

MICHAEL THOMAS STEWART

PhD candidate • Caesar Kleberg Wildlife Research Institute, Texas A&M University-Kingsville
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Expertise: Avian field methods & monitoring, wildlife capture & telemetry, spatial analysis, demographic modeling, research communication

ACADEMIC QUALIFICATIONS

2022–current	PhD projected 2027 Wildlife and Rangeland Sciences <i>Texas A&M University-Kingsville – Kingsville, TX</i> Supervisor: Dr. Ashley M. Tanner Dissertation title: Habitat use, population demographics, and migration ecology of Gray Hawks in the southwestern United States
2019–2021	MS awarded December 2021 Biology GPA: 3.91 <i>University of Texas Rio Grande Valley – Edinburg, TX</i> Supervisor: Dr. Timothy Brush Thesis title: Home range dynamics and juvenile dispersal of Gray Hawks in the Lower Rio Grande Valley
2017–2018	GCert awarded May 2018 Graduate Certificate in Geographic Information Systems GPA: 4.00 <i>North Carolina State University – Raleigh, NC</i>
2012–2015	BS awarded December 2015 Fisheries and Wildlife Science GPA: 3.63, <i>cum laude</i> <i>Oregon State University – Corvallis, OR</i>
2011–2012	MBA awarded October 2012 Master of Business Administration GPA: 3.76 <i>Webster University – St. Louis, MO</i>
2008–2009	BSAST awarded September 2009 Nuclear Engineering Technology GPA: 3.60 <i>Thomas A. Edison State College – Trenton, NJ</i>
2001–2003	BS awarded January 2003 Human Resources GPA: 3.13 <i>New School University – New York, NY</i>

PUBLICATIONS

In Press	Stewart MT , Tanner AM, Singh A, Millsap BA, and Clark WS. <i>In press</i> . Scale-specific habitat selection by <i>Buteo plagiatus</i> (Gray Hawk) across life stages at the northeastern edge of their range. <i>Ornithological Applications</i> .
In Press	Stewart MT , Tanner AM, Millsap BA, and Clark WS. <i>In press</i> . Habitat loss and the behavioral effects on a female Gray Hawk (<i>Buteo plagiatus</i>) in the Lower Rio Grande Valley of Texas. <i>Human-Wildlife Interactions</i> .
2026	Stewart MT , Tanner AM, Singh A, Clark WS, and Millsap BA. 2026. Home sweet temporary home: Patch use by unpaired Gray Hawks in a highly fragmented, rapidly changing landscape. <i>The Journal of Raptor Research</i> .
2025	Stewart MT , Millsap BA, Pyle P, and Tanner AM. 2025. A systematic review of age at first breeding in diurnal raptors of the United States and Canada. <i>The Journal of Raptor Research</i> .
2025	Stewart MT , Tanner AM, Millsap BA, and Clark WS. 2025. Exploratory movements and natal dispersal of Gray Hawks (<i>Buteo plagiatus</i>) in South Texas, USA. <i>Biotropica</i> .
2024	Stewart MT , Tanner AM, Bilodeau SA, Millsap BA, and Clark WS. 2024. A Gray Hawk's response to wildfire in Santa Ana National Wildlife Refuge. <i>Bulletin of the Texas Ornithological Society</i> .
2024	Stewart MT , Farese ER, and Clark WS. 2024. Gray Hawks reusing old nests, just not their own. <i>Bulletin of the Texas Ornithological Society</i> .
2023	Stewart MT and Clark WS. 2023. Response to: Gray Hawk nest with five fledglings in South Texas. <i>Bulletin of the Texas Ornithological Society</i> .
2023	Clark WS and Stewart MT . 2023. The interesting story of the oldest known Gray Hawk. <i>North American Bird Bander</i> .

- 2023 **Stewart MT**, Pyle P, and Clark WS. 2023. Molt and body measurements for Gray Hawks in the Lower Rio Grande Valley of Texas. *Journal of Field Ornithology*. doi:10.5751/JFO-00389-940410
Data: doi:10.5061/dryad.c59zw3rjn; Supplemental Information: doi:10.5281/zenodo.14163605
- 2022 **Stewart MT**, Clark WS, Millsap BA, Bibles BD, and Brush T. 2022. Adult home range size and juvenile movements of Gray Hawks in the Lower Rio Grande Valley. *The Journal of Raptor Research*. doi:10.3356/JRR-22-23
- 2022 **Stewart MT** and Millsap BA. 2022. Challenges adapting a backpack harness for use on Gray Hawks. *The Journal of Raptor Research*. doi:10.3356/JRR-21-31
- 2021 **Stewart MT** and Clark WS. 2021. White-tailed Kites breeding during winter in the Lower Rio Grande Valley. *Bulletin of the Texas Ornithological Society*.

