



Request for Interest (RFI): Grant Opportunities for Recovery of Tipping Point Species

Issued by: [Road to Recovery](#)

Date: December 16, 2025

Responses due: January 30, 2026

Submit to: R2R@georgetown.edu

Email subject: R2R RFI – Tipping Point Species Recovery

1. Background

In response to the documented loss of nearly 3 billion North American birds since 1970 (Rosenberg et al. 2019), the Road to Recovery (R2R) initiative was established to help the most rapidly declining birds called "[Tipping Point Species](#)."

R2R supports Working Groups by providing tools (such as the [Species Recovery Progress Wheel](#)) and collaborative frameworks that help integrate biological research, social science, and co-production into recovery; by strengthening capacity; and by offering financial support when funding opportunities are available.

2. Opportunity

R2R invites responses from existing and emerging multi-institutional Working Groups interested in applying for a grant to accelerate recovery of a Tipping Point Species (see eligibility details below). This RFI precedes an invitational RFP process. Responses will help R2R gauge readiness, refine funding priorities, and tailor technical support across stages of the recovery process.

R2R anticipates future opportunities to support Working Groups focused on Tipping Point Species and will share information about new funding or workshop participation opportunities as they become available.

3. Program Overview

R2R will offer three tiers of grants to align support with a Working Group's current capacity and stage of progress toward species recovery (see Table 1).



Table 1. Three Tiers of Grant Support

| Tier | Description | Duration of Award | Funding Level |
|---|---|-------------------|-----------------------------|
| <p>Tier 1 <i>Developing and Organizing</i></p> | <p>Focus: Early-stage teams forming around a Tipping Point species</p> <p>Needs: Initial coordination, leadership structure, in-person meetings, in-person workshops, identification of key partners</p> <p>Example Activities: Convene founding in-person meeting with facilitation, develop charter, procure translation services, undertake R2R Recovery Wheel self-assessment, create an initial recovery plan outline</p> | <p>1 year</p> | <p>Up to \$25,000</p> |
| <p>Tier 2 <i>Advancing Toward Recovery</i></p> | <p>Focus: Teams with established partnerships needing coordination or targeted technical support</p> <p>Needs: Coordinator support, targeted research, training, facilitation for strategic planning</p> <p>Example Activities: Hire part-time coordinator, fill critical data gaps, move through Wheel stages toward conservation action</p> | <p>1-3 years</p> | <p>Up to \$50,000/year</p> |
| <p>Tier 3 <i>Implementing Recovery</i></p> | <p>Focus: Teams ready for on-the-ground conservation actions</p> <p>Needs: Partnership engagement, communications, implementation funding</p> <p>Example Activities: Implement limiting-factor mitigation in the field, engage partner network in recovery efforts, conduct outreach, monitor social and biological outcomes</p> | <p>3 years</p> | <p>Up to \$100,000/year</p> |



4. Who May Apply

Responses are invited from Working Groups that meet the following minimum criteria:

- **Species Focus:**
 - Tier 1: Any U.S., Canada, Latin America, and Caribbean–based groups working on any [Tipping Point Species](#). (See Table 2)
 - Tier 2: Any U.S., Canada, Latin America, and Caribbean–based groups working on grassland bird or shorebird Tipping Point Species. (See Table 3)
 - Tier 3: Any U.S., Canada, Latin America, and Caribbean–based groups working on grassland bird or shorebird Tipping Point Species. (See Table 3)
- **Group Structure:** Led by or affiliated with a multi-institutional Working Group representing diverse expertise and skills (biological, social, management, and/or community-based).
- **Purpose:** Demonstrates the potential to advance species recovery through planning and/or implementation.
- **Framework:** Uses or commits to using the R2R [Species Recovery Progress Wheel](#) for self-assessment, reporting, and planning.

Preference for Working Groups that:

- Focus on the most urgent need (e.g., [Avian Conservation Assessment Database \(ACAD\)](#) Red-Alert/Watch List and Orange-Alert).
- Represent collaboration across geographies, sectors, and disciplines (including Global South partners where applicable).
- Demonstrate attention to inclusivity and equitable participation in leadership and decision-making.
- Have or are developing partnerships that link biological and social approaches to recovery.

Only tax-exempt organizations, such as 501(c)(3) nonprofits or government entities, will be eligible for R2R grant funds.

If you are interested in a Tier 2 or Tier 3 grant, but your Working Group is focused on other types of Tipping Point Species, please contact R2R (R2R@georgetown.edu) to directly share the information requested in this RFI so R2R can contact you as additional funding opportunities arise.



5. Submission Instructions

To help R2R understand team readiness, please complete your RFI using the sections outlined below. When finished, email your completed RFI to R2R@georgetown.edu by **January 30, 2026**. Include “*R2R RFI – [Species Name] Working Group*” in the email subject line. Submit in Word file format, with 1” margins and 12-pt equivalent font. Please limit your submission to 3 pages maximum.

