

Ben Reynolds Skipper

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PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYMENT AND EDUCATION

2014 – Present: Associate Professor of Biology, Dept. of Biology, Angelo State University, San Angelo, Texas.

2013 – 2014: Post-Doctoral Research Assistant, Dept. of Natural Resources Management, Texas Tech University, Lubbock, Texas; Project Title: *Golden eagle occupancy in relation to landscape characteristics in the inter-mountain west.*

2009 – 2013: Ph.D. in Wildlife Science, Texas Tech University, Lubbock, Texas; Dissertation Title: *Urban ecology of Mississippi kites.*

2006 – 2008: M.S. in Biology, University of Nebraska at Kearney, Kearney, Nebraska; Thesis Title: *Influence of parental provisioning and brown-headed cowbird parasitism on bobolink nestling mass.*

2005 – 2008: Research Technician, Platte River Whooping Crane Maintenance Trust, Wood River, Nebraska.

2000 – 2005: B.S. in Wildlife Science, Auburn University, Auburn, Alabama.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Angelo State University – Animal Behavior (lecture), Animal Camouflage (lecture), Biogeography (lecture), Ecological Applications of GIS (lecture and laboratory), General Zoology (lecture and laboratory), Ornithology (lecture and laboratory) Principals of Ecology (laboratory), Principals of Biology I&II (laboratory), Seminar (lecture)

Texas Tech University – Introductory Wildlife Management; Raptor Ecology (TA)

University of Nebraska at Kearney – Introductory Biology Laboratory (TA)

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS (*GRADUATE STUDENT)

Mitchell, N. R., C. W. Boal, and B. R. Skipper. 2020. Distribution, density, and land cover associations of wintering golden eagles in the southern Great Plains. *Western North American Naturalist*. 80:452-461.

Skipper, B., D. Kim, and C. Morris. 2020. Seasonal abundance and nutritional concentration of grassland arthropods. *Western North American Naturalist* 80:19-27.

*Chodacki, G., and B. Skipper. 2019. Partitioning of foraging habitat by three kingfisher species (Alcedinidae: Cerylinae) along the South Llano River, Texas, USA. *Waterbirds* 42:231-236.

Skipper, B., and C. Boal. 2019. Nest-defense behavior of Mississippi kites in urban and exurban areas. *Human-Wildlife Interactions* 13:142-149.

Welch-Acosta, B., B. Skipper, and C. W. Boal. 2019. Comparative breeding ecology of Mississippi kites in urban and exurban areas of west Texas. In Press, *Journal of Field Ornithology*.

Skipper, B., C. Boal, J. Tsai, and M. Fuller. 2017. Assessment of frequency and duration of point counts when surveying for golden eagles. *Wildlife Society Bulletin* 41:212223.

Welch, B., C. Boal, and B. Skipper. 2017. Environmental influences on nesting phenology and productivity of Mississippi kites (*Ictinia mississippiensis*). *Condor* 119:298-307.

Skipper, B., B. Grisham, M. Kalyvaki, K. McGaughey, K. Mougey, L. Navarrete, R. Rondeau, C. Boal, and G. Perry. 2013. Non-overlapping distributions of feral sheep (*Ovis aries*) and stout iguana (*Cyclura pinguis*) on Guana Island, British Virgin Islands. *IRCF – Reptiles and Amphibians* 20:7-15.

Skipper, B. and D. Kim. 2013. Provisioning rate, dietary composition, and prey selection of breeding bobolinks and grasshopper sparrows. *Western North American Naturalist* 73:1-6.

Navarrete, L., B. Grisham, M. Kalyvaki, K. McGaughey, K. Mougey, B. Skipper, G. Perry, and C. Boal. 2013. Activity patterns of black-necked stilts in the British Virgin Islands. *Caribbean Journal of Ornithology* 26:17-21.

Skipper, B. and C. Boal. 2011. Female American kestrel survives double amputation. *Journal of Raptor Research* 45:374-375.

MANUSCRIPTS IN REVIEW

Jimenez, P., B. Skipper, and L. Ammerman. Identifying and characterizing roosts of *Dasypterus ega* and *D. intermedius*. Submitted to the *Southwestern Naturalist*.

MANUSCRIPTS IN PREPARATION

Persinger, K., L. Ammerman, N. Negovetich, and B. Skipper. Prevalence and genotyping of avian trichomoniasis in columbid species in central Texas.

Skipper, B. Winter movements of urban great-tailed grackles in central Texas.

Martin, C., B. Skipper, and C. Boal. Diurnal raptor assemblages along a latitudinal gradient in North America.

