

Wildlife Links Program

Golf courses offer excellent opportunities to provide important wildlife habitat in urban areas. With more than 15,000 golf courses in the United States comprising in excess of 1.5 million acres, great potential exists for golf courses to become an important part of the conservation landscape.

Wildlife Links is a cooperative program with the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation that funds innovative research, management, and education projects that will help golf courses become an important part of the conservation landscape. The United States Golf Association is providing \$200,000 annually to fund the grants through the Wildlife Links program. Since the program began in 1996, eight projects committing over \$430,000, were funded to enhance wildlife conservation on golf courses. The objectives of Wildlife Links are to:

1. Facilitate research on wildlife issues of importance to the golf industry;
2. Provide scientifically-credible information on wildlife management to the golf industry;
3. Develop wildlife conservation education materials for the golf industry and golfers;
4. Implement wildlife monitoring programs that will improve management on golf courses

Wildlife Links Highlights

Wildlife Links Advisory Committee. The *Wildlife Links* Advisory Committee is responsible for the selection and monitoring of grants funded under the Wildlife Links Program. Committee members are experts in fields of wildlife biology and management, pesticide management, habitat management and conservation, education, and the game of golf.

Peter Stangel, Director; *Katie Distler*, Coordinator,
Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Initiative,
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Washington, DC

Mike Lennartz, U.S. Forest Service, Forest
Environmental Research, Washington, DC

Ron Dodson, President Audubon International, Inc.
Selkirk, NY

Dan Petit, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of
Migratory Bird Management, Arlington, VA

Jim Snow, National Director; *Kimberly Erusha*, Director
of Education, Green Section, United States Golf
Association, Far Hills, NJ

Paul Engman, Fairfax County Park Authority, Fairfax,
VA

Tom Franklin, The Wildlife Society, Bethesda, Maryland

Wildlife Links Technical Committee. The *Wildlife Links* Technical Committee gives input on technical issues that arise during the project selection process. They review proposals and comment on materials produced by the grantees when needed.

Dr. John Atwood, Manomet Observatory, Inc.

Melody Allen, The Xerces Society

Dr. John Fitzpatrick, Cornell Lab of Ornithology

Dr. Gregory Butcher, American Birding Association

Dr. Steve Sherrod, G.M. Sutton Avian Research Center

David Stubbs, European Golf Association, Ecology Unit

For additional information about Wildlife Links and other NFWF programs, please contact:

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Golf Courses and Bird Conservation: A Management Manual

Colorado Bird Observatory
Scott Gillihan

Start Date: 1996
Number of Years: 3
Total Funding: \$48,760

The Colorado Bird Observatory has published a practical guide for golf course architects and superintendents to improve golf course habitat for bird species. Bird