

TWS Caesar Kleberg Award of Excellence in Applied Wildlife Research

2020 - Ray T. Alisauskas



Ray Alisauskas is the recipient of The Wildlife Society's 2020 Caesar Kleberg Award for Excellence in Applied Wildlife Research for his work and dedication to researching Arctic waterfowl. Alisauskas is currently a research scientist with Environment and Climate Change Canada at the Prairie and Northern Wildlife Research Centre in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. This award recognizes and honours individuals whose work has resulted in the direct application of wildlife management and conservation on the ground. Alisauskas first began researching Arctic waterfowl in 1983, and his research has since made a profound contribution to our understanding of how we assess Arctic goose populations, including how hunting can be used effectively for management. Much of his work has focused on banding geese to provide better estimates of snow geese (*Chen caerulescens*) and Ross's geese (*C. rossii*) populations using a variety of methods, such as applying Frederick Lincoln's estimator, which utilizes the number of banded birds and hunter harvests. His long-term research efforts have also significantly increased our knowledge of waterfowl reproduction, nutritional ecology, parasitology and their overall ecological importance as keystone species for vegetation and wildlife in the Arctic.