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

Skipper, B. 2019. Review of *Book of Texas Birds*, by G. Clark. *The Condor*.

Skipper, B. 2018. Mississippi kites: elegance aloft. In: Boal, C. and C. Dykstra eds. *Urban Raptors: Ecology and Conservation of Birds of Prey in Cities*. Academic Press.

Grisham, B., W. Anderson, L. Navarrete, A. Reza, B. Skipper, and B. Strobel. 2011. So, you want to be a graduate student? *The Wildlife Professional* 5:69-71.

RESEARCH AND TEACHING AWARDS

2019. Nominated for the *Gary and Pat Rodgers Distinguished Faculty Award*, Angelo State University.

2018. Faculty Excellence in Research/Creative Endeavor Award, Angelo State University.

2016. Nominated for the *Gary and Pat Rodgers Distinguished Faculty Award*, Angelo State University.

2013. 2nd Place, 12th Annual Graduate Student Poster Competition, Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources Management category. Texas Tech University, Lubbock, TX.

2013. 2nd Place, Texas Tech Annual Biological Sciences Symposium, Oral presentation, Natural Resources Management and Conservation category. Texas Tech University, Lubbock, TX.

2012. *Helen DeVitt Jones Excellence in Graduate Teaching Award*, Helen Jones Foundation and Texas Tech University, Lubbock, TX.

2011. *William C. Anderson Memorial Award*, Best student poster presentation, Annual meeting of The Raptor Research Foundation, Duluth, MN.

2011. *James T. Koplín Award*, Student travel award, Annual meeting of The Raptor Research Foundation, Duluth, MN.

STUDENT AWARDS AND GRANTS MENTORED

2019. Amponsah, N., and B. Skipper. Acoustic and visual cues used by an urban exploiter, the great-tailed grackle. Beta Beta Beta Research Foundation - \$200.

2018. Alison, J. Effects of refuge proximity and predation risk on giving-up density. ASU Undergraduate Faculty Mentored Research Grant - \$675.

2018. Solis, V. Extra-pair paternity in a sexually monomorphic passerine, the Bewick's wren. ASU Graduate student Fellowship - \$1000.

2018. Persinger, K. Prevalence and genotyping of avian trichomoniasis in urban and exurban areas in and around the city of San Angelo, Texas. Head-of-the-River Ranch Grant - \$1000.
2017. Persinger, K. Prevalence of avian trichomoniasis in 3 species of dove in the city of San Angelo, TX. ASU Graduate Student Fellowship - \$1000.
2016. Chodacki, G. Foraging habitat partitioning by three sympatric kingfishers along the South Llano River, Texas. ASU Graduate Student Fellowship - \$1000.
2016. Aly, J. Seasonal prevalence of house sparrow (*Passer domesticus*) haemoparasites. ASU Undergraduate Faculty Mentored Research Grant - \$600.

GRADUATE STUDENTS GRADUATED

- Chodacki, G., 2018. Partitioning of foraging habitat by three kingfisher species (Alcedinidae: Cerylinae) along the South Llano River, Texas.
- Persinger, K., 2018. Prevalence and genotyping of avian trichomoniasis in columbid species in central Texas.
- Solis, V. 2020. Apparent genetic monogamy in the Bewick's wren (*Thryomanes bewickii*).

GRADUATE STUDENTS DIRECTED

- Loftin, B., 2019 – Present. Genetic structure of Mississippi kite (*Ictinia mississippiensis*) populations in the southern Great Plains

GRADUATE COMMITTEE SERVICE

- Ellsworth, Z. (M.S. student of R. Dowler, ASU, completed 2016)
- Jefferson, K. (M.S. student of Dowler, R., ASU, in progress)
- Jimenez, C. (M.S. student of L. Ammerman, ASU, completed 2016)
- Johnson, K. (M.S. student of N. Negovetich, ASU, completed 2019)
- Langley, L. (M.S. student of B. Amos, ASU, completed 2015)
- Lucero, M. (M.S. student of N. Strenth, ASU, completed 2018)
- Maddox, T. (M.S. student of N. Strenth, ASU, completed 2017)
- Mitchell, N. (M.S. student of C. Boal, TTU, completed 2017)
- Perkins, C. (M.S. student of R. Dowler, ASU, completed 2017)
- Perry, M. (M.S. student of L. Ammerman, ASU, completed 2020)
- Skidmore, C. (M.S. student of C. Boal, TTU, completed 2020)

UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH STUDENTS

- Hinton, A. (fall, 2019). Seasonal influences of predation on selfish herding behavior in doves.
- Law, L. (fall, 2019). Spatial and olfactory components of territorial advantages.