MANUSCRIPTS IN REVIEW OR PREPARATION

- In Prep **Stewart MT**, Tanner AM, Singh A, Millsap BA, and Clark WS. *In preparation*. Social status mediates range-edge dynamics and expansion potential: Gray Hawk (*Buteo plagiatus*) as a model species.
- In Prep **Stewart MT**, Tanner AM, Singh A, Millsap BA, and Clark WS. *In preparation*. Behavioral flexibility in Gray Hawks: activity rhythms and energetic costs across urban and thermal gradients.
- In Prep **Stewart MT**, Millsap BA, Tanner AM, and Clark WS. *In preparation*. Gray Hawk population demographics in the Lower Rio Grande Valley of South Texas: Insights for conservation.
- In Prep **Stewart MT**, Millsap BA, and Clark WS. *In preparation*. A joint dynamic occupancy framework integrating playback and telemetry to improve detection of low-density raptors.

DATA RELEASES

- 2026 **Stewart MT**. 2026. Data from: Study "Multi-Scale Spatial and Movement Ecology of Gray Hawks in a Fragmented Subtropical Landscape". Movebank Data Repository. doi:10.5441/001/1.664
(Under a one-year embargo and will be publicly available in July 2026)

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Select oral presentations

- 2025 **Stewart MT**, Tanner AM, Singh A, Clark WS, and Millsap BA. Home sweet temporary home: Patch use by unpaired Gray Hawks in a highly fragmented, rapidly changing landscape. 2025 Annual Meeting of the Raptor Research Foundation, October 2025. San Jose, Costa Rica.
- 2024 **Stewart MT**, Tanner AM, Millsap BA, Smith JA, Ballard BM, and Clark WS. Habitat Use and Population Demographics of Gray Hawks in the Lower Rio Grande Valley of Texas. 2024 Annual Meeting of the Raptor Research Foundation, October 2024. Charlotte, NC.
- 2024 **Stewart MT**, Tanner AM, Millsap BA, and Clark WS. Natal dispersal and age at first breeding of Gray Hawks (*Buteo plagiatus*) in the Lower Rio Grande Valley of Texas. 2024 Annual Meeting of the Raptor Research Foundation, October 2024. Charlotte, NC.
- 2024 **Stewart MT**, Tanner AM, Millsap BA, and WS Clark. Habitat loss and the behavioral effects on a female Gray Hawk in south Texas. 60th Annual Texas Chapter of The Wildlife Society Meeting, February 2024. Houston, TX.

Select poster presentations

- 2022 **Stewart MT**, Clark WS, Millsap BA, Bibles BD, and T Brush. Adult home range size and juvenile movements of Gray Hawks in the Lower Rio Grande Valley. 2022 Annual Meeting of the Raptor Research Foundation, October 2022. Fort Lauderdale, FL.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- 2006–2019 **Chief of Public Affairs Plans and Operations for US Army South**
United States Army
Senior culminating assignment following service across the Field Artillery, Adjutant General Corps, and Public Affairs career fields, with progressive leadership responsibilities in operations,

personnel, and strategic communication within joint and multinational environments.

1999–2006

Supply Officer for USS Pelican (MHC-53)

United States Navy

Commissioned officer role following enlisted service in the Navy Nuclear Power Program, including instructional service at the Nuclear Power Training Unit, Ballston Spa, NY, and technical assignments as a machinist's mate and engineering laboratory technician.

PROFESSIONAL LEADERSHIP ROLES AND WORKING GROUPS

2025–present Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion committee for the Raptor Research Foundation

2020–present Membership committee for the American Ornithological Society

GRANTS, AWARDS, & SCHOLARSHIPS

Grants & Research Funding

2024 US Fish & Wildlife Service research grant \$10,000

2024 The William Burnham Memorial Fund of The Peregrine Fund \$5,000
Project title: Investigating Migratory Patterns and Population Dynamics of Threatened Gray Hawks in Texas

2024 Texas Ornithological Society research grant \$584

Fellowships & Competitive Awards

2026 Rob and Bessie Welder Wildlife Foundation Fellowship \$22,000

2024 BioOne Ambassador Award \$1,000

Scholarships & Honors

2025 South Texas Quail Coalition Scholarship \$2,000

2025 Alec D. Ritzell Memorial Education Scholarship \$1,400

2024 South Texas Quail Coalition Scholarship \$500

2024 C.R. and Rebecca Palmer Graduate Student Scholarship in Wildlife Management \$1,300

2023 C.R. and Rebecca Palmer Graduate Student Scholarship in Wildlife Management \$1,320

2023 South Texas Quail Coalition Scholarship \$975

2009 Thomas Edison State College's Arnold Fletcher Award for exceptional achievement in independent learning

2002 United States Navy's Master Training Specialist designation

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

2025 **Guest Lecturer**
Wildlife Management Techniques (RWSC 3310)
Raptor trapping techniques
Texas A&M University-Kingsville, Kingsville, TX

2023 **Guest Lecturer**
Wildlife Management Techniques (RWSC 3310)
Raptor trapping techniques
Texas A&M University-Kingsville, Kingsville, TX

2001–2003 **Instructor**
Naval Nuclear Power Training Command, Ballston Spa, NY
Engineering Laboratory Technician (NEC 9502)

POPULAR ARTICLES

2024 **Stewart MT** and Tanner AM. 2024. From Nestling to Nest: Tracking the Lives of Gray Hawks in the Lower Rio Grande Valley. *Texas Wildlife Magazine February 2024*, Texas Wildlife Association.

