

Amaris D. Shammaa

Lubbock, TX | amaris.shammaa@ttu.edu

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

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 Hebronville, 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 McKittrich 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**July 10th****2023**

Bureau of Land Management | Lincoln, New Mexico

- 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**13-15 January 2023**

TPWD & TTU Wildlife Society | Blackwell, Texas

- 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**October 2022**

Aztlan Park | Lubbock, Texas

- 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**July 2022**

Rinker Rock Creek Ranch | Bellevue, Idaho

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

Monitoring Blitz NRCS**June 2022**

Rinker Rock Creek Ranch | Bellevue, Idaho

- 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**June 2022**

Rinker Rock Creek Ranch | Bellevue, Idaho

- 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 Texas Tech Wildlife Society Cross Plains, Texas	April 2022
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 Texas Tech Wildlife Society Lubbock, Texas	April 2022
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 Ladd Marsh Wildlife Area La Grande, Oregon	March 2022
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fold, set up and detonate rocket nets. • Handle Sandhill Cranes. • Properly record data including tarsal, weight, culmen, beak, and wing measurements. 	
Prescribed Burn Ozona Chamber of Commerce Ozona, Texas	February 2022
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 Texas Tech University Junction, Texas	February 2022
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Set up rocket nets & monitor game cameras to establish best placement of traps. • Learned handling and banding techniques on wild turkeys. 	
Small Mammal Trapping Texas Tech University Lubbock, Texas	April 2021
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Set up Sherman traps. • Captured, ear tagged and logged data and safely released captured mammals. 	
Lesser Prairie-Chicken Capture Texas Tech University Plains, TX	February-April 2021
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 Texas Tech Wildlife Society, Texas A&M University Kingsville & East Foundation San Antonio Viejo Ranch (November 2020) & El Sauz Ranch (October 2021)	November 2020 & October 2021
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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

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

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

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

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 RWFN 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**