- Allison, J. (spring, 2019). Giving up density in crayfish: effects of refuge proximity and barriers.
- Amponsah, N. (spring, 2019). Predator avoidance behaviors of *Physa acuta*.
- Minjares, U. (fall, 2017). Response of great-tailed grackle (*Quiscalus mexicanus*) to indirect auditory evidence of predator presence.
- Aly, J. (spring, 2016). Seasonal prevalence of house sparrow (*Passer domesticus*) haemoparasites.
- Aly, J. (fall, 2015). Habitat partitioning by sympatric urban doves.
- Chodacki, G. (spring, 2015). Habitat selection by herons along the Concho River in San Angelo, TX.
- Chodacki, G. (fall, 2015). Effect of season and mesquite shrub density on a west Texas bird community.
- Tarrant, D. (spring, 2015). Communal roost selection by urban great-tailed grackles (*Quiscalus mexicanus*).
- Tarrant, D. (fall, 2015). Avian diversity of San Angelo city parks.

RESEARCH GRANTS

2020. B. Skipper. Acoustic signal diversity of Bewick's wrens along a biodiversity gradient. *Western North American Naturalist Natural History Grant*. Funded (\$2,000)
2019. Amos, B., and B. Skipper. Texas poppy mallow: documentation of distribution and assessment of population status. TPWD Section 6 Traditional Research Grant. Funded (\$133,000).
2017. Skipper, B. Geographic variation in mountain chickadee song within Texas and New Mexico. *ASU Research Development Mini-grant*. Funded – (\$2,500).
2017. Skipper, B. The role of food limitation in the breeding cycle of Bewick's wrens. *ASU Faculty Research Enhancement Program*. Funded – (\$11,000).
2017. Boal, C. and B. Skipper. Assessing distribution and occupancy patterns of riparian avifauna in the Trans Pecos region of Texas. *Texas Parks and Wildlife State Wildlife Grant*. Funded at TTU – (\$80,000).
2016. Skipper, B. Influence of indirect olfactory and visual cues on nest-box selection by ashthroated flycatchers. *North American Bluebird Society*. Funded below requested amount – (\$300).
2015. Skipper, B. Nighttime roost selection and daily movements by urban great-tailed grackles in San Angelo, Texas. *ASU Faculty Research Enhancement Program*. Funded – (\$15,000).
2014. Boal, C., and B. Skipper. Pilot project to assess occupancy of historic golden eagle aeries in Texas. *U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service*. Funded – (\$23,000).
2013. Boal, C., and B. Skipper. Development of a decision tool for eagle take permit issuance based on detection and occupancy models of migrant and overwintering golden eagles in the southern Great Plains. *U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service*. Funded – (\$53,340).

2008. Skipper, B. Molecular sex-determination of nestling bobolinks (*Dolichonyx oryzivorus*).
Research Services Council Grant, University of Nebraska at Kearney. Funded – (\$750).

PRESENTATIONS

2019. Solis, V., and B. Skipper. Extra-pair paternity in the Bewick's wren. Joint meeting of the Wilson Ornithological Society and the Association of Field Ornithologists. Cape May, NJ.
2019. Allison, J., and B. Skipper. Giving up density in crayfish: effects of refuge proximity and barriers. Angelo State University Undergraduate Research Symposium (poster).
2019. Amponsah, N., and B. Skipper. Predator avoidance behavior in *Physa acuta*. Regional meeting of the Beta Beta Beta Biological Honor Society and Angelo State University Undergraduate Research Symposium (poster).
2018. Chodacki, G.*, and B. Skipper. Partitioning of foraging habitat among kingfishers along the South Llano River, Texas. Texas Chapter of the Wildlife Society, San Antonio, TX (oral).
2018. Persinger, K.*, and B. Skipper. Prevalence of avian trichomoniasis in 2 species of dove in and around the city of San Angelo, Texas, USA. Texas Chapter of the Wildlife Society, San Antonio, TX (poster).
2018. Persinger, K.*, and B. Skipper. Prevalence and genetic analysis of avian trichomoniasis in urban columbiforms. Southwestern Association of Naturalists, San Marcos, TX (poster).
2017. Minjares, U., and B. Skipper. Response of great-tailed grackle (*Quiscalus mexicanus*) to indirect auditory evidence of predator presence. Regional Meeting of the Beta Beta Beta Biological Honor Society and Angelo State University Undergraduate Research Symposium (poster).
2016. Skipper, B. and B. Welch. Urban ecology of Mississippi kites (*Ictinia mississippiensis*). Raptor Research Foundation, Cape May, NJ (oral).
2016. Aly, J., and B. Skipper. Seasonal prevalence of house sparrow (*Passer domesticus*) haemoparasites. Angelo State University Undergraduate Research Symposium (poster).
2014. Skipper, B., C. Boal, J. Tsai, and M. Fuller. Evaluation of survey protocol recommendations for golden eagles. The Wildlife Society, Pittsburgh, PA (oral).
2014. Skipper, B., C. Boal, J. Tsai, and M. Fuller. Evaluation of survey protocol recommendations for golden eagles. Raptor Research Foundation, Corpus Christi, TX (oral).
2014. Gulick, C., B. Skipper, and C. Boal. Occupancy estimates of ferruginous hawks in the Snake River Birds of Prey Area. Texas Chapter of the Wildlife Society, Austin, TX (poster).

