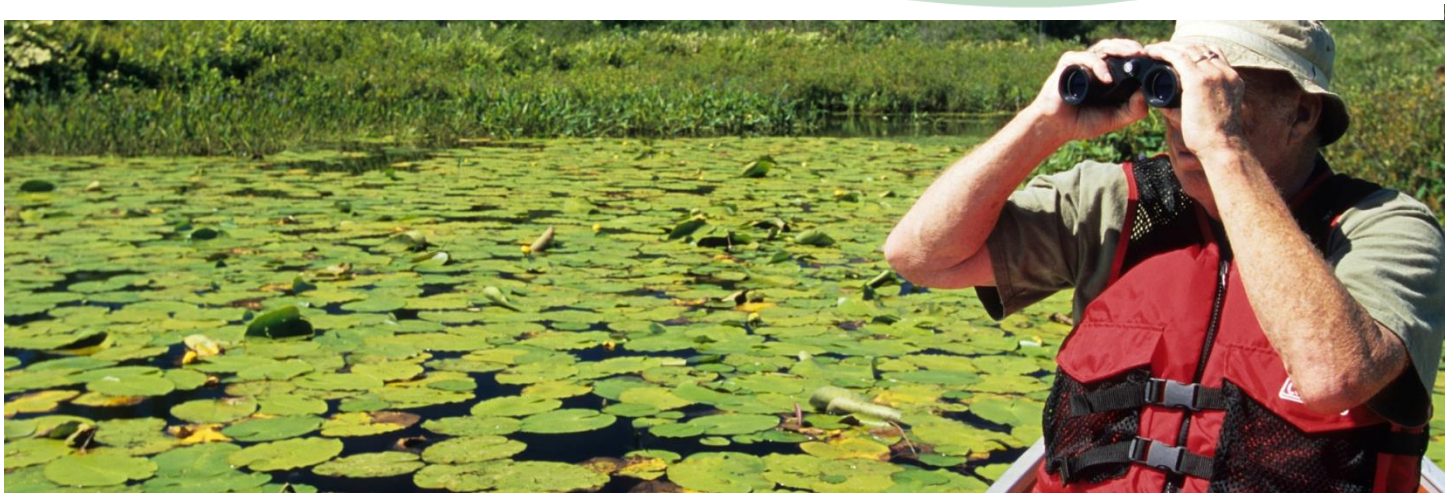

Ducks Unlimited
Institute for Wetland and Waterfowl Research (IWWR)

Graduate Fellowships Background

Educating the next generation of conservation scientists is critical to the success of Ducks Unlimited (DU). In addition to including graduate studies in many staff-led research projects, we provide dedicated support to graduate students (either Masters or PhD) across North America. This support is provided in the form of annual graduate fellowships. These fellowships are provided through generous donations from individuals and corporations. Background on these awards is provided below.

Richard H. G. Bonnycastle Graduate Fellowships

The purpose of the Richard H. G. Bonnycastle Graduate Fellowships is two-fold: 1) to assist in the development of talented young professionals who are dedicated to furthering the conservation of wetlands and wildlife, and 2) to advance scientific understanding of the biology of waterfowl and wetlands with special emphasis on the Canadian prairies.

These fellowships honour the conservation vision of Richard H. G. Bonnycastle who was born near Dauphin, Manitoba in 1903. Richard was the eldest of six children of the local magistrate and Ellen Boulton. Educated at Trinity College in Toronto, Richard later earned B.A. and law degrees from Oxford University in 1924. A star athlete at Oxford, Richard toured Europe as a member of the world champion Oxford hockey team, along with team mates Roland Michener (later Governor General of Canada) and Lester Pearson (later Prime Minister). Bonnycastle returned to Winnipeg, and, after a short stint with a law firm, the lure of adventure pulled him to the Hudson's Bay Company. From 1926-1937, he toured the western Arctic, where he rose quickly to the position of Chief Fur Trader.

