

MICHAEL T. STEWART

PhD Candidate • Caesar Kleberg Wildlife Research Institute, Texas A&M University-Kingsville
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Expertise: Demographic modeling, spatial ecology, telemetry and movement ecology, avian field methods, wildlife capture, science communication

ACADEMIC QUALIFICATIONS

- 2022–Present **PhD** | projected Dec. 2027 | Wildlife and Rangeland Sciences
Texas A&M University-Kingsville – Kingsville, TX
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** | December 2021 | Biology
University of Texas Rio Grande Valley – Edinburg, TX
Supervisor: Dr. Timothy Brush
Thesis title: Home range dynamics and juvenile dispersal of Gray Hawks in the Lower Rio Grande Valley
- 2017–2018 **GCert** | May 2018 | Graduate Certificate in Geographic Information Systems
North Carolina State University – Raleigh, NC
- 2012–2015 **BS** | December 2015 | Fisheries and Wildlife Science, *cum laude*
Oregon State University – Corvallis, OR
- 2011–2012 **MBA** | October 2012 | Master of Business Administration
Webster University – St. Louis, MO
- 2008–2009 **BSAST** | September 2009 | Nuclear Engineering Technology
Thomas A. Edison State College – Trenton, NJ
- 2001–2003 **BS** | January 2003 | Human Resources
New School University – New York, NY

REFEREED JOURNAL ARTICLES (14 published, 1 in press)

- Stewart MT**, Tanner AM, Millsap BA, and Clark WS. *In press*. Habitat loss and the behavioral effects on a female Gray Hawk (*Buteo plagiatus*) in the Lower Rio Grande Valley of Texas. *Human-Wildlife Interactions*.
- Stewart MT**. 2026. Evidence for year-round residency of Gray Hawks from the Lower Rio Grande Valley to Webb County, Texas. *The Southwestern Naturalist*. [doi:10.1894/0038-4909-70.2.10](https://doi.org/10.1894/0038-4909-70.2.10)
- Stewart MT**, Tanner AM, Singh A, Millsap BA, and Clark WS. 2026. Scale-specific habitat selection by *Buteo plagiatus* (Gray Hawk) across life stages at the northeastern edge of their range. *Ornithological Applications*. [doi:10.1093/ornithapp/duag016](https://doi.org/10.1093/ornithapp/duag016)
- 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. *Journal of Raptor Research*. [doi:10.3356/jrr2510](https://doi.org/10.3356/jrr2510)
- Stewart MT**, Rogers JR, and Biles KS. 2025. Early breeding by White-tailed Hawks in South Texas. *Bulletin of the Texas Ornithological Society*.
- 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. *Journal of Raptor Research*. [doi:10.3356/jrr2542](https://doi.org/10.3356/jrr2542)
- Stewart MT**, Tanner AM, Millsap BA, and Clark WS. 2025. Exploratory movements and natal dispersal of Gray Hawks (*Buteo plagiatus*) in South Texas, USA. *Biotropica*. [doi:10.1111/btp.70068](https://doi.org/10.1111/btp.70068)
- 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. *Bulletin of the Texas Ornithological Society*.
- Stewart MT**, Farese ER, and Clark WS. 2024. Gray Hawks reusing old nests, just not their own. *Bulletin of the Texas Ornithological Society*.

- Stewart MT** and Clark WS. 2023. Response to: Gray Hawk nest with five fledglings in South Texas. *Bulletin of the Texas Ornithological Society*.
- Clark WS and **Stewart MT**. 2023. The interesting story of the oldest known Gray Hawk. *North American Bird Bander*.
- 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](https://doi.org/10.5751/jfo-00389-940410)
- Stewart MT**, Clark WS, Millsap BA, Bibles BD, and Brush T. 2023. Adult home range size and juvenile movements of Gray Hawks in the Lower Rio Grande Valley. *Journal of Raptor Research*. [doi:10.3356/jrr-22-23](https://doi.org/10.3356/jrr-22-23)
- Stewart MT** and Millsap BA. 2022. Challenges adapting a backpack harness for use on Gray Hawks. *Journal of Raptor Research*. [doi:10.3356/jrr-21-31](https://doi.org/10.3356/jrr-21-31)
- Stewart MT** and Clark WS. 2021. White-tailed Kites breeding during winter in the Lower Rio Grande Valley. *Bulletin of the Texas Ornithological Society*.

