



Endowment Committee
1088 Academic Surge
Department of Wildlife, Fish, and Conservation Biology
University of California, Davis
Davis, CA 95616

Dear Colleagues,

I am writing to enthusiastically recommend Violet Wu for the Lloyd W. Swift Summer Research Award through the Department of Wildlife, Fish, and Conservation Biology at UC Davis. Violet plans to develop an independent, student-driven research project seeking to understand the role of parental feeding in mediating the effects of temperature spikes in anthropogenic and natural environments.

To do so, she will partner with the Museum of Wildlife and Fish Biology to deploy Raspberry Pi-based motion-activated cameras at a subset of nests to capture video of parents bringing food to their young. In February and March, Violet will receive training from master bander Daniel Karp in how to measure and band birds. Then, for 10 hours per week during Spring quarter and 30 hours per week until early August, Violet will work directly with me to deploy cameras and thermal sensors, monitor nests, and collect thermal and video data. During Fall 2023, Violet will work with me to conduct statistical analyses and prepare a report detailing her findings.

Violet has demonstrated her aptitude and interest in wildlife research through an impressive variety of research experiences as well as volunteer experience with bird handling. She spent three months studying desert animals with the CA Ecology and Conservation Program contributed to a scientific publication. She has also worked with two graduate students to code scientific articles and build a large database of primate traits. She has worked with graduate students in the Yang lab to study melanization in monarch caterpillars. Finally, she volunteers at the CA Raptor Center, where she has already developed bird handling skills that will serve her well during this project. Leading her own research represents the next step in her career trajectory. Violet will be trained in new field skills, statistical analyses, and scientific writing.

I will be using my own funding to purchase the requisite camera equipment for this project, but do not have enough funding to pay Violet's salary. Thus, obtaining a Swift Summer Research Award is vital to allow her to engage in this research project. Her proposed research is ambitious, novel, and could produce concrete conservation recommendations for agricultural land managers in the Central Valley. I plan to work with Violet to write up her results and publish the resulting product. I will also ensure a thank you note is written. In summary, receiving a Swift Summer Research Award would provide essential fuel to Violet's continued growth as a conservation scientist.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "K. Lauck", is written over a horizontal line.

Katherine S. Lauck
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