Ducks Unlimited Canada

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A keen observer of great curiosity and energy, his Arctic diaries (published in 1984) vividly recount his harrowing travels and the challenges of rejuvenating the far-flung Hudson Bay empire in rapidly changing times. Bonnycastle returned to Winnipeg as a senior manager, and worked for the Company until 1945, when he left to become managing director for Advocate Printers. During the next 10 years, he put together the beginnings of what is now the world's largest publisher of romantic fiction, Harlequin Enterprises Ltd. A leader in the Winnipeg business community, Bonnycastle sat on several corporate and charitable boards and served as President of the Winnipeg Chamber of Commerce, First Chairman of Winnipeg's Metropolitan Corporation, and First Chancellor of the University of Winnipeg. Bonnycastle died at the controls of his floatplane in 1968, after landing on Long Island Bay in the Manitoba wilderness he loved.

The outdoors were an important part of Richard Bonnycastle's life from boyhood, and he gave generously of himself in the cause of conservation. After returning from the Arctic, another Oxford hockey team mate, Winnipeg Lawyer E. B. Pitblado, helped draw Bonnycastle to service with Ducks Unlimited Canada (DUC). Bonnycastle joined the DUC board in 1955. His talents and energy were quickly recognized, and he was elected President in 1957, serving four full terms through 1960. First as President, then as Chairman of the Board (1961-1962), and later as Chairman of the Executive Committee (1962-1968), Bonnycastle offered DUC outstanding leadership during a period of challenge and change. He is credited with leading the directors to a more active and business-like role in the conduct of DUC affairs. In addition to leading the push for enhancing reconnaissance and surveys to provide information to guide long-range conservation planning, Richard played a key role in bringing the company under firmer administrative and fiscal control. He also initiated a tradition of meeting away from corporate board rooms, in the field, with the people actually delivering DUC's conservation programs.

At the DU annual meeting in 1958, Bonnycastle posed the unorthodox idea of engaging an independent agency to examine and evaluate active DU projects so that the company "would have an impartial appraisal of the effectiveness of their work". In his view, this would be helpful to management and would aid the board in determining the extent to which expenditures were being wisely made and objectives achieved. Frustrating attempts to arrange for these evaluations with government agencies ended in 1964, but Bonnycastle's vision of a group dedicated to providing scientific leadership for conservation was realized in 1991 with the establishment of the Institute for Wetland and Waterfowl Research. These fellowships honour the memory of a great conservation leader and his commitment to the wetlands, waterfowl and people of western Canada.

The **Bonnycastle Fellowship for Prairie Ecosystem Studies** fosters research in prairie Canada that enhances the scientific understanding of prairie wetlands, associated habitats and wetland-dependent wildlife, and contributes to the protection, restoration, or wise use of this highly altered landscape. The **Bonnycastle Fellowship in Wetland and Waterfowl Biology** is open to a broad range of innovative proposals for work anywhere in North America, on any aspect of wetland or waterfowl ecology that promises to advance conservation. Qualified applicants will be considered for either award based on a single application.

The competition is open to graduate students based at any North American university. It will be awarded based upon: the qualifications of the applicant; the scientific soundness of the student's research proposal; originality and creativity in study design; expected contributions of the study to wetland or waterfowl ecology; the importance of the proposed research to conservation; and achievability of the work. Applications from doctoral candidates are preferred, but strong Masters candidates are also urged to apply.

The award of up to $8,000/year (Canadian funds) is available to provide personal or research support for successful applicants. The reward is renewable for up to two additional years for PhD students, once for Masters students, assuming annual approval of a satisfactory progress report and the need for continuing financial support.

DUC-MBNA Conservation Fellowship

The purposes of the DUC-MBNA Conservation Fellowship are to assist in the development of talented young professionals who are dedicated to furthering the conservation of wetlands and wetland wildlife, and to advance scientific understanding of the biology of waterfowl and wetlands in Canada.

MBNA, a TD Bank company and a long-time corporate partner of Ducks Unlimited Canada, has demonstrated a strong legacy commitment to wetland and waterfowl conservation through its sponsorship of this exciting fellowship. This fellowship program contributes greatly to DUC's ongoing objective of helping to develop tomorrow's conservation leaders while providing new information that DUC can apply today.

The fellowship is open to Canadian graduate students enrolled at a university in Canada or abroad. Subject matter for the student's research can deal with any aspect of waterfowl or wetland biology that promises to advance conservation in Canada.