- 2023 **Stewart MT** and Tanner AM. 2024. Gray Hawks: An Urban Success Story? *Caesar Kleberg Tracks Spring 2023*, Caesar Kleberg Wildlife Research Institute.

PEER REVIEW

- Ornithological Applications (1)
- Journal of Field Ornithology (1)
- Journal of Raptor Research (2)
- Ecosphere (1)
- The Southwestern Naturalist (1)

BOOK REVIEWS

- Review of *Introduction to Raptors and Their Conservation* by Boal CW and Bibles BD. 202#. In Contemporary Issues in Raptor Conservation and Management (Boal CW and Bibles BD, Editors). Johns Hopkins University Press, Baltimore, MD, USA.
- Review of *Raptors of Texas: A Natural History of Diurnal Birds of Prey* by Farquhar CC and Boal CW. 2022. Texas A&M University Press, College Station, TX, USA. Published in Texas Birds Annual 18:34.

SCIENTIFIC SOCIETIES AND ASSOCIATIONS

- **American Ornithological Society:** Life member (since 2015)
- **Association of Field Ornithologists:** Life member (since 2016)
- **Raptor Research Foundation:** Life member (since 2020)
- **Western Bird Banding Association:** Life member (since 2015)
- **Wilson Ornithological Society:** Life member (since 2023)

PUBLIC COMMUNICATION, OUTREACH, AND NONTRADITIONAL SCHOLARLY OUTPUTS

Professional and Technical Presentations

- Hawk Migration Association of North America. "Home range dynamics and juvenile movements of Gray Hawks in the Lower Rio Grande Valley." Virtual. 2023.

Community and Public Outreach Presentations

- Coastal Bend Audubon Society. "Habitat use and population demographics of Gray Hawks in the Lower Rio Grande Valley of Texas." Corpus Christi, TX. 2025.
- The Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society at Texas A&M University-Kingsville. "Raptor banding and hawk migration." Kingsville, TX. 2024.
- Texas A&M AgriLife Extension: Raptor Week. "Habitat use and population demographics of Gray Hawks in the Lower Rio Grande Valley of Texas." Virtual. 2024.
- Texas Ornithological Society. "Habitat use and population demographics of Gray Hawks in the Lower Rio Grande Valley of Texas." Weslaco, TX. 2024.
- Rio Grande Valley Birding Festival. "Habitat use and population demographics of Gray Hawks in the Lower Rio Grande Valley of Texas." Harlingen, TX. 2023.
- Spring Chirp Birding Festival. "Home range dynamics and juvenile movements of Gray Hawks in the Lower Rio Grande Valley." Weslaco, TX. 2023.
- Arroyo Colorado Audubon Society. "Population demographics and habitat use of Gray Hawks in the Lower Rio Grande Valley." Harlingen, TX. 2022.
- Spring Chirp Birding Festival. "Home range dynamics and juvenile movements of Gray Hawks in the Lower Rio Grande Valley." Weslaco, TX. 2022.
- Rio Grande Valley Birding Festival. "Home range dynamics and juvenile dispersal of Gray Hawks (*Buteo plagiatus*) in the Lower Rio Grande Valley." Harlingen, TX. 2021.

RELEVANT TRAINING

- Home Range Estimation in R workshop attendee, Raptor Research Foundation 2024
- Bayesian Modeling workshop attendee, Raptor Research Foundation 2023
- Harnessing Raptors with Transmitters workshop attendee, Raptor Research Foundation 2022
- Yellow Rails & Rice Festival Banding Workshop, Jennings, LA. 2017
- Advanced Bird-banding Course offered by IBP, Wolf Ridge, MN. 2017
- Advanced Ageing & Sexing Workshop with Peter Pyle, Point Reyes, CA. 2016
- Advanced Bird Bander Workshop, Powdermill Nature Reserve, PA. 2016
- Introductory Bird-banding Course offered by IBP, Hurricane Island, ME. 2016
- Yellow Rails & Rice Festival Banding Workshop, Jennings, LA. 2015

PERMITS

- Federal Bird Banding and Marking Permit (master permit), US Geological Survey Bird Banding Laboratory (2019–present)
- State Scientific Permit for Research (salvage of wildlife authorized), Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (2020–present)
- Federal Migratory Bird Scientific Collecting Permit, US Fish and Wildlife Service (2020–present)
- Scientific Activity License (salvage of wildlife authorized), Arizona Game and Fish Department (2024–present)
- Scientific Collecting Permit (salvage of wildlife authorized), New Mexico Department of Game and Fish (2024–present)