

Delta Waterfowl Foundation

GRADUATE STUDENT SUPPORT - 2008

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The Delta Waterfowl Foundation is a privately supported research and education organization. Delta's primary mission is to help conserve North American waterfowl and wetland resources by assisting in the graduate education of future resource professionals. In the process, Delta achieves its secondary goal of discovering basic and applied information about waterfowl and wetlands.

Delta began in 1938 when University of Wisconsin student H. Albert Hochbaum and his supervisor Aldo Leopold first arrived at Delta Marsh to begin studies that would culminate in the publication of *The Canvasback on a Prairie Marsh*. Since 1938, Delta has helped graduate students produce 219 Master's theses, 126 Ph.D. dissertations, and over 700 scientific publications.

The Delta Waterfowl and Wetlands Research Station (DWWRS), Delta's main research station, is located at the Delta Marsh, on the south shore of Lake Manitoba in south central Manitoba. DWWRS has superb access to the 14,000 ha Delta Marsh and its adjacent forested dune-ridge, a system of 10 experimental wetlands (the Marsh Ecology Research Project), an extensive library, workshops, lab space, and comfortable lodging. Previous studies at our main station have focused on captive waterfowl research, marsh ecology and management, and field studies of waterfowl and other wetland wildlife. Please note that the captive facilities are currently closed and not available for research.

Delta also maintains a permanent field station in the Minnedosa Parklands of southwestern Manitoba. Facilities there include bunkhouse style lodging, a workshop, and access to thousands of small wetlands in a privately owned agricultural landscape. Many previous studies at Minnedosa have focused on the ecology or management of waterfowl and other wetland wildlife.

Delta also supports studies in other locations, provided they have relevance to North American waterfowl or wetland resources. Delta students have conducted studies in North Dakota, Alaska, Northwest Territories, New Brunswick, Oregon, Minnesota, Virginia, Alabama, Louisiana, Hawaii, Wyoming, Sinaloa, Venezuela and even Latvia!

WHO CAN APPLY?

Delta will consider research proposals submitted by any student currently enrolled in a recognized graduate school program. Delta may occasionally consider proposals from individuals that have not yet been accepted into a graduate program provided that a letter accompanies these proposals from the student's prospective supervisor indicating that acceptance into a formal graduate program is forthcoming. Delta does not fund amateur, post-doctoral, or

faculty research, although research facilities are sometimes made available provided that research objectives are consistent and compatible with Delta's overall mission.

WHAT SORT OF STUDIES WILL DELTA SUPPORT?

Delta will consider research proposals addressing any aspect of the ecology or management of North American waterfowl and wetlands resources. The Delta Waterfowl Foundation is acutely concerned with the status of North American duck populations; hence, studies designed to address significant waterfowl or wetland conservation problems will be given highest priority. In addition, studies that attempt to test fundamental ecological or evolutionary hypotheses pertaining to waterfowl or wetlands are strongly encouraged. Delta also has a long history of supporting studies on non-game wildlife associated with prairie and wetland ecosystems. A new arena for Delta is socioeconomic and policy-related studies on issues that affect the conservation of waterfowl or prairie and wetland habitats.

If in doubt about whether a research topic is appropriate for Delta funding, please consult first with Delta's Research Director, Dr. Elizabeth Loos (eloos@deltawaterfowl.org).

HOW DO I APPLY?

To apply for research funding, submit a proposal using the following format. **Proposals that do not follow the format outlined below will not be considered.** Proposals may be reviewed by up to 3 external anonymous reviewers in addition to review by Delta's scientific staff.

Proposal Guidelines

☞ Do not exceed 20 double-spaced pages (excluding title page, abstract, tables, figures, and literature cited).

☞ Proposals should demonstrate a command of the relevant literature, sound experimental design, adherence to appropriate animal care guidelines, and good scientific writing skills.

☞ Your proposal must include the following:

Cover Page: MUST include your name, the degree you hope to obtain (M.S. or Ph. D.), your advisors name, your school and current contact information for yourself and your advisor(s) (mailing address, phone number, fax number and email address).

Abstract: 1-page description of proposed research, including brief description of issues addressed, hypotheses and objectives and methods.

Introduction: Should include a description of the problem, a review of relevant literature, and a list of the specific objectives or hypotheses.

Methods: Be sure to include a section on statistical design. A power analysis or some other justification of proposed sample size is also recommended.

Timeline: Include a monthly time schedule for proposed research activities.

Literature Cited: Use a consistent format

Budget: See the following section "Budget Guidelines"

To be considered for funding in calendar year 2006, proposals must be received by **30 November 2007**. Be sure to include 3 copies of your proposal, including proposed budget (see following guidelines), up-to-date C.V. (resume) which includes current contact information. Also include an electronic version of all of your materials on CD, DVD, or ZIP disk. Send your proposals to: Dr. Elizabeth Loos, School of Renewable Natural Resources, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA, 70803

Budget Guidelines

Budget requests are assessed on an annual basis and must conform to Delta's fiscal year of 1 March 2006 to 28 February 2007. Students should submit tentative budgets for subsequent years of research with their initial proposal, with the realization that these budgets may need to be revised.

