

# Amaris D. Shammaa

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## EDUCATION

**Texas Tech University:** Wildlife Aquatic and Wildlands Science and Management

**Classification:** First year

**Expected Graduation:** December 2025

**GPA:** 4.0

**Bachelor of Science in Natural Resources Management, Concentration in Wildlife Biology**

Texas Tech University, Lubbock, Texas

2019-2022

**GPA:** 3.889

## SKILLS

**NRM Based Skills:** passerine, upland game and raptor bird banding, bird of prey trapping, trailer hauling certified, chainsaw certified, UTV/ATV driving, fishing, seining, plant identification of 150 spp., bird identification by sight and song, small scale bird hunting, waterfowl hunting, rocket nets, mist nets vegetation surveys.

**Soft Skills:** ArcGIS, ArcGIS Pro, ArcMap, R studio, NRI Survey Application Use, Avenza Maps, Gaia GPS Tracking, NRCS Web Soil Survey, Garmin eTrex GPS device use, VHF telemetry, Kestrel wind meter, setting up game cameras, laser distance pointer, Wildlife Acoustics Audio Monitoring, Audio Moth deployment, Acoustic sonogram analysis.

**Language Skills:** Fluent in English, Spanish, and German respectively in reading, writing, and speaking skills.

## RESEARCH / RELATED EXPERIENCE

**Graduate Research**

**August 2023-Ongoing**

**Community Structure, Resource Partitioning and Exposure to Second Generation**

**Anticoagulant Rodenticides of Owls on the Coastal Bend of Texas**

**Sinton, TX | The Welder Wildlife Foundation & Texas Tech University**

- Conducting night time surveys using audio playback to elicit responses from free-flying owls.
- Capture, draw blood from, and place VHF backpack monitors on free-flying Barred Owls on the Welder Wildlife Refuge.
- Deploy and retrieve Passive Audio Monitors (PAM) for acoustic analysis.
- Acoustic analysis of sonograms with BirdNet and Kaleidoscope Pro.
- Track and record tagged owls with VHF telemetry receivers for scope of utilization distribution.
- Perform necropsies from collected road killed owls and surrendered owls from local wildlife rehabilitation centers for anticoagulant rodenticide exposure analysis.

- Conduct lab analysis on blood and liver tissues collected from owl specimens.
- Present research at professional conferences.

### **Undergraduate Research**

**January 2022-December 2022**

#### **Freshwater Assessment of Micro-plastics Through Aquatic Food Webs**

**Del Rio, TX | Texas Tech University**

- Collecting invasive specimens from the San Felipe Creek through use of a seine fish net.
- Aided in fish counts and data collection in graduate student project assessing environment for endangered Devils River Minnows.
- Dissecting of species to assess presence of micro plastics within muscle tissue and digestive system.

## **EMPLOYMENT**

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### **Avian Monitoring Technician**

**May 2023-August 2023**

#### **Impacts of Habitat Restoration in Pinyon-Juniper Woodlands on Avian Communities**

**Fort Stanton, NM | Texas Tech University**

- Conduct avian point counts through the Capitan mountain range.
- Identify individuals by sight and song.
- Identify behavioral characteristics, sex and age class if possible.
- Target net for the Juniper Titmouse to then band, record data and safely release.
- Properly record and band other species of birds from by catch.
- Conduct vegetation surveys at the end of the season throughout the range.

### **NRI Team Member**

**May 2022-August 2022**

#### **University of Idaho and National Resource Conservation Service- USDA**

**Bellevue, Idaho**

- Skills of plant identification and use of dichotomous key and other field guides.
- Assessment of soil stability, characteristics, soil profiles and overall soil type.
- Navigate through rough terrain to collect coordinates using handheld GPS units by truck, ATV and on foot.
- Properly take vegetation data including but not limited to: line point intercept, gap intercept, plant inventory, plant height, soil stability, and resource concerns.
- Work and camp in various and often extreme weather conditions.
- Effectively communicate with landowners and while doing field work.

### **Fawn Research Technician**

**May 2021-August 2021**

#### **East Foundation Fawn Survival Study**

**San Antonio Viejo Ranch Hebbronville, TX | East Foundation and Texas A&M University of Kingsville**

- Locate and track movement of free roaming doe through use of VHF telemetry system connecting to VITs and collars on a rotating 24hr work schedule beginning with the first born fawn of the season.
- Locate wild new born fawns and collect data including hair samples, measurements, weight, collared and ear tagged under correct animal wellness protocols.
- Conduct birth site and mortality site vegetation surveys and analyses.
- Track newly born fawns 3 times/day and record mortalities.

### **Residence Community Advisor**

**August 2020-May 2022**

**Texas Tech University Student Housing | Lubbock, TX**

- Plan, promote and execute events and programs based on monthly expectations.
- Work with residents through roommate conflicts and write reports such as Title X, Student of Concern and Conduct as needed.
- Work on call overnight.
- Connect with students on a personal level to resolve mental health issues, social struggles, and academic difficulties and direct them to the correct resources.