Fellowships will be awarded based upon: the qualifications of the applicant; the scientific soundness of the student's research proposal; originality and creativity in study design; expected contributions of the research to furthering waterfowl conservation; and the achievability of the work. Preference will be given to proposals with demonstrable management applications.

One award of up to $10,000/year (Canadian funds) is available to provide personal or research support for the successful applicant. The award may be renewable for up to two additional years for PhD students, once for Masters students.

Dr. Bruce D. J. Batt Fellowship in Waterfowl Conservation

Dr. Bruce Batt retired as DU Chief Biologist after a long and productive career in waterfowl research and conservation. During his 41-year career, Dr. Batt was involved in a greater diversity of issues and a broader number of landscapes important to North American waterfowl than any biologist of his generation. He made significant contributions to understanding waterfowl breeding biology, wintering ecology and wetland ecology, and he positively influenced an entire generation of waterfowl professionals.

During his two decades with DU, Dr. Batt: helped establish the Institute for Wetland and Waterfowl Research; contributed to important work on mid-continent ducks, Arctic geese and northern habitats; supervised DU's initiatives in Latin America and Mexico; and helped lead DU's conservation administration and communication efforts.

In recognition of his many accomplishments, particularly his passion for the role of sound science in guiding conservation, DU has established the Dr. Bruce D. J. Batt Fellowship in Waterfowl Conservation. The purpose of this fellowship is to provide financial assistance to deserving graduate students conducting waterfowl or wetland research in North America.

The competition is open to graduate students based at any North American university. It will be awarded based upon: the qualifications of the applicant; the scientific soundness of the student's research proposal; originality and creativity in study design; expected contributions of the study to wetland or waterfowl ecology; the importance of the proposed research to conservation; and achievability of the work.

One award of up to $5,000/year (Canadian funds) is available to provide personal or research support for the successful applicant. The award is renewable for up to two additional years for PhD students, once for students pursuing a Masters degree, assuming annual approval of a satisfactory progress report and the need for continuing financial support.

Edward D. and Sally M. Futch Graduate Fellowship

The purpose of the Edward D. and Sally M. Futch Graduate Fellowship is to assist in the development of talented young professionals who are dedicated to furthering the conservation of wetlands and wetland wildlife, while also advancing scientific understanding of the biology of waterfowl and wetlands in North America.

Residing in Galveston, Texas, Edward and Sally Futch shared a deep interest in the outdoors, especially in waterfowl and wetlands. They were vitally involved in the education of youth - tomorrow's leaders in science and medicine - through the University of Texas Medical Branch and elsewhere in the Galveston community. Their abiding interest in waterfowl and other wildlife took them to the far corners of the globe. Their appreciation of these resources, coupled with their understanding of the critical links between wildlife abundance, ecosystem integrity and the sound scientific management of wildlife habitat, led them to dedicate funds to support this fellowship. Mrs. Futch and the late Dr. Futch, an educator himself, took a special interest in the scientific work of DU. They were very proud to support this program for today's youth and tomorrow's environment.

This competition is open to graduate students enrolled at any North American University. Subject matter for the student's research can deal with any aspect of waterfowl or wetland biology that promises to advance conservation.

Fellowships will be awarded based upon: the qualifications of the applicant; the scientific soundness of the student's research proposal; originality and creativity in study design; expected contributions of the research to furthering waterfowl conservation; and the achievability of the work.

One award of up to $9,500/year (U.S. funds) is available to provide personal or research support for the successful applicant. The award is renewable for up to two additional years for PhD students, once for Masters students, assuming annual approval of a satisfactory progress report and the need for continuing financial support.

Spencer T. and Ann W. Olin Foundation Wetlands and Waterfowl Research Fellowship

This fellowship was established in 2000 to support graduate students engaged in important waterfowl research. The fellowship reflects the long-standing support of Spencer and Ann Olin, who began supporting DU in 1941. This generous support is carried on today by other Olin family members.