2013. Skipper, B., and C. Boal. Nest-site selection by Mississippi kites in urban and exurban areas of west Texas. Texas Chapter of the Wildlife Society, Houston, TX (oral).
2013. Skipper, B., and C. Boal. Effect of survey number, duration, and survey radius on detection probability of northern harrier. Texas Tech Annual Biological Sciences Symposium, Lubbock, TX (oral).
2013. Skipper, B., Nest-site selection by Mississippi kites in exurban and urban areas of west Texas. Texas Tech Graduate Student Research Poster Competition, Lubbock, TX (poster).
2012. Skipper, B., and C. Boal. Effects of weather on nesting success of urban and exurban Mississippi kites. North American Ornithological Conference, Vancouver, Canada (poster).
2012. Skipper, B., and C. Boal. Reproductive performance of urban and exurban Mississippi kites. Texas Chapter of the Wildlife Society, Ft. Worth, TX (oral).
2011. Skipper, B., and C. Boal. Is aggressive nest defense by urban Mississippi kites (*Ictinia mississippiensis*) triggered by landscape features? Raptor Research Foundation, Duluth, MN (oral).
2011. Skipper, B., and C. Boal. Comparison of reproductive performance of exurban and urban Mississippi kites. Raptor Research Foundation, Duluth, MN (poster).
2011. Skipper, B., and C. Boal. Assessing aggressive and passive behaviors of urban nesting Mississippi kites. Urban Wildlife Management and Planning Conference, Austin, TX (oral).
2010. Skipper, B., and C. Boal. Productivity and nest site selection of urban Mississippi kites. Raptor Research Foundation, Fort Collins, CO (oral).
2010. Skipper, B., and C. Boal. Breeding performance and site occupancy of urban nesting Mississippi kites. Southwestern Association of Naturalists, Junction, TX (poster).
2010. Skipper, B., and C. Boal. Productivity, nest success, and site occupancy of urban Mississippi kites. Texas Chapter of the Wildlife Society, Galveston, TX (poster).
2008. Skipper, B., and D. Kim. Effects of cowbird parasitism on bobolink provisioning rate and nestling mass. American Ornithologists Union, Portland, OR (oral).
2007. Skipper, B., and D. Kim. Feeding rate, prey availability, and dietary composition of nestling grasshopper sparrows. American Ornithologists Union, Laramie, WY (oral).
2006. Skipper, B., D., Kim, and F. Chavez-Ramirez. Effects of territory density, feeding rates, and prey availability on bobolink (*Dolichonyx oryzivorus*) nestling mass in mixed-grass prairies in central Nebraska. North American Ornithological Conference, Veracruz, Mexico (poster).

MANUSCRIPT REVIEWS

American Midland Naturalist, The Condor, Journal of Raptor Research, The Prairie Naturalist, The Southwestern Naturalist, Western North American Naturalist, The Wilson Journal of Ornithology, The Wildlife Society Bulletin

INTERMURAL COMMITTEE SERVICE

Member of the ASU Academic Excellence Committee (2019)
Member of ASU grant writing team for the Department of Education's Promoting Postbaccalaureate Opportunities for Hispanic Americans program (2019) ASU
Department of Biology Microbiologists Search Committee (2018 – 2019)
ASU ADA Committee on Accessibility of Facilities and Services (2017 – 2018)
ASU Director of Risk and Emergency Management Search Committee (2015 – 2017)
ASNHC Collections Manager Search Committee Chair (2016)
ASU Library Committee (2016-2017)

MEMBERSHIP IN PROFESSIONAL SOCIETIES

American Ornithologists Union (2006 – present), Association of Field Ornithologists (2006 – present), Raptor Research Foundation (2009 – present), Texas Chapter of the Wildlife Society (2009 – present), Texas Ornithological Society (2016 – present), Wilson Ornithological Society (2006 – present)