

Corin Michelle Olivas, M.S.

Curriculum Vitae

Education

Ongoing. Doctorate of Philosophy, Wildlife, Aquatic, and Wildlands Science and Management.

Department of Natural Resources Management, Texas Tech University, Lubbock, TX.

Advisor: Warren Conway, Ph.D.

December 2015. Master's of Science, Biology. Department of Biology, Geology, and Physical Sciences, Sul Ross State University, Alpine, TX.

Advisor: Christopher Ritzi, Ph.D.

Thesis: *Habitat and Spatial Ecology of the Western Screech-Owl (Megascops kennicottii) in the Davis Mountains of West Texas.*

May 2012. Bachelor of Science, Biology, minor in Environmental Science. Kenneth L. Maddox School of Mathematics and Sciences, Wayland Baptist University, Plainview, TX.

Advisor: Andrew Kasner, Ph.D.

May 2009. Associate of Science, New Mexico Junior College, Hobbs, NM.

Employment

Assistant Professor of Biology, July 2022 – current, Kenneth L. Maddox School of Mathematics and Sciences, Wayland Baptist University, Plainview, TX. Courses include General Biology II, Life Science for Non-Majors, Vertebrate Biology, and Conservation Biology. Other duties include advising biology students, both in academics and research, and service on university committees.

Instructor of Biology, July 2021 – June 2022, Kenneth L. Maddox School of Mathematics and Sciences, Wayland Baptist University, Plainview, TX. Courses include General Biology II, Life Science for Non-Majors, Vertebrate Biology, and Conservation Biology. Other duties include advising biology students, both in academics and research, and service on university committees.

College Private Tutor, October 2018 – February 2021, Student Support Services, New Mexico Junior College, Hobbs, NM. Set up weekly appointments with students within the college's program and tutor them one-on-one in various subjects, including math, biology, and English.

STS Maintenance Technician, July 2019 – September 2020, Denver City, TX. Entered and proofread data daily. Entered, planned and scheduled Corrective Maintenance tickets for company men daily. Provided reports to on-site team leads. Tracked and scheduled various Preventative Maintenance tasks to ensure compliance with federal regulations. Responsible for proofreading asset data and ensuring data were up-to-date, including creating new assets via specifications given by company men.

STS/Oxy Maintenance Technician, July 2019 – April 2020, Oxy Permian, Denver City, TX. Entered and proofread data daily. Entered, planned and scheduled Corrective Maintenance tickets for company men daily. Provided reports to on-site team leads. Tracked and scheduled various Preventative Maintenance tasks to ensure compliance with federal regulations. Responsible for proofreading asset data and ensuring data were up-to-date, including creating new assets via specifications given by company men.

Senior Shorebird Research Technician, April – August 2018, Salt Plains State Park, OK. In conjunction with the Department of Natural Resources Management, Texas Tech University, Lubbock, TX.

Shorebird Research Technician, May – August 2017, Salt Plains State Park, OK. In conjunction with the Department of Natural Resources Management, Texas Tech University, Lubbock, TX.

Game Bird Telemetry Technician, June – December 2016, Beaver River Wildlife Management Area, OK. In conjunction with the Department of Natural Resource Ecology and Management, Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, OK.

Laboratory Teaching Assistant, 2012-2014, Department of Biology, Geology, and Physical Sciences, Sul Ross State University, Alpine, TX. Taught weekly laboratory sections of a

General Zoology course. Created quizzes and exams, directed weekly dissections, and sometimes proctored lecture exams for professors. Responsible for grading exams and assignments, and submitting student grades at the end of the semester.

Student worker, 2009-2011, Kenneth L. Maddox School of Mathematics and Sciences, Wayland Baptist University, Plainview, TX. Assistant for various activities and assignments, biology laboratory prep room organization and maintenance, occasional Teaching Assistant and exam proctor.

Contract janitorial position, 2003-2015, Renegade Wireline, Hobbs, NM.

Research Interests

- ❖ Developing a broader knowledge base of general avian ecology
- ❖ Studying avian population ecology and dynamics

Research and Field Experience

Academic Research Advisor within the Honors Program at Wayland Baptist University, August 2021 – June 2023.

- Conducted biweekly songbird point counts in conjunction with an honors student, within the Plains Baptist Assembly Camp near Floydada, TX.
- Aimed to determine the summer bird species composition, and estimate individual species densities, within the property.

Shorebird Research Technician, May – August 2017, and April – August 2018.

