with a minimum of disturbance, life histories, especially social relations and reproduction, of little known birds of the Continental Neotropics including Trinidad and Tobago.

**Guidelines:** Proposals dealing with theoretical hypothesis testing will not be ranked as highly as those emphasizing empirical data collection on little known species. Emphasis should be on field work involving close observation to elucidate the natural history of little known species.

**Eligibility:** The award of grants from the Fund should be adequate for the intended study to avoid the need to seek additional funding elsewhere. The grantee may be an amateur or professional ornithologist of any nationality. It is highly desirable that he or she has some previous experience of the region and birds (and if possible, the locality) where he or she will study. Studies sponsored by the Fund should be published in scientific journals. In addition, publication of less technical accounts in popular journals or books should be encouraged.

**Frequency and Amount:** One award of \$8,000-10,000 is offered annually. **Applications may be submitted in English, Spanish, or Portuguese.**

**Applications:** Applicants must submit, by **January 7<sup>th</sup> annually**, a completed application form (see below), a one-page resume, one letter of reference, and a research proposal (maximum 3 single-spaced pages). The letter of reference should be from a professional who is qualified to judge the applicant's ability to perform the proposed research. If the applicant is a student, the letter should be from the advisor, who should indicate if the research is toward a higher degree. The 3-page research proposal should include: purpose of the study, methods to be used, literature citations, and a budget outlining total costs. Please do not exceed the 3-page limit. The Committee considers need, so a statement can be included as to the probability of the project's completion if the Skutch Award is not received

**The Pamela and Alexander F. Skutch Research Award  
Application Form, Association of Field Ornithologists, Inc.**

A complete application should include **three copies** (if the application is submitted electronically, please send only **one copy**) of each of the following: (1) this two-page form; (2) a research proposal, maximum 3 single-spaced pages; (3) one letter of endorsement; (4) a current resume or CV.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS:

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TELEPHONE: \_\_\_\_\_  
SOCIAL SEC. # OR OTHER ID  
NUMBER (SPECIFY KIND OF ID):

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EMAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

FAX: \_\_\_\_\_

Brief biographical information including academic degrees and current occupation:

TITLE OF STUDY:

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DURATION OF STUDY:

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NAME AND ADDRESS OF REFERENCE (WHO SHALL SUPPLY LETTER):

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## Skutch Award Application -2-

NAME OF APPLICANT:

### **PROPOSAL & BUDGET**

Include an itemized listing of proposed expenditures and a justification for these. The request from this fund should not exceed \$10,000. Awards may be for less than this amount. The proposal should include:

- 1) A statement of objectives;
- 2) Methods and procedures;
- 3) Facilities available for the project, including where the study will be carried out;
- 4) A discussion of the scientific or conservation-related significance of the proposed study;
- 5) A statement describing other funds available for this study and whether this proposal has been submitted to other funding sources.

The proposal should not exceed **3 single-spaced pages**.

The completed application and copies must be e-mailed (preferred) or post marked on or before January 7<sup>th</sup> annually and sent to:

Elissa Landre, Chair  
Skutch Award Committee  
Broadmoor Wildlife Sanctuary  
280 Eliot St.  
Natick, MA 01760 USA  
e-mail: [elandre@massaudubon.org](mailto:elandre@massaudubon.org)