Categories: Try to use the following 5 categories.

1. **Stipend support** for yourself and your research assistants
2. **Travel** (reimbursements for personal mileage, plane fares etc)
3. **Vehicle and fuel expenses** (for rental or station vehicles only)
4. **Major Equipment** (anything > \$50 and non-expendable, i.e. reusable)
5. **Expendable supplies** (notebooks, pens, etc)
6. **Miscellaneous** (utility bills, services, etc)

Exchange Rates: If your research will be conducted in Canada, submit a budget in both Canadian and US dollars. Use the exchange rate of \$1.00 CDN = 0.86 USD. If your research will be conducted in the US, submit a budget in US dollars only.

Stipend Support: The graduate stipend allowance is \$1,200 USD/month. Stipend support is available throughout the field season, but Delta does not ordinarily provide stipend support during the academic year. Students receiving field season support of < \$1,200 per month from other sources (e.g., RA or scholarship) may use Delta funds to augment their stipend up to, but not exceeding, \$1,200 per month. Students are expected to cover their own living expenses using their monthly stipend.

Research assistants are normally hired through Delta's undergraduate assistantship program for the equivalent of \$1,300 - \$1,500 USD per month. Delta typically commits to hiring assistants for a minimum of 2 months. Delta will hire your assistants from the pool of applicants we receive. Assistant salaries will be paid from your budget by Delta.

Travel Costs: Students may use their own personal vehicles for transportation. Travel costs are reimbursed at the rate of **\$0.365 USD/mile or \$0.35 CDN/kilometer**, including round-trip travel costs from the university to the field site. Use of Delta vehicles (trucks, ATV's, boats) must be approved in advance, and expenses for operation and maintenance must be included in the budget.

Equipment Costs: Any non-expendable equipment purchased with Delta funds becomes the property of Delta; however, such equipment remains the student's responsibility until the study is

completed. **Students should budget to have equipment cleaned and repaired when necessary.** Delta has a variety of equipment purchased in the past by other students. Contact Dr. Elizabeth Loos (eloos@deltawaterfowl.org) to see if any of the equipment you require is available.

Rent: All students living at the Minnedosa Field Station and Delta Waterfowl and Wetlands Station are responsible for paying rent for **themselves and their assistants out of their project budget.** Rent at Minnedosa Field Station is \$75 per person per month. This helps cover the cost of hauling water, electricity, phone line, Internet and other services. Rent at the Delta Station is \$100 per housing unit per month. Housing expenses should be included in your budget. All students living at remote field sites are responsible for providing housing for themselves and their assistants out of their project budget.

Division of Support: Students must specify any other sources of funding that have been received or applied for, including teaching or research assistantships, scholarships, fellowships, and other bursaries. Delta can rarely cover the full cost of a graduate student. All other things being equal, Delta will favor proposals demonstrating financial support of students by the home university during the academic year.

Overhead and Accounting: Funds are normally advanced directly to the student, who is then responsible for record-keeping and detailed accounting of all expenditures. Delta will not pay overhead, so funds can be advanced to universities only after assurance that all funds will be directed towards the student project. If funds are funneled through a university, Delta will still require a detailed accounting of all expenditures by the student. Please note that Canada and the U.S.A. regard research grants as income - research expenses are fully deductible, but you will be taxed on your stipend. To avoid paying taxes on your grant (excluding stipend), accurate accounting is essential as the taxation office will require proof (receipts) that the grant money was used for research.

Jane Doe, Budget 2007
Nesting Ecology of Lesser Scaup
(All Funds in US \$)

	2007	2008
1) Stipend and Wages		
1 April - 30 July; (4 months X \$1,200)	4,800	4,800
1 assistant from 1 May to 30 July; (3 months X \$1,200)	3,600	3,600
Sub-total	8,400	8,400
2) Travel		
HSU to Delta and back (4600 miles x \$0.365)	1,679	1,679
Field work (100 miles/day x 120 days x \$0.365)	4,380	4,380
Visit by advisor (excursion air)	400	0
Sub-total	6,549	6,059
3) Feed and Care of Birds		
20 decoy hens x 365 days x \$0.10/day	730	730
Sub-total	730	730
4) Non-expendable Equipment		
10 Hobo Temp data loggers (@ \$65)	650	0
Welded-wire for nest fences	300	0
Sub-total	950	0
5) Expendable Supplies		
Chest waders @ \$100	200	100
Telephone/Postage	100	100
Film/Developing	100	100
Binders/Photocopies/Computer Disks	100	100
Miscellaneous	300	300
Sub-total	800	700
Total Request From Delta	17,429	15,889
 <i>Special Equipment Requests from Delta</i>		
10 Decoy Traps (15 April-15 May)		
2 Spotting Scopes (all summer)		
 <i>University Support</i>		
Research Assistantship	4,500	4,500
Admissions Scholarship	750	0
Non-resident Tuition Waiver	2,400	2,400
Field Supplies	500	500
	8,510	7,400