- Conducted daily nest searches and captured breeding Snowy Plovers in the Great Salt Plains of central Oklahoma via bownet over the course of the respective breeding seasons.
- Banded, measured, and radiotagged adult specimens, and banded nestlings once hatched.
- Conducted line-transect surveys for one month per season.
- Entered and proofread data daily in Microsoft Excel.
- Rode and maintained both ATVs and UTVs.
- Responsible for training a fellow research technician during 2018.

Game Bird Telemetry Technician, June – December 2016.

- Assisted with capturing and daily radiotelemetry monitoring of Northern Bobwhite and Scaled Quail populations in the Oklahoma Panhandle.
- Conducted whistle counts during the summer and covey counts in the fall.
- Entered and proofread data daily in Microsoft Excel.
- Maintained field vehicles and ATVs.

Masters' thesis research, 2012 – 2014. Sul Ross State University, Alpine, TX.

- Conducted call playback and response surveys for Western Screech-Owls
- Captured, banded, and radiotagged a handful of adult screech-owls as part of brief telemetry study
- Gathered general ecological information about Western Screech-Owl life history in the Davis Mountains

Undergraduate student and class research, 2010 – 2012. Wayland Baptist University,

Plainview, TX.

- Conducted call playback and response surveys for owls within Plainview during Winter 2011 – Spring 2012.
 - Sought to establish whether owls were utilizing urban spaces.
- Conducted presence/absence studies for urban mammals within Plainview using scent stations and game cameras during Fall 2011.
 - Analyzed the composition of mammal community via photo analysis
 - Compared and contrasted the community structures at several levels of urbanization

Field assistant service:

- Survey assistant for salt cedar beetles and salt cedar regrowth along the Rio Grande with associate lecturer Anne-Marie Hilscher.
- Mist netting and bird banding with Dr. Andrew Kasner.
- Rock Wren nesting ecology with undergraduate student Ivy Sustaita.

Related Field Experience and Credentials 

Field Techniques:

- Bird visual identification
- Bird banding/handling
- Songbird trapping: mist nets, bow nets
- Avian surveys: point counts, call/response surveys
- Radiotelemetry
- Game bird trapping and handling

- Game bird surveys
- Basic vegetation sampling
- Transect set-up

Technology and Data Analysis:

- General data entry
- Program PRESENCE
- ArcGIS
- SPSS
- JMP
- Microsoft Office software
- GPS

Skills learned during coursework:

- Fish sampling with seines
- Plant identification and classification
- Herbarium organization

Teaching Experience

- ❖ **General Biology II:** This course is the second of a two-semester series intended for science majors, and is required for biology and molecular biology majors. Topics covered include concepts of organismal biology; population biology; diversity of biological systems; and origins and adaptations of populations within the biosphere.
 - Abbreviated Learning Outcomes: 1) Describe perspectives on origins and sequence of life forms appearing throughout earth's history; 2) Categorize and describe major groups of bacteria, archaea, protists, fungi, invertebrates, and vertebrate; and 3) Describe and delineate concepts of ecology and the biosphere in relation to organisms, populations, and communities of major ecosystems.
- ❖ **Vertebrate Biology:** Study of the extant classes of vertebrates emphasizing their morphology as it relates to their life histories, ecology, and distribution; anatomy and physiology having to do with habitat and niche occupancy will be emphasized.
 - Abbreviated Learning Outcomes: 1) Gain an understanding of natural selection; origin and evolution; major evolutionary changes and adaptations; and functional morphology among extinct and extant vertebrate groups; 2) Obtain knowledge on similarities and differences of anatomical systems and ecology of major vertebrate groups; and 3) Identify taxa of vertebrate classes that are common to North America.

- ❖ **Conservation Biology:** Management of vertebrate populations emphasized through the study of environmental and other influences on population dynamics in the context of ecological communities.
 - Abbreviated Learning Outcomes: 1) Learn and understand the basic principles of conservation biology; 2) Gain an understanding of the application of conservation principles to the management of wildlife populations; and 3) Gain an understanding of the social and economic aspects of conservation and wildlife management.
- ❖ **Life Science:** A general laboratory-based course for non-science majors or minors. Employs the scientific method to discover how living things are organized; acquire materials and energy; respond to their environment; reproduce and develop; and adapt to their environment. Attention also given to bio-ethical issues in contemporary biology.
 - Abbreviated Learning Outcomes: 1) Explain how living organisms metabolize and self-perpetuate; 2) Explain cell structure and function; and 3) Explain the ecosystem concept in terms of homeostasis and the effect of perturbations on ecosystems.

