

NEWS RELEASE

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DORIS DUKE
CHARITABLE FOUNDATION

Environment Program

\$300,000 Awarded to the Innovative Raritan-Piedmont Wildlife Habitat Partnership

Grant will enable the expansion of efforts to conserve natural areas identified as priorities by the State of New Jersey

New York – The Doris Duke Charitable Foundation (DDCF) today announced a grant of \$300,000 over two years to Conservation Resources Inc. (CRI), enabling the expansion of the successful Raritan-Piedmont Wildlife Habitat Partnership.

“The Doris Duke Charitable Foundation is proud to support the Partnership in its collaborative efforts to conserve high priority natural places, bringing benefits to the wildlife and people of Central New Jersey, and providing an effective model for the rest of the nation to implement state wildlife action plans,” said Dr. Mark Shaffer, director of DDCF’s Environment Program.

The Raritan-Piedmont Wildlife Habitat Partnership is a diverse group of public and private organizations focused on the priorities identified for the Central Piedmont Plains in the state’s wildlife action plan, a document developed by state officials working in collaboration with scientists, conservationists, hunters, anglers and others. (Additional information about the action plan can be found at www.state.nj.us/dep/fgw/ensp/waphome.htm and www.wildlifeactionplans.org.)

“We are very excited about this opportunity, as it will allow us to expand the Partnership to include more organizations, and provide more financial and technical assistance to groups that want to join with us and help protect the best of nature right here in Central New Jersey,” said Michael Catania, President of Conservation Resources.

The Partnership was created in 2005, when 10 organizations joined together to conserve and restore grassland bird habitat. (A copy of the Partnership’s Grassland Conservation Plan can be found at <http://www.njaudubon.org/Conservation/Regionalplanning.html>.)

The new grant will allow the Partnership to expand its efforts to look at additional species and habitat types, particularly forests, wetlands, stream corridors and riparian areas. These efforts are expected to involve the following organizations: the Duke Farms Foundation, New Jersey



Eastern meadowlark (*Sturnella magna*) is one of many species benefiting from the Partnership’s ongoing conservation efforts. NJAS Stock Photo

Audubon Society, the New Jersey Conservation Foundation, the Delaware & Raritan Greenway Land Trust, the Stony Brook-Millstone Watershed Association, Hillsborough Township, Franklin Township, Somerset County, the Conserve Wildlife Foundation, the Sourland Planning Council, the Upper Raritan Watershed Association, the Friends of Hopewell Valley Open Space, the Hunterdon Land Trust Alliance, and the New Jersey Natural Heritage Program.

“Through the Raritan-Piedmont Wildlife Habitat Partnership we have been able to restore hundreds of acres of habitat for grassland birds in this fast growing region of New Jersey,” said Tom Gilmore, President of New Jersey Audubon Society. “We are excited about the new opportunities to continue our work with farmers and other landowners in the development of plans for conservation of forests, wetlands and streams.”

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The mission of the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation (www.ddcf.org) is to improve the quality of people's lives through grants supporting the performing arts, environmental conservation, medical research and the prevention of child maltreatment, and through preservation of the cultural and environmental legacy of Doris Duke's properties.