### **Red Raider Camp Counselor**

**March 2020-July 2020**

**Texas Tech University | Lubbock, TX**

- Introduce new students to TTU traditions, take part in outdoor activities while working long hours.
- Work in teams and alone.

## **VOLUNTEER WORK**

### **Passive Acoustic Monitor Retrieval for Spotted Owl Detections**

**September 2024**

**USGS & TTU | McKittrick Canyon - Guadalupe Mountains National Park**

- Backpack into McKittrick Canyon to retrieve Passive Acoustic Monitors (PAMs) that had been set out months before.
- Hike 20+ miles both on trail and off trail to locate recorders.
- Identify owl species if one was detected calling while retrieving.

### **MAPS Station Bird Banding**

**June 2024**

**Welder Wildlife Foundation | Sinton, TX**

- Assist in setting up 10 mist nets and closing them down daily.
- Properly handle and remove birds from mist nets after they have been captured.
- Record proper data according to MAPS protocol before releasing birds.

### **Quail and Raptor Research Study**

**December 2023**

**Rolling Plains Quail Research Foundation | Rotan, Texas**

- Assist in processing Bobwhite and Scaled quail by taking measurements and placing radio collars on the birds.
- Perform necropsy on euthanized birds to assess body condition, and abnormalities.

- Extract and count cecal and eye worms and place organs in formalin for lab processing.

**Freshwater Electroshocking  
2023**

Bureau of Land Management | Lincoln, New Mexico

**July 10th**

- Shadow the region's Wildlife and Fisheries Biologist
- Sweep through the Rio Bonito following electroshocking.
- Count, identify and measure fish species

**Women's Deer Hunt**

TPWD & TTU Wildlife Society | Blackwell, Texas

**13-15 January 2023**

- Learn and practice hunters education and safety.
- Successfully harvest a White-tailed deer.
- Learn and practice proper field dressing and quartering technique.

**Collins Lab Fisheries Skills Workshop**

Aztlan Park | Lubbock, Texas

**October 2022**

- Properly conduct fish population assessment for Aztlan Park.
- Backpack electrofishing for a total of three passes to collect fish.
- Measure and identify fish species.
- Properly record data.

**Beaver Dam and Artificial Dam Tracking**

Rinker Rock Creek Ranch | Bellevue, Idaho

**July 2022**

- Searching for presence of beaver dams.
- Recording measurements of dams such as: active / abandoned, length, depth, water turbidity, pond length.

**Monitoring Blitz NRCS**

Rinker Rock Creek Ranch | Bellevue, Idaho

**June 2022**

- Effectively collect data for the NRCS on and around the Bellevue, Idaho area.
- Navigate to UTM coordinates.
- Collect data using NRCS protocols including LPI, Gap and plant identification.

**Sage Grouse Monitoring**

Rinker Rock Creek Ranch | Bellevue, Idaho

**June 2022**

- Using VHF telemetry system to track down female Sage Grouse.
- Recording UTM points of found grouse and presence / absence of fledglings.

**Purple Martin Nest Box Building****April 2022**

Texas Tech Wildlife Society | Cross Plains, Texas

- Assess placement and set up of two Purple Martin gourd colonies.
- Capping gourds in order to prevent invasive species from entering nest gourds.

**Mist Netting Workshop****April 2022**

Texas Tech Wildlife Society | Lubbock, Texas

- Effectively set up and take down mist nets.
- Capture, handle and identify birds caught from the net.
- Band birds and collect proper measurements before safely releasing.

**Sandhill Crane Capture****March 2022**

Ladd Marsh Wildlife Area | La Grande, Oregon

- Fold, set up and detonate rocket nets.
- Handle Sandhill Cranes.
- Properly record data including tarsal, weight, culmen, beak, and wing measurements.

**Prescribed Burn****February 2022**

Ozona Chamber of Commerce | Ozona, Texas

- Learn the proper safety protocols and procedure for a prescribed burn.
- Handle drip torches and water backpacks to light fire and extinguish spot fires respectively
- Learn the proper safety protocols and procedure for a prescribed burn.
- Ignite and observe brush fires to prevent spot fires and promote soil nutrients.

**Wild Turkey Capture Crew****February 2022**

Texas Tech University | Junction, Texas

- Set up rocket nets & monitor game cameras to establish best placement of traps.
- Learned handling and banding techniques on wild turkeys.

**Small Mammal Trapping****April 2021**

Texas Tech University | Lubbock, Texas

- Set up Sherman traps.
- Captured, ear tagged and logged data and safely released captured mammals.

**Lesser Prairie-Chicken Capture****February-April 2021**

Texas Tech University | Plains, TX

- Up walk in funnel traps and drop nets in multiple leks.
- Fit male Lesser Prairie-Chickens with GPS transmitters.
- Banded captured birds with aluminum and plastic colored leg bands.