Questions may be directed to Emily Siegel, R2R Project Manager (R2R@georgetown.edu). R2R will host a virtual forum for questions related to this opportunity on Wednesday January 7, 2026 at 4pm EST. Registration information can be found here: [RFI Informational Forum Registration](#)

Response Outline:

1. **Team Overview:**
 - Primary contact information (name, email, phone)
 - Species information and geography
 - Brief description of the working group, species name, and lead institutions
2. **Scientific Factors:**
 - What is known about your species’ limiting factors or threats?
3. **Human Dimensions Factors:**
 - How will your working group integrate social science, community participation, and/or local/traditional knowledge?
4. **Engagement with the R2R Framework to date:**
 - Has your working group used the [R2R Recovery Wheel](#)? If so, please include it as an Excel file with your RFI response. The attached wheel will not count towards the 3-page limit.
5. **Tier:**
 - Which Tier (1, 2, or 3) best describes your working group’s current phase? Why? For Tier 3 groups, please reference the R2R Recovery Wheel.
6. **Needs:**
 - What support or capacity would most effectively advance your work (e.g., convening, coordination, field research, implementation)? Please provide your top 3 needs in bullet point format.
7. **Anticipated Outcomes:**
 - What outcomes or milestones do you expect to achieve in the next 1-3 years with R2R support? Please provide 3 anticipated outcomes in bullet point format.

6. Next Steps

Upon receipt of the RFI, eligible groups whose work aligns with R2R and funder priorities may be invited to submit full proposals or participate in follow-up discussions to refine scope, budgets, and support needs.

Data privacy: All RFI materials will be shared only with R2R staff and advisors for review and program design.



Table 2. Eligible **Tier 1** Tipping Point Species

| Red-Alert Species (44) | Orange-Alert Species (36) | Yellow-Alert Species (32) |
|--|--|---|
| Mottled Duck Steller's Eider Spectacled Eider Greater Sage-Grouse Gunnison Sage-Grouse Greater Prairie-Chicken Lesser Prairie-Chicken Allen's Hummingbird Ridgway's Rail Black Rail Whooping Crane Wilson's Plover Mountain Plover Bristle-thighed Curlew Hudsonian Godwit Kittlitz's Murrelet Scripps's Murrelet Guadalupe Murrelet Craveri's Murrelet Yellow-billed Loon Townsend's Storm-Petrel Ashy Storm-Petrel Band-rumped Storm-Petrel Cape Verde [Fea's] Petrel Bermuda Petrel Black-capped Petrel Hawaiian Petrel ('Ua'u) Pink-footed Shearwater Red-faced Cormorant California Condor Florida Scrub-Jay Yellow-billed Magpie Bendire's Thrasher LeConte's Thrasher Bicknell's Thrush Brown-capped Rosy-Finch Cassia Crossbill Chestnut-collared Longspur Thick-billed Longspur Bachman's Sparrow Saltmarsh Sparrow Baird's Sparrow Tricolored Blackbird Golden-cheeked Warbler | King Eider Long-tailed Duck Black Swift Chimney Swift Rufous Hummingbird King Rail Black-bellied Plover American Golden-Plover Piping Plover Hudsonian Whimbrel Short-billed Dowitcher Long-billed Dowitcher Lesser Yellowlegs Greater Yellowlegs Ruddy Turnstone Red Knot Stilt Sandpiper Buff-breasted Sandpiper Sanderling Pectoral Sandpiper Semipalmated Sandpiper Dovekie Short-billed Gull Western Gull Great Black-backed Gull Glaucous Gull Least Tern Pelagic Cormorant Sprague's Pipit Evening Grosbeak Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch LeConte's Sparrow Eastern Towhee Bobolink Kirtland's Warbler Pyrrhuloxia | Northern Pintail Black Scoter Eastern Whip-poor-will Yellow Rail American Oystercatcher Snowy Plover Bar-tailed Godwit Wandering Tattler Rock Sandpiper Marbled Murrelet Ivory Gull Horned Grebe Short-tailed Albatross Manx Shearwater Sargasso [Audubon's] Shearwater Reddish Egret Spotted Owl Red-cockaded Woodpecker Olive-sided Flycatcher Pinyon Jay Wood Thrush Black Rosy-Finch Black-chinned Sparrow Field Sparrow Harris's Sparrow Sagebrush Sparrow Henslow's Sparrow Chihuahuan Meadowlark Golden-winged Warbler Cerulean Warbler Prairie Warbler Grace's Warbler |



Table 3. Eligible **Tier 2 and Tier 3** Grassland and Shorebird Tipping Point Species*

| Red-Alert Species (10) | Orange-Alert Species (18) | Yellow-Alert Species (9) |
|--|--|--|
| Shorebird Species | | |
| Wilson's Plover Mountain Plover Bristle-thighed Curlew Hudsonian Godwit | Piping Plover Black-bellied Plover American Golden-Plover Ruddy Turnstone Red Knot Hudsonian Whimbrel Short-billed Dowitcher Long-billed Dowitcher Lesser Yellowlegs Greater Yellowlegs Stilt Sandpiper Buff-breasted Sandpiper Sanderling Pectoral Sandpiper Semipalmated Sandpiper | American Oystercatcher Snowy Plover Wandering Tattler Bar-tailed Godwit Rock Sandpiper |
| Grassland Species | | |
| Greater Prairie-Chicken Lesser Prairie-Chicken Chestnut-collared Longspur Thick-billed Longspur Bachman's Sparrow Baird's Sparrow | Sprague's Pipit Bobolink LeConte's Sparrow | Field Sparrow Harris's Sparrow Henslow's Sparrow Chihuahuan Meadowlark |

*If you have questions about the classification of your species, please reach out to R2R@georgetown.edu.

Key Resources:

Tipping Point Species List: <https://r2rbirds.org/tipping-point-species/>

R2R Species Recovery Wheel: <https://r2rbirds.org/resources/species-recovery-wheel/>