

2026 Appleton-Whittell Research Ranch Fellowships

Now accepting applications at the Appleton-Whittell Research Ranch of the National Audubon Society!

Your Research Supports Our Mission

At Audubon Southwest, we seek science-based solutions to the biggest threats facing the region's birds, other wildlife, habitats, and communities. We need sound science to tell us what birds need, and we believe that securing conservation wins tomorrow depends on fostering a young, diverse cohort of aspiring scientists today.

That is why we are again announcing our annual Appleton-Whittell Research Fellowships! Through this program, we offer support to young scientists embarking on research with the potential to further Frank and Ariel Appleton's founding mission of the Research Ranch – to leave the land better than we found it. Supported research includes but is not limited to studies focused on:

- Grassland conservation
- Arizona Species of Greatest Conservation Need
- Ecosystem restoration and rehabilitation
- Natural history at any scale
- Impacts of climate change and aridification
- Community engagement in science and conservation

FELLOWSHIP DETAILS

Fellowship awardees will receive:

- **A Cash award of \$1000** to be used on any research-related expenses; gear, books, travel, conferences, etc.
- **A \$500 Housing voucher** to be used for lodging on the Research Ranch
- **Opportunities to share their work** through our annual [AWRR Fellowship Webinar Series](#) and Audubon websites, newsletters, social media, and more

All eligible applicants conducting research in southeastern Arizona are welcome to apply; however, **priority will be given to those conducting research on the Research Ranch.**

ELIGIBILITY

Applicants must:

- Be between the ages of 18 and 30
- Be conducting conservation related research in Southeastern Arizona
- Demonstrate a strong conservation ethic
- Show a commitment to scientific rigor by presenting a well-designed study



Collecting Motus data on the Appleton-Whittell Research Ranch. Photo: Steven Prager/Audubon Southwest

How to Apply

APPLICATION MATERIALS

To apply, please submit the following materials to steven.prager@audubon.org.

- A cover letter (max. 1 page)
- A research proposal (max. 3 pages) outlining the purpose, significance, methods, and expected products of your research
- Your CV or resume
- A letter of recommendation from an individual who is knowledgeable about your project and can speak to your conservation ethic and scientific ability

TIMELINE

- Application deadline: Sunday, March 30, 2026
- Recipients announced: Monday, May 1, 2026

For more information, a sample scoring rubric, or to explore the work of past AWRR Fellowship recipients, visit reach out to Steven Prager at steven.prager@audubon.org or visit <https://bit.ly/AWRRfellows>.

Thank you to the generous Appleton-Whittell Research Ranch community whose contributions make this award possible!