**White-Tailed Deer Capture****November 2020 & October 2021**

Texas Tech Wildlife Society, Texas A&M University Kingsville & East Foundation | San Antonio Viejo Ranch (November 2020) & El Sauz Ranch (October 2021)

- Captured free roaming deer after rocket-net was released and transported them to work up station via UTV.
- Logged data including ear tagging, ear notching, body weight, antler spread, and body measurements.

- Scored body health and safely released them after workup; untying them and removing the eye covers.

### **Wildlife Rehabilitation Volunteer**

**February-May 2021**

South Plains Wildlife Rehabilitation Center | Lubbock, Texas

- Prepared foods and fed animals on routine scheduled times depending upon season.
- Handled juvenile birds, bunnies, squirrels, opossums, and adult ambassador birds of prey.

### **Women's Dove Hunt**

**2-3 October 2021**

TPWD & Women Outdoors Group, TTU Wildlife Society | Littlefield, TX

- Learn the importance of hunters education and gun safety through TPWD Game Warden and Game Bird Specialist.
- Learn the correct protocols to hunting and successfully harvest 6 dove.

### **Veterinary Hospital Intern**

**June-August 2018**

Lilli Vet Hospital | San Antonio, TX

- Shadowed technicians and vet during spaying and neutering procedures.

## **PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS AND POSTERS**

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### **Verbal Presentation**

**February 20, 2024**

*Occupancy and Habitat Associations Among Owls on the Texas Coastal Bend Region*

Texas Chapter of the Wildlife Society Meeting | Denton, TX

### **Verbal Presentation**

**October 23-27, 2024**

*Habitat Association, and Community Structure Among Owls on the Texas Coastal Bend Region*

Raptor Research Foundation Annual Conference | Charlotte, NC

### **Verbal Presentation**

**October 18-22, 2024**

*Community Structure Among Owls on the Texas Coastal Bend Region*

The Welder Wildlife Foundation Symposium | Sinton, TX

### **Verbal Presentation**

**September 18th, 2024**

*Community Structure Among Owls on the Texas Coastal Bend Region*

Early Career Raptor Researchers- RRF | Virtual Presentation

### **Poster Presentation**

**February 26, 2024**

*Owl Community Structure, Resource Partitioning, and Exposure to Second-Generation Anticoagulant Rodenticides*  
Texas Chapter of the Wildlife Society Meeting | Houston, TX

## INVOLVEMENT LEADERSHIP ROLES

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**Early Career Raptor Researchers - Raptor Research Foundation, Committee Member 2024-current**  
**Association of Natural Resource Scientist (ANRS), Committee Chair 2023-2024**  
**Raptor Research Foundation, Member 2022- current**  
**Public Land Foundation , Member and Scholarship Recipient 2023**  
**Texas Tech Wildlife Society, Outreach Coordinator 2021-2022**  
**Texas Tech Wildlife Society, Quizbowl Team Member 2021**  
**Sigma Alpha: Rho Chapter, Rush Chair**  
**Unidos Por Un Mismo Idioma, Secretary 2020**  
**Unidos Por Un Mismo Idioma, Vice President 2021**  
**Catholic Student Association, Raider Awakening Retreat Help Staff 2021-2024**  
**Catholic Student Association, Raider Awakening Retreat Table Staff 2021-2023**  
**Rotary Youth Exchange, Exchange Student in Austria 2016-2017**

## COMMUNITY SERVICE

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Texas FFA Association- Wildlife Contest Volunteer	March 2024,2025
Grace Campus Homeless Shelter	November 2024
Lions Club Pancake Festival	Spring 2020,2021,2022
Texas Tech CUTE Club Recycling Plant Separation and Organization	Fall 2020
CHROMA Art Show & Fundraiser	Fall 2020
San Antonio Food Bank-Crisis Relief Food Distribution	March 2020- August 2020
Fundación Cultural y de Beneficencia Arquitecto Saul Vara	December 2020-Present

## HONORS & AWARDS

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Rob & Bessie Welder Wildlife Fellowship Recipient 2023,2024  
Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo Assistantship Recipient 2023  
The Public Lands Foundation George Leas Scholarship Recipient 2023  
Deans Honors List Scholar, *Fall 2019, Spring 2020, Spring 2022*  
Presidential Honors List Scholar, *Fall 2020, Fall 2021, Spring 2021*  
Student Panel Member for Raider Ready 2022  
Presidential Merit Scholarship Recipient  
TTU WL Stangel AG Scholarship Recipient  
TTU Hunter RWFM Scholarship Recipient  
Wittenburg-Britton Scholarship Recipient  
Lo Bello Women's Association Recipient

James Koplin Student Travel Award - Raptor Research Foundation 2024, for the purpose of travelling to present ongoing research at the international foundations annual conference

State Student Chapter of the Year, The Wildlife Society at Texas Tech (**A. Shammaa**, Outreach Coordinator), 58th Annual Meeting of the Texas Chapter of The Wildlife Society, Marble Falls, Texas, 2022 – **Service Based Award**

National Student Chapter of the Year, The Wildlife Society at Texas Tech (**A. Shammaa**, Outreach Coordinator), The Wildlife Society, 2022 – **Service Based Award**