

## Oklahoma State Wildlife Grant Success Stories

In the five years since its inception, the State Wildlife Grant Program has played an important role in the conservation of Oklahoma's wildlife. The following are some projects funded through State Wildlife Grants:



Painted Bunting, Photo  
Courtesy of Oklahoma DWC

### **Conservation: Protecting Imperiled Land, Water, and Wildlife Conserving Wild Birds**

Oklahoma's wild birds capture the attention of more than 700,000 people every year. The Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation is working with an international coalition of biologists and organizations to benefit approximately 300 migratory species of songbirds, waterfowl, shorebirds and water birds that spend time in Oklahoma. By developing inter-state and inter-country conservation plans, we'll help the natural places these birds live so they may continue to bring peace and relaxation to our busy lives.



Mussel Collection, Photo  
Courtesy of Oklahoma DWC

### **Research: Gathering Information to Take Action Freshwater Mussel Study**

The state's wildlife and people will continue to enjoy clean water and healthy stream systems, in part, through an Oklahoma freshwater mussel study funded by State Wildlife Grants. Freshwater mussels play a primary role in keeping lakes and streams clean. Since the health of wildlife is often an early indicator of disease and pollution, understanding the relationship between water conditions and freshwater mussels, will benefit wildlife and people. Information gathered by the study will help gain a clearer understanding of this relationship and provide important data that will inform natural resource management decisions.



Mexican free-tailed bats,  
Photo Courtesy of Oklahoma  
DWC

### **Restoration: Proactive Measures that Benefit Wildlife and People Rare Bat Conservation**

A population of migratory Mexican free-tailed bats annually herald good news for wildlife watchers and Oklahoma farmers. One-million visiting bats eat 10 tons of local insect pests every night in rural, northwestern Oklahoma. The Oklahoma cave is a summer home and nursery for the state's largest maternity colony of Mexican free-tailed bats. The impressive colony has drawn thousands of visitors eager to bear witness to the bats' remarkable evening flights. A population monitoring project through State Wildlife Grants is helping us learn more about this colony so we can fulfill our responsibility to conserve these bats for future generations of visitors and farmers.

**Congress has appropriated \$5.6 million in State Wildlife Grants to Oklahoma since 2001. This has been matched with at least \$1.1 million state and partner dollars.**