



#101, 9 Chippewa Road  
 Sherwood Park, Alberta  
 Phone: (780) 445-9145 ; Fax : 780-464-0990  
 E-mail: [tracy.stewart@ab-conservation.com](mailto:tracy.stewart@ab-conservation.com)  
<http://www.acabiodiversity.ca>

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Contact: Tracy Stewart, Administrator  
 E-mail: [tracy.stewart@ab-conservation.com](mailto:tracy.stewart@ab-conservation.com)  
 Phone: 780-445-9145

John Pattison-Williams, Director  
 OR E-mail: [jk.pattisonwilliams@gmail.com](mailto:jk.pattisonwilliams@gmail.com)

**ACA Grants in Biodiversity announces award recipients from the 2020 competition**

Edmonton – March 9, 2020– Measuring impact and adapting to change are two important themes among the projects that will be funded by the ACA Grants in Biodiversity program this year. How are insects affected by the ever-increasing artificial light humans bring? Can species living on mountaintops adapt to climate change? Are Columbian ground squirrels adapting their hibernation practices? How are fish reacting to emissions in the oil sands? These questions, and more, will be closer to being answered through the work of our funded graduate students. The Alberta Conservation Association is proud to announce that 19 student projects will share \$207,000 of funding this year. This year’s grants range from \$2,430 to \$17,200 and will be distributed to 6 PhD and 13 Masters candidates. Awards are going to students at the University of Alberta, University of Lethbridge, University of Calgary, University of Saskatchewan, University of Manitoba, Western University, and out of country, to the University of California, Riverside.

The ACA Grants in Biodiversity program is funded by the Alberta Conservation Association and Syncrude. With this year’s awards, the 26-year-old ACA Grants in Biodiversity has now awarded \$5.6 million dollars to 548 researchers. The research supported by the ACA Grants in Biodiversity ultimately aims to conserve, protect and enhance Alberta's fish, wildlife and natural habitats as well as develop biodiversity professionals for the future.

**ACA Grants in Biodiversity Recipients**

Recipient (Program)	Institution	Supervisor(s)	Project Title
Carrie Ann Adams (PhD)	University of Alberta	Erin Bayne and Colleen Cassady St. Clair	The effects of artificial light at night on habitat use by aerial insectivores in Alberta
Jared Anderson-Huxley (PhD)	University of California, Riverside	Marko Spasojevic	Adapt, move, or go extinct: Will species on the tops of mountains survive climate change?
Monica Ayala-Diaz (PhD)	University of Alberta	Heather Proctor and Clement Lagrue	Division of labour in trematode parasites and its effects on trematode ecology
Charity Blaney (MSc)	University of Calgary	Steven Vamosi	Impacts on long-toed salamander habitat in southwestern Alberta
Lindsey Dewart (MSc)	University of Alberta	Scott Nielsen and Mark Edwards	Influence of wolf ( <i>Canis lupus</i> ) predation on wood bison ( <i>Bison bison athabasca</i> ) in the Alberta oilsands
Raiany Dias de Andrade Silva (PhD)	University of Alberta	Barb Thomas	Patterns and mechanisms driving clone size and gender performance in trembling aspen in Alberta

Con't...



Justin Dubiel (MSc)	University of Lethbridge	Steve Wiseman	Characterization of the sensitivity of three fish species inhabiting the Alberta Oil Sands Region to PAHs and alkyl PAHs
Elène Haave Audet (MSc)	University of Alberta	Kimberley Mathot	Individual differences in information sampling and its correlation with survival in the Blackcapped Chickadee ( <i>Poecile atricapillus</i> )
Gabriela Heyer (MSc)	University of Saskatchewan	Jeffrey Lane	Local adaptation in hibernation phenotypes of Columbian Ground Squirrels ( <i>Urocitellus columbianus</i> )
Sarah Hirtle (MSc)	University of Lethbridge	Cameron Goater	Causes and consequences of multiparasitism in wild and experimental populations of fathead minnows
Emily Holden (MSc)	University of Alberta	J.C. Cahill	Trait similarity's impacts on plant establishment: General effects among communities
German Lagunas-Robles (PhD)	University of California, Riverside	Alan Brelsford	Environmental, genetic, and social influences on sex ratio in the boreal ant <i>Formica podzolica</i>
Keon Park (MSc)	Western University	Nusha Keyghobadi	The genetic basis of dispersal and recolonization in a butterfly metapopulation
Emily Purvis (MSc)	University of Calgary	Paul Galpern	The reassembly of plant-pollinator interaction networks following wetland habitat restoration in Alberta croplands
Garrett Rawleigh (MSc)	University of Alberta	Scott Nielsen	Winter responses in wood bison ( <i>Bison bison athabascae</i> ) to seasonal dynamics in water and factors influencing forage availability in wetlands
Jessica Serbu (PhD)	University of Alberta	Vince St. Louis	Impacts of rapid glacial melt on downstream river freshwater quality and food webs in Banff and Jasper National Parks
Lee Sutcliffe (MSc)	University of Manitoba	Nicola Koper	Effects of oil well drilling noise on parental breeding behavior of chestnut-collared longspurs ( <i>Calcarius ornatus</i> )
Molly Tilley (MSc)	University of Lethbridge	Cameron Goater	Life cycle, intra-host development and consequences of an emerging new pathogen of minnows in southern Alberta
Zoey Zapisocki (MSc)	University of Alberta	Viktoria Wagner	Local adaptation of plains rough fescue ( <i>Festuca hallii</i> ) to Kentucky bluegrass ( <i>Poa pratensis</i> ) invasion