DATA RELEASES

- 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](https://doi.org/10.5441/001/1.664) (Under one-year embargo; publicly available July 2026)

MANUSCRIPTS IN REVIEW

- Stewart MT**, Millsap BA, and Clark WS. *In review*. A joint dynamic occupancy framework integrating playback and telemetry to improve detection of low-density raptors. *The Wilson Journal of Ornithology*.
- Stewart MT**, Tanner AM, Singh A, Millsap BA, and Clark WS. *In review*. Social status structures environmental associations at a range edge: Gray Hawk (*Buteo plagiatus*) as a model species. *Journal of Animal Ecology*.
- Stewart MT**, Tanner AM, Singh A, Millsap BA, and Clark WS. *In review*. Behavioral flexibility in Gray Hawks: activity rhythms and movement patterns across urban and thermal gradients. *Movement Ecology*.
- Stewart MT**, Millsap BA, and Clark WS. *In review*. Environmental variability, but not average conditions, is more strongly associated with variation in home range size in gray hawks. *Raptor Journal*.

MANUSCRIPTS IN PREPARATION

- 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.

GRANTS, AWARDS, & SCHOLARSHIPS

Research Grants & Funding

2024	US Fish and Wildlife Service research grant	\$10,000
2024	The William Burnham Memorial Fund of The Peregrine Fund Project title: Investigating Migratory Patterns and Population Dynamics of Threatened Gray Hawks in Texas	\$5,000
2024	Texas Ornithological Society research grant	\$584

Fellowships & Awards

2026	Rob and Bessie Welder Wildlife Foundation Fellowship	\$26,400
2026	American Ornithological Society Travel Grant	\$600
2024	BioOne Ambassador Award	\$1,000

Scholarships & Honors

2026	South Texas Quail Coalition Scholarship	\$2,000
2026	Phillip M. Plant Graduate Scholarship in Wildlife Research	\$1,200
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	South Texas Quail Coalition Scholarship	\$975
2023	C.R. and Rebecca Palmer Graduate Student Scholarship in Wildlife Management	\$1,320
2009	Thomas Edison State College's Arnold Fletcher Award for exceptional achievement in independent learning	
2002	United States Navy's Master Training Specialist designation	

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2006–2019	Chief, Public Affairs Plans and Operations, US Army South <i>United States Army</i> Senior culminating assignment concluding 13 years of commissioned service across the Field Artillery, Adjutant General Corps (personnel and human resources management), and Public Affairs career fields, with progressive leadership responsibilities in operations, personnel management, organizational communication, and strategic planning within joint and multinational environments.
1999–2006	Supply Officer, USS Pelican (MHC-53) <i>United States Navy</i> Commissioned service following five years of enlisted service in the Navy Nuclear Power Program, including assignments as a machinist's mate, engineering laboratory technician, and instructor at the Nuclear Power Training Unit, Ballston Spa, NY, with responsibilities in propulsion plant operations, water chemistry, and radiological controls.

EDITORIAL AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

2026–Present	Associate Editor for the Journal of Raptor Research
2025–Present	Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee for the Raptor Research Foundation
2020–Present	Membership Committee for the American Ornithological Society

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

2025	Guest Lecturer Wildlife Management Techniques (RWSC 3310) <i>Raptor trapping techniques</i> Texas A&M University-Kingsville, Kingsville, TX
2023	Guest Lecturer Wildlife Management Techniques (RWSC 3310) <i>Raptor trapping techniques</i> Texas A&M University-Kingsville, Kingsville, TX
2001–2003	Instructor Naval Nuclear Power Training Command, Ballston Spa, NY Engineering Laboratory Technician (NEC 9502)

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Select oral presentations

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.

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.

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.

Stewart MT, Tanner AM, Millsap BA, and Clark WS. 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

Stewart MT, Clark WS, Millsap BA, Bibles BD, and Brush T. 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.

POPULAR ARTICLES

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.

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

AD HOC REVIEWER (2023–Present)

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

BOOK REVIEWS

- Review of *Introduction to Raptors and Their Conservation* by Boal CW and Bibles BD. Forthcoming. 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 (2015–Present)
- **Association of Field Ornithologists**: Life Member (2016–Present)
- **Raptor Research Foundation**: Life Member (2019–Present)
- **Western Bird Banding Association**: Life Member (2015–Present)
- **Wilson Ornithological Society**: Life Member (2023–Present)

PUBLIC COMMUNICATION, OUTREACH, AND NONTRADITIONAL SCHOLARLY OUTPUTS

Professional and Technical Presentations

- Western Bird Banding Association “Applying GPS telemetry to raptor movement ecology: Home ranges, dispersal, and behavior.” Virtual. 2026.
- 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

- Spring Chirp Birding Festival. “Applying GPS telemetry to raptor movement ecology: Home ranges, dispersal, and behavior.” Weslaco, TX. 2026.

- Laredo Birding Festival. "Habitat use, population demographics, and migration ecology of Gray Hawks in the southwestern United States." Laredo, TX. 2026.
- 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 and Rice Festival Banding Workshop, Jennings, LA. 2017
- Advanced Bird-banding Course offered by IBP, Wolf Ridge, MN. 2017
- Advanced Ageing and 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 and 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)