The Spencer T. and Ann W. Olin Foundation Wetlands and Waterfowl Research Fellowship is an investment in young waterfowl professionals and is focused on two primary objectives: 1) developing critical scientific information that will contribute to the future conservation of waterfowl and wetland resources, and 2) contributing to the training of future professionals in the field of waterfowl and wetlands conservation. The ultimate objective is to ensure waterfowl and wetlands conservation through the contribution of career professionals. Research to date has included work on redhead duck foraging habitat in the Laguna Madre, mallard breeding ecology in the Great Lakes region, black duck winter and spring habitat use, mallard duckling survival, and scaup population ecology.

The fellowship is open to graduate students enrolled at any North American University. Subject matter for the student's research can deal with any aspect of waterfowl or wetland biology that promises to advance conservation.

Fellowships will be awarded based upon: the qualifications of the applicant; the scientific soundness of the student's research proposal; originality and creativity in study design; expected contributions of the research to furthering waterfowl conservation; and the achievability of the work.

One award of up to $9,500/year (U.S. funds) is available to provide personal or research support for the successful applicant. The award is renewable for up to two additional years for PhD students, once for Masters students, assuming annual approval of a satisfactory progress report and the need for continuing financial support.

Waterfowl Research Foundation Fellowship

The Waterfowl Research Foundation Fellowship is an investment in young waterfowl professionals and is focused on three primary objectives: 1) developing critical scientific information that will contribute to the future conservation of waterfowl and wetland resources, 2) contributing to the training of future professionals in the field of waterfowl and wetlands conservation, and 3) honoring the critical role that waterfowlers have played in supporting waterfowl and wetland conservation throughout North America. The ultimate objective is to ensure waterfowl and wetlands conservation through the contribution of career professionals.

The fellowship is open to graduate students enrolled at any North American university who must possess a current hunting or sportsman license issued by the appropriate regulatory authority. Subject matter for the student's research can deal with any aspect of waterfowl or wetland biology that promises to advance conservation.

Fellowships will be awarded based upon: the qualifications of the applicant, including the candidate’s past and present participation in waterfowl hunting; the scientific soundness of the student's research proposal; originality

and creativity in study design; expected contributions of the research to furthering waterfowl conservation; and the achievability of the work.

One award of $10,000/year (Canadian) is available to provide personal or research support for the successful applicant. The award is renewable for up to two additional years for PhD students, once for Masters students, assuming annual approval of a satisfactory progress report, continued possession of a valid hunting or sportsman licence, and the need for continuing financial support.

Michael F.B. Nesbitt Family Research Fellowship

The goal of this award is to support post-graduate education of wetland and waterfowl scientists, and thereby help train future leaders who will follow in the footsteps of Michael Nesbitt's family. This family has a long history in scientific endeavors, which is honored by this fellowship. Gerald H Barrett-Hamilton (1870 -1914), his maternal grandfather, was a world renowned Irish naturalist who wrote the History of British Mammals. His mother, Geraldine Margaret Nesbitt, daughter of Barrett – Hamilton, was the first woman at the University of Manitoba to graduate with honors in both zoology and chemistry. She did so in 1931. The Nesbitt family also includes two Provosts/Presidents of Trinity College in Dublin. Bartholomew Lloyd served from 1831 to 1837, having expertise in mathematics and physics, and Humphrey Lloyd, his son, served from 1867 to 1880. Humphrey was a physicist with an international reputation and the recipient of an honorary Doctorate from Oxford University. Most recently, Michael Nesbitt was a member of Ducks Unlimited Canada's Board of Directors for 10 years. He also chaired the pension committee for 2 years, played a role in the design of Oak Hammock Marsh, and served on several other committees long after his tenure on the Board.

Graduate students located at any North American university are eligible for this Fellowship. It will be awarded based upon: the qualifications of the applicant; the scientific soundness of the student's research proposal; originality and creativity in study design; expected contributions of the study to wetland or waterfowl ecology; the importance of the proposed research to conservation; and achievability of the work.

One award of up to $5,000/year (Canadian funds) is available to provide personal or research support for the successful applicant. The award is renewable for up to two additional years for PhD students, once for students pursuing a Master's degree, assuming annual approval of a satisfactory progress report and the need for continuing financial support.