

2018 Ankney Award Recipient

Kyla Bas, MSc Student

Factors limiting population growth of waterfowl species is of concern to managers and hunters alike. Increasing the production and recruitment of young ducks is a key component of population growth in many duck species; thus, managing for factors influencing duck productivity is critical. The lesser scaup population remains below North American conservation goals. Scaup population growth is particularly sensitive to changes in demographic components of productivity, although our understanding of factors limiting scaup production is incomplete.

Kyla's research will evaluate the mechanisms driving productivity in lesser scaup, and other duck species. She will use newly collected and existing long-term data from two lesser scaup breeding sites, one boreal (Yellowknife, NWT) and one montane (Red Rock Lakes, MT) to test the effects of regional climate, density dependence, and predator-prey dynamics on scaup productivity. Her results will inform managers of mechanisms regulating scaup production and guide conservation initiatives designed to enhance waterfowl populations.

