



Ducks Unlimited
Institute for Wetland and Waterfowl Research (IWWR)

Graduate Fellowships
September 2015

Please note- Five awards are available in 2015:

Bonnycastle Fellowship for Prairie Ecosystem Studies
Bonnycastle Fellowship in Wetland and Waterfowl Biology
DUC-MBNA Conservation Fellowship
Dr. Bruce D. J. Batt Fellowship in Waterfowl Conservation
Edward D. and Sally M. Futch Graduate Fellowship

Instructions for fellowship applications are provided below.

All application materials are due by 4:30 PM Central on 13 November 2015

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, the Institute for Wetland and Waterfowl Research (IWWR) provides dedicated support to graduate students (either Masters or PhD) across North America. This support is provided in the form of annual graduate fellowships, the background and application guidelines for which are 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. 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 \$17,000/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 Bank of America 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 \$7,000/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 \$7,000/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.



How to Apply

Only one application is required for all available fellowships. Applications for IWWR Graduate Research Fellowships must be received by 4:30 PM Central on November 13, 2015. Decisions regarding fellowship applications will be announced in February 2015. Applications should include the following, *with electronic submissions strongly encouraged, and separate files for each major bullet below*:

- Research proposal, not more than 10 pages in length
 - The format for these is flexible, but should include: an introduction to the problem (including a statement of relevance to DU); objectives and major hypotheses; the basic design of observations or experiments; general methods; a timetable; and literature cited.
- Proposed and, as applicable, multi-year budget with a list of any secured matching support (including personal support) and other pending applications
- Statement of career objectives (≤1 page)
- Resume of the student applicant
- Qualification of supervisor(s) as related to project, include departmental web page if available (≤1/2 page)
- Academic transcripts (can be photocopies) and GRE scores (if available, need not be official copies)
- A letter of endorsement from the applicant's advisor
- Two additional letters of recommendation (can be sent separately, but may also be included in the application package)

Additional Information:

The IWWR is a non-profit institution and does not pay indirect costs to cooperating universities and research institutions.

Fellowship applications will be reviewed and ranked by DU staff. Applications will be judged based primarily on the criteria listed below. Some fellowships have additional award criteria. Note that proposals typically scoring highest are scientifically sound and clearly highlight the project's potential contribution to a) basic biology (e.g. developing/testing ecological theory or addressing fundamental uncertainties in wetland and waterfowl ecology), b) waterfowl and/or wetland conservation, and c) DU management decisions.

General Scoring Criteria:

- Academic qualifications of the student
- Career path
- Scientific merit
- Originality / Creativity
- Contributions to basic biology
- Importance to conservation
- Achievability

- DU Mission alignment

Where to Apply

To inquire about or apply for fellowships, please contact:

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Electronic submissions are strongly encouraged.

Renewal Requests and Annual Progress Reports

Renewal requests are due on September 10th from the *recipient's supervisor*. This includes both a request to renew the fellowship and a statement of planned use of funds. The budget request in the annual progress report should reflect this intended use.

Substantive progress reports are due on December 31st, unless otherwise specified in your individual grant agreement. Such reports are the basis by which renewal requests are evaluated. Clear justification must be presented for major changes in research objectives, design/methodology, timeline or budget during the course of a study. Reports should include the following information:

- A. Project rationale (very brief)
- B. Objectives and hypotheses
- C. Planned accomplishments in the reporting year
- D. Methods (brief)
- E. Preliminary results
- F. Discussion, including comparison of planned vs. actual accomplishments
- G. Any proposed changes in experimental design, methods, budget or timetable
- H. Budget request for the next fiscal year (include disclosure of any matching support)
- I. Itemized report on expenditure of funds to date

J. An abstract usable for IWWR annual reports, etc.