

## **Birders Exchange, Sharing Tools Saving Birds A Program Across The Americas**

**Dear Colleagues**

**Birders' Exchange is an organization that collects used equipment and books to donate to scientists, educators, students and naturalist guides throughout the Caribbean, Central America and South America. This on-going program has two primary goals:**

- 1. To provide material support for organizations that are conducting research or are involved in conservation and public education about birds and their habitats**
- 2. To increase the flow of information about bird conservation efforts between grassroots organizations throughout the Western Hemisphere**

**We are now accepting requests for material assistance. The following materials may be available depending upon the current Birders' Exchange inventory:**

- Good used binoculars**
- Spotting scopes with tripods, if available**
- Field guides and ornithological reference books, including Spanish language editions, if available.**
- Backpacks**

**We also accept requests for other types of research and education equipment, such as camera equipment, sound recording equipment and laptop computers, which are only occasionally available.**

**We have enclosed the Birders' Exchange application. Preference is given to organizations engaged in research or conservation work on migrant or resident birds and their habitat preservation.**

**Once you have received a grant of Birders' Exchange equipment, there is a two-year waiting period before another application can be considered for any individual or organization.**

**We also ask groups receiving assistance from Birders' Exchange to provide photographs and printed materials about their work if possible. Publication of photos and reports posted on the Birders' Exchange web site, and in publications, help us solicit more donations for Birders' Exchange, and help inform the North American public about the significant research and conservation work being done by Latin American and Caribbean groups.**

**Please do not send photos that you do not wish to have published because of copyright laws or for any other reason. Please make certain that you indicate the name of the person who took the photos so that we can credit the photographer.**

**It is expected that the American Birding Association's Birders' Exchange program be acknowledged in any publication resulting in whole or in part from the grant.**

**Best Regards,**

**Betty Petersen,  
Program Director Birders' Exchange**

## **APPLICATION GUIDELINES**

- 1. Fill out Birders' Exchange application form.**
- 2. Write a 1 - 3 page proposal (in English or Spanish) that addresses the following points:**
  - a. Give a brief history of your organization or project. When and why was it formed? How many paid and/or volunteer employees are on your staff? Are you a registered and/or tax exempt organization?**
  - b. How does your organization work to preserve migrant and resident birds and/or their habitats? If you are an academic researcher or student, describe why your project is important to bird conservation, and what new information it will provide.**
  - c. Explain specifically the need for equipment, field guides, reference books, etc. How will they be used?**
  - d. If more than one item is requested, please list in order of importance.**
- 3. Give names, addresses, phone numbers and email addresses of one or more references who are familiar with your organization or research project. Students should include a letter from their academic advisor.**
- 4. If possible, include photographs and/or printed materials that show your work. We can use those materials to publicize your work and to solicit donations From North American birders.**
- 5. IMPORTANT Please advise us on the best way to deliver valuable materials (such as binoculars) to your organization. Be as detailed as possible. Your ability to help arrange for delivery of materials will affect our evaluation of your proposal. Let us know if representatives of your organization will be traveling to the U.S. or if you know of U.S. researchers who may be traveling to your area who can act as couriers.**
- 6. Organizations receiving equipment from Birders' Exchange are required to provide within three months a report detailing their activities. The report should explain the bird conservation programs and projects that applicants are involved in. These reports also help us solicit further donations.**

## Birders' Exchange Application Form

Name of Organization/Principal Investigator:

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Official Contact Person:

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Address to which correspondence should be sent:

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Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

In order of priority, list the materials you are requesting:

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Can your organization give the name and address of someone leaving the U.S., who can hand-carry the donations directly to you? This is the most effective means of delivery. We do not mail donations to any country outside of the United States. For shipping purposes please provide a courier's name, street address, telephone number, e-mail address and the date the courier is leaving the U.S.

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Please remember to include the 1 – 3 page report about your work. Your application will not be reviewed or considered complete without it.

Proposals or inquiries should be sent to:

Betty Petersen  
Birders' Exchange Program Director  
bpetersen@aba.org  
American Birding Association  
P.O. Box 686  
Hanson, MA 02341  
[www.americanbirding.org/bex](http://www.americanbirding.org/bex)