**OPPORTUNITY: Winter and Spring Banding of Greater and Lesser Scaup in New York**

in the

Masters of Professional Studies Program
Fish and Wildlife Biology and Management (Waterfowl and Wetlands Emphasis)

Department of Environmental and Forest Biology, SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry

**Start Date:** January 2020  
**Degree completion expected:** December 2021

**Location:** SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry (ESF), Syracuse, New York. SUNY ESF is home to the fourth largest undergraduate and graduate education program in wildlife science, conservation biology, and aquatic and fisheries science in the United States; it is by far the largest such program in the northeastern region. SUNY ESF is located in central New York with abundant hunting, fishing, and other outdoor opportunities with the Finger Lakes region, many state properties and national wildlife refuges, Lake Ontario, and the 6.1 million-acre Adirondack Park a short distance away. The Montezuma Wetlands Complex, that receives an estimated 4-million waterfowl-use-days annually, is less than an hour drive from campus. With its diverse lakes and wetlands, myriad breeding, migrating, and winter waterfowl, and landscape rich in human history, the region provides an ideal landscape for study of waterfowl, other wetland-wildlife, and people. In collaboration with a diversity of conservation stakeholders throughout North America, we meet the challenges of a changing world.

**Description and requirements:**

We seek a motivated and experienced individual to continue our banding stations at Great South Bay, Long Island for greater and lesser scaup (winter) and Onondaga Lake, Syracuse (spring) for scaup and other diving ducks.

In 2019, we banded 1,139 scaup on Long Island.
The selected candidate will work with Dr. Schummer and partners to deliver banding programs at Long Island and Onondaga Lake. Prior experience waterfowl banding is required; those with experience banding scaup (e.g., Pool 19) are especially encouraged to apply. At minimum we require the following deliverables at the end of the project, 1) a technical report detailing the number of scaup banded, recaptures within and among years, and number and locations of recovered scaup bands, 2) investigation of the capacity to use mark-recapture analysis to determine the populations of the greater scaup and lesser scaup wintering on Long Island, and 3) an oral comprehensive exam and capstone seminar.

Our Masters of Professional Studies program with an emphasis in Waterfowl and Wetlands is aimed at career professionals already working, year-round or seasonally, within federal, state, and non-profit entities. The graduate program’s aim is to provide opportunity for wildlife biologists holding Bachelor’s degrees to advance academically and professionally through an experiential, coursework-based program. The program promotes field techniques and face-to-face people skills. Positions are competitive. No more than four students are supervised at a time. Minimum GPA of 3.0 in Fish and Wildlife Science and/or Management, Zoology, Environmental Science, or related degree is required. Coursework requirement is designed to meet the needs of the student but generally focuses on preparing students for gainful employment and substantial contributions to waterfowl and wetlands conservation and management. Students also participate in one or more internship experiences such as, conducting ecological assessments of wetland systems, waterfowl banding and band analysis, assessments of waterfowl population dynamics using existing data, studies of waterfowl migration ecology, GIS habitat analysis, or technician positions at national wildlife refuges, state wildlife management areas, or private plantations or waterfowl hunting clubs. Coursework usually can be completed over 3 or more semesters, and internships (one or more) can be completed throughout the program. Students have a graduate advisory committee of academics and practicing professionals and a capstone experience as guided by their committee. Students produce an agreed upon scientific product related to waterfowl and wetland conservation (e.g., manuscript, technical report, and/or management plan).

**Students completing this program will earn a Masters of Professional Studies in Fish and Wildlife Biology and Management.** Placing students into gainful employment following program completion is an objective of the program. We work closely with students to help them achieve their career goal.

**Program Requirements:** At least 30 credits of graduate coursework, of which 24 must be taken in residence at ESF, for a total of at least 36 credits earned between internship, research, and coursework. The internship(s) experience may be on-campus, off-campus, or in combination. A written report of the internship is required as well as an oral comprehensive exam and capstone seminar.
Applying: Email a letter of interest, resume, unofficial transcripts, and GRE scores to Dr. Schummer. If recommended by Dr. Schummer, the student will be encouraged to apply to the Graduate School at SUNY ESF.

Compensation: At minimum, $7,680 internship stipend (February – May 2020 + housing on Long Island) and tuition-waiver for the final semester (estimated as Fall 2021).

For More Information Contact: Dr. Michael Schummer, Roosevelt Waterfowl Ecologist, 204 Illick Hall, SUNY ESF, 1 Forestry Drive, Syracuse, NY 13210, email: mlschumm@esf.edu

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