

2019 ANKNEY AWARD RECIPIENT

Catrina Terry, MSc Student

Catrina received her B.S. in wildlife biology from University of California, Davis in 2014. Catrina indicated that that it was a great honor and accomplishment to have received the Ankney Award, as it affords her the opportunity to collect and analyze additional data that may impact food availability for dabbling ducks, as well as to continue Dave's legacy with her own contribution to waterfowl and wetland research.

The Prairie Pothole Region is responsible for producing the majority of North America's dabbling ducks and is a priority landscape for wetland conservation. However, more than 60% of prairie potholes are now surrounded by row crop agriculture, which has the potential to degrade the quality of wetlands in the region with corresponding decreases in waterfowl carrying capacity and productivity. Wetlands surrounded by agriculture are often given lower conservation priority, but recent research indicates these wetlands had invertebrate communities commensurate to wetlands surrounded by prairies. It is not known whether these wetlands retain their high invertebrate abundance throughout the summer.

Catrina will investigate invertebrate food availability and wetland quality to examine the effects agriculture and pesticides have on dabbling duck broods. She will use a drone equipped with a thermal imaging camera to survey broods and collect data on wetland and water quality throughout eastern North and South Dakota. Catrina aims to better understand the mechanisms involved in habitat selection for brood rearing and the role wetlands surrounded by agriculture play in duck production. Understanding the value of wetland embedded in agriculture is crucial to make informed management decisions to conserve or restore habitat for waterfowl.

