

RESEARCH, LEADERSHIP, AND MENTORING

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This is the long form of my record, drawn from my curriculum vitae: the animals and subjects I have studied, the groups I have led, and the people I have mentored. I sort the animals three ways: those I studied in depth, those I studied in a smaller way, and those I studied as a member of a research team or a student’s graduate committee.

Basis, as of September 2026: my academic curriculum vitae, available upon request through the [Contact page](#). Funding figures count every proposal and award since 2013, research gifts included; publication figures are counted as my curriculum vitae counts them.

AT A GLANCE

- 12 years on the wildlife faculty of Texas Tech University, 2013 to 2025
- 40 refereed journal publications, 2008 to 2025, with 2 invited book chapters and 2 proceedings papers
- 18 graduate students as committee chair or co-chair; 4 postdoctoral researchers
- President, Texas Chapter of The Wildlife Society, 2023 to 2024; National Chapter of the Year, 2022 and 2023
- \$7.11 million in grants and gifts; 52 of 77 proposals funded (67.5%) since 2013, and 40 of 48 (83%) as lead principal investigator
- 12 technical reports, 10 articles and edited works for practitioners and the public, 137 conference abstracts, and 21 talks and lectures
- 32 more graduate committees as a member; more than a dozen undergraduate researchers

Positions and education

2026 to present	Managing Member and Chief Executive Officer, Grisham Field & Feather LLC, and its imprint, Grisham Field Press. Lubbock, Texas.
2019 to 2025	Associate Professor of Wildlife Management, Department of Natural Resources Management, Texas Tech University.
2013 to 2018	Assistant Professor, Department of Natural Resources Management, Texas Tech University.
2012 to 2013	Postdoctoral Research Associate, Texas Tech University.
Ph.D., 2012	Wildlife, Aquatic, and Wildlands Science and Management, Texas Tech University. Dissertation: the ecology of Lesser Prairie-Chickens in shinnery oak-grassland communities in New Mexico and Texas, with implications for habitat management and future climate change.
M.S., 2007	Wildlife Management, Louisiana State University. Thesis: spatial ecology, habitat selection, and survival of male Wild Turkeys in a managed bottomland hardwood forest.
B.S., 2005	Wildlife Biology, Arkansas State University.

The animals I have studied

Studied in depth: my main research programs

Lesser Prairie-Chicken	My doctoral research and my longest program: nesting, brood, and adult survival; nest microclimate and climate change; prescribed fire, grazing, herbicide, and the Conservation Reserve Program; capture methods; landscape connectivity; parasites and disease; the first annotated genome of the species; and science advice to state and federal agencies. <i>Texas, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Kansas.</i>
Sandhill Cranes	Greater Sandhill Cranes of the Lower Colorado River Valley, the Central Valley, and the Intermountain West, and Mid-Continent cranes wintering on the Southern High Plains: migration, summer and winter habitat, roost sites, winter food in grain sorghum fields, population connectivity from GPS and genetic data, and monitoring on National Wildlife Refuges. <i>Arizona, California, Oregon, the Intermountain West, Texas, and New Mexico.</i>
Wild Turkeys	Survival, harvest, and space use of male turkeys in a bottomland hardwood forest (my master’s research); on the Edwards Plateau, Rio Grande Wild Turkey health, disease, diet, invertebrate foods, survival, and genetic connectivity; the genetic connectivity of reintroduced Eastern Wild Turkeys; and the effect of stocking on genetics and recruitment. <i>Louisiana and Texas.</i>
Quail	Northern Bobwhite and Scaled Quail: woody plants and Scaled Quail survival and nesting (my largest single award, \$537,000), translocation, supplemental feeding, and predator reduction. <i>Texas, mostly the Rolling Plains.</i>
Purple Martins and other aerial insectivores	Nest survival and managed housing from citizen-science nest records; microclimate inside martin housing; establishing colonies on a private ranch and in working forests; and outreach and education on aerial insectivores. <i>Texas.</i>

Waterfowl	Habitat selection by wintering waterfowl at Anahuac National Wildlife Refuge; waterfowl use, food, and carrying capacity of ranch stock ponds, with drone, camera, and ground surveys; and Black-bellied Whistling-Duck nests and broods. <i>Texas</i> .
Axis deer	Density, movements, genetics, and chronic wasting disease susceptibility of free-ranging axis deer, an invasive species, and what they mean for native white-tailed deer. <i>The Edwards Plateau of Texas</i> .
Studied: other species and systems	
White-tailed deer	Density surveys alongside axis deer.
Beef cattle	Herd health, productivity, and movements under prescribed grazing for prairie-chickens, and virtual fencing to improve grazing management, carbon sequestration, and wildlife habitat.
Refuge waterbirds	Site-specific monitoring protocols for waterbirds and cranes on nine National Wildlife Refuges in the Fish and Wildlife Service's Southwest Region.
Other birds	Songbirds banded from nest boxes (2003 to 2005) and mist nets (2016 to 2022), with subpermittees trained; breeding bird diversity and density at Muleshoe National Wildlife Refuge.
Small mammals	Diversity, demography, occupancy, and crop damage in row crops under three irrigation systems.
Blue sucker	Recruitment and reproduction of this river fish in the Big Bend reach of the Rio Grande.
Aquatic invertebrates	Invertebrates of ranch stock ponds, and the mayflies and other invertebrates that feed Wild Turkeys along the Upper Llano River.

Studied as a member of a research team or graduate committee

Species I studied on other scientists' projects or on the graduate committees of students I did not advise.

Attwater's Prairie-Chicken	Controlling invasive Macartney rose in its coastal prairie habitat.
Shorebirds	Snowy Plover population trends and connectivity on the Southern Great Plains; the daily activity of Black-necked Stilts in the eastern Caribbean.
Island species	Stout iguanas and feral sheep on Guana Island, British Virgin Islands.
Ticks and disease	The natural history of the tick <i>Amblyomma maculatum</i> and the bacterium it carries, <i>Rickettsia parkeri</i> , in southern Arizona; raccoon roundworm in West Texas raccoons; mosquito disease vectors.
Birds of prey	Movements and habitat use of Swainson's Hawks; food and breeding ecology of Mississippi Kites; Crested Caracara predation on newborn livestock.
Mammals	Habitat suitability for swift foxes in Texas; population size and genetic diversity of Egyptian fruit bats.
Other subjects	Invasive suckers in the Sulphur River; song in a migratory songbird; and birds from North American grasslands to sub-Antarctic forests.

Research topics

Habitat management on working lands	Prescribed fire, grazing, herbicide, woody plant control, the Conservation Reserve Program, ranch stock ponds, and virtual fencing.
Population ecology	Nesting, brood survival, adult survival, recruitment, density, harvest, and translocation.
Weather and climate	Nest microclimate thresholds, drought and grazing, climate projections, and a winter storm's toll on axis deer.
Movement and connectivity	GPS and satellite telemetry, migration networks, and landscape and genetic connectivity.
Wildlife health and disease	Chronic wasting disease susceptibility, tick-borne bacteria, parasites, and health assessments of Wild Turkeys.
Genetics and genomics	The first annotated Lesser Prairie-Chicken genome; population genomics and taxonomy, with their bearing on policy; genetic diversity of an invasive deer; and diets read from fecal DNA.