

Last fall, the ASM Board of Directors established the ASM Graduate Research Scholarship with the commitment of a generous gift by Paul and Frances Bauer of \$2000 per year of the next three years in order to initially establish the scholarship. The board recommended that a Scholarship Committee with members Brad Jacobs, Susan Hazelwood, and Sue Gustafson be established in order to administer the scholarship.

Application guidelines were established with board input. The applicant must be a graduate student at a Missouri university or college doing research or field work in ornithology, or in an area of study that will directly benefit birds or bird habitat. The research/field work must be done in Missouri.

Last November, the request for applications was sent to Missouri colleges and universities with biology graduate programs. At the application deadline of January 15, we were very pleased to receive five applications from three institutions. The Scholarship Committee met in order to announce the recipient by March 1. We had an extremely difficult task in selecting the recipient due to the excellent caliber of all of the applicants and their research projects.

The \$2000 ASM Graduate Research Scholarship was awarded to Mr. Robin Hirsh-Jacobson of the University of Missouri-Columbia for his project “The Effects of Late Season Nests on Source-Sink Dynamics in Mid Missouri Forest Fragments.” Robin is pursuing his doctoral degree in Biological Sciences in Dr. John Faaborg’s Lab, and his study will focus on Ovenbird and Wood Thrush. Upon learning of his award, Robin writes: “I am honored and proud to receive the 2006 ASM Graduate Research Scholarship. I am extremely excited about my project and the impacts it will hopefully have towards local avian conservation. This grant allows for my first field season. I will start my field season in mid-May. I want to thank you, and those who helped in make the decision. I would also like to thank Paul and Frances Bauer for providing this opportunity. I am truly grateful.”

We will be inviting Robin to make a presentation to ASM at a future fall or spring meeting to learn more about the results of his research.