Course Development

- ❖ **General Biology II:** Refined lecture materials, and revamped laboratory modules to enhance the student experience and further align with course learning outcomes.
- ❖ **Vertebrate Biology:** Refined lecture materials, and revamped laboratory modules to enhance the student experience and further align with course learning outcomes.
- ❖ **Conservation Biology:** Revamped previous lecture material to further align with course learning outcomes.
- ❖ **Life Science:** Collaborated with a fellow colleague to further refine the lecture and lab materials. Created an online version of a lab used to analyze the efficiency of the Core Course Learning Outcomes. Pioneered the use of online Mastering materials to further enhance the student experience.

Meetings Attended

- ❖ Texas Academy of Science Annual Meeting, 2024
- ❖ Texas Academy of Science Annual Meeting, 2015
- ❖ Texas Academy of Science Annual Meeting, 2014
- ❖ Texas Tech 3rd Annual Biological Science Symposium, 2012
- ❖ Wayland Baptist University Spring Research Day, 2012

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- ❖ Wayland Baptist University Spring Research Day, 2011
- ❖ Texas Academy of Science Annual Meeting, 2010
- ❖ Wayland Baptist University Spring Research Day, 2012

Presentations at Scientific Meetings

(Total: 5)

Olivas, C.M., Kasner, A.C., and Ritzi, C.M. 2015. Spatial Ecology of Western Screech-Owls (*Megascops kennicotti*) in the Davis Mountains of West Texas.

- Presented at the Texas Academy of Science Annual Meeting, March 7, 2015.

Olivas, C.M., Sandoval, N., Kasner, A.C., and Ritzi, C.M. 2014. Habitat Use and Activity Patterns of Western Screech-Owls (*Megascops kennicottii*) in the Davis Mountains of West Texas.

- Presented at the Texas Academy of Science Annual Meeting, March 7, 2014.

Olivas, C.M. and Kasner, A.C. 2012. Effectiveness of Scent Stations, Game Cameras, and Scent Types for Assessing Mammalian Presence and Abundance in an Urban Environment.

- Presented at the Texas Academy of Science Annual Meeting, March 2, 2012.
- Presented at the Texas Tech 3rd Annual Biological Science Symposium, March 31, 2012.
 - Second Place Best Undergraduate Presentation
- Presented at the Wayland Baptist University Spring Research Day April 20, 2012.

Posters at Scientific Meetings

(Total: 3)

Kemmer, J.A. and **Olivas, C.M.** 2012. Relationship between Seed Pod Production, Number of Seeds, and Seed Mass in *Gleditsia triacanthos* L.

- Presented at the Texas Academy of Science Annual Meeting, March 2, 2012
- Presented at the Wayland Baptist University Spring Research Day April 20, 2012.

Olivas, C.M., Sauer, R.M., Smith, J.W., and Moore, Dr. R.L. 2012. Internet Usage Has No Apparent Effect on Literacy Rates in Middle Eastern Countries.

- Presented at the Wayland Baptist University Spring Research Day April 20, 2012.

Professional Activities and Affiliations

Texas Academy of Science

- Member, current
- Member, 2011-2015

Texas Academy of Science, WBU Student Chapter

- Member, 2009-2012
- Secretary, Fall 2010
- Treasurer, Spring 2011-2012

Phi Theta Kappa Academic Honors Society, New Mexico Junior College

- Member, 2007-2009
- Secretary, 2008-2009

Mu Alpha Theta Math Association, New Mexico Junior College

- Member, 2008-2009

Services to the Profession

- ❖ Organizing committee for WBU Spring Research Day, Spring 2011 and 2012
- ❖ Served as a member of the Hospitality Committee, Wayland Baptist University, Fall 2021 - Spring 2022
- ❖ Served as a member of the Wilson Lectures Committee, Wayland Baptist University, Fall 2022 - Spring 2023
- ❖ Served as a member of the Chemistry Search Committee, Wayland Baptist University, Spring 2024
- ❖ Served as a member of the Education Search Committee, Wayland Baptist University, Spring - Summer 2024
- ❖ Serving on Faculty Senate, Wayland Baptist University, Fall 2023 - Spring 2025
 - Member, Fall 2023 - Spring 2024
 - Secretary, Fall 2024 - Spring 2025

Honors and Awards

- ❖ 2nd Place, Texas Tech 3rd Annual Biological Science Symposium, March 31, 2012.

Academic Achievements and Scholarships

- ❖ Wayland Baptist University
 - President's List, Spring 2010-2012
 - Math and Science Scholarship, 2010-2012
 - Pioneer Scholarship, 2009-2012
 - Music Scholarship, 2009-2012
 - Christian Academic Scholarship, 2009-2010
 - Dean's List, Fall 2009

- ❖ New Mexico Junior College
 - President's List 2008-2009
 - Vice President's List 2007-2008
