

Ben Reynolds Skipper

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PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYMENT AND EDUCATION

2014 – Present: Assistant Professor of Biology, Dept. of Biology, Angelo State University, San Angelo, TX

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 (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)

*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* 41:212-223.
- 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*.
- Skipper, B., D. Kim, and C. Morris. Seasonal abundance and nutritional concentration of grassland arthropods. Submitted to *Western North American Naturalist*.
- Martin, C., B. Skipper, and C. Boal. Diurnal raptor assemblages along a latitudinal gradient in North America. Submitted to the *Journal of Raptor Research*.
- Mitchell, N., C. Boal, and B. Skipper. Distribution, density, and land cover associations of wintering golden eagles in the Southern Great Plains. Submitted to the *Journal of Raptor Research*.

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. Koplun Award*, Student travel award, Annual meeting of The Raptor Research Foundation, Duluth, MN.

STUDENT AWARDS AND GRANTS MENTORED

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 kingfishers species (Alcedinidae: Cerylinae) along the South Llano River, Texas.

Persinger, K., 2018. Prevalence and genotyping of avian trichomoniasis in columbid species in central Texas.

GRADUATE STUDENTS DIRECTED

Solis, V., 2017 – Present. Extra-pair paternity in a sexually monomorphic passerine, the Bewick's wren (*Thryomanes bewickii*).

DeMerritt, S., 2019 – Present. Geographic variation in rufous-crowned sparrow (*Aimophila ruficeps*) song.

Loftin, B., 2019 – Present. Genetic structure of Mississippi kites (*Ictinia mississippiensis*) 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, in progress)
- Skidmore, C. (M.S. student of C. Boal, TTU, in progress)
- Skinner, K. (Ph.D. student of R. Kendall, TTU, in progress)

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 *Phrysa 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

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 ash-throated 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 eagles 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 oryzivorous*). *Research Services Council Grant, University of Nebraska at Kearney*. Funded – (\$750).

PRESENTATIONS (*GRADUATE STUDENTS)

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.
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.
2018. Persinger, K. *, and B. Skipper. Prevalence and genetic analysis of avian trichomoniasis in urban columbiforms. Southwester Association of Naturalist, San Marcos, TX.
2016. Skipper, B. and B. Welch. Urban ecology of Mississippi kites (*Ictinia mississippiensis*). Raptor Research Foundation, Cape May, NJ.
2014. Skipper, B., C. Boal, J. Tsai, and M. Fuller. Evaluation of survey protocol recommendations for golden eagles. The Wildlife Society, Pittsburgh, PA.

2014. Skipper, B., C. Boal, J. Tsai, and M. Fuller. Evaluation of survey protocol recommendations for golden eagles. Raptor Research Foundation, Corpus Christi, TX.
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.
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.
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.
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.
2012. Skipper, B., and C. Boal. Effects of weather on nesting success of urban and exurban Mississippi kites. North American Ornithological Conference, Vancouver, Canada.
2012. Skipper, B., and C. Boal. Reproductive performance of urban and exurban Mississippi kites. Texas Chapter of the Wildlife Society, Ft. Worth, TX.
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.
2011. Skipper, B., and C. Boal. Comparison of reproductive performance of exurban and urban Mississippi kites. Raptor Research Foundation, Duluth, MN.
2011. Skipper, B., and C. Boal. Assessing aggressive and passive behaviors of urban nesting Mississippi kites. Urban Wildlife Management and Planning Conference, Austin, TX.
2010. Skipper, B., and C. Boal. Productivity and nest site selection of urban Mississippi kites. Raptor Research Foundation, Fort Collins, CO.
2010. Skipper, B., and C. Boal. Breeding performance and site occupancy of urban nesting Mississippi kites. Southwestern Association of Naturalists, Junction, TX.
2010. Skipper, B., and C. Boal. Productivity, nest success, and site occupancy of urban Mississippi kites. Texas Chapter of the Wildlife Society, Galveston, TX.
2008. Skipper, B., and D. Kim. Effects of cowbird parasitism on bobolink provisioning rate and nestling mass. American Ornithologists Union, Portland, OR.
2007. Skipper, B., and D. Kim. Feeding rate, prey availability, and dietary composition of nestling grasshopper sparrows. American Ornithologists Union, Laramie, WY.
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.

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 Educations' 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)
University 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), Wilson Ornithological Society (2006 – present)