

DAVID R. LUUKKONEN WATERFOWL AND WETLAND GRADUATE STUDENT FELLOWSHIP

In December 2021, we lost a brilliant avian ecologist and wonderful colleague, friend, and mentor of university students. To recognize the long-term and large-scale science contributions of Dave Luukkonen, several regional conservation partners have pooled resources to establish an endowed graduate student fellowship, supporting research on waterfowl, other waterbirds, wetlands, and related conservation social science.

Initial contributors to the David R. Luukkonen Waterfowl and Wetland Graduate Student Fellowship include the Luukkonen Family and Friends, the Ducks Unlimited Great Lakes/Atlantic Region Office, Winous Point Marsh Conservancy, the Mississippi Flyway Council, and numerous individuals who witnessed Dave's professional and personal influences on wildlife management over the past 30 years.

The goals of this fellowship program are to: (1) Increase the number of skilled early career professionals interested in research, management, and conservation of waterfowl and wetlands, and (2) financially support waterfowl, waterbird, and related human dimensions research consistent with Upper Mississippi / Great Lakes Joint Venture priorities. (<https://umgljv.org/science/>)

The Luukkonen endowed fellowship will provide a perpetual source of funding for university Master's and PhD students to address these goals. The fellowship was established in collaboration with Ducks Unlimited, Inc., and Ducks Unlimited Canada, who administer similar fellowship programs (<https://iwww.ducks.ca/fellowships/>) and have established a team of scientists to annually review and rank fellowship applications using criteria specific to each agreement. Master's students will be eligible for two years of support, and PhD students will be eligible for three years, assuming satisfactory study progress and available fellowship resources. Please help preserve Dave Luukkonen's legacy for excellence in science-based conservation relevant to wetland birds and people with a tax-deductible contribution through Ducks Unlimited.



Contributing by check:

Checks should be written to Ducks Unlimited with "restricted - Luukkonen Fellowship, Project Number US-EN-1-11" in the memo line and mailed to:

Attn: Cathy Sanders
Ducks Unlimited, Inc.
One Waterfowl Way
Memphis, TN 38120

Contributing by Credit Card:

Please contact Cathy Sanders by phone at (901-758-3898) with your credit card information and contribution amount. Mention the contribution is for the "Luukkonen Fellowship, Project Number US-EN-1-11."

Ducks Unlimited will provide participants with a gift receipt documenting their tax-deductible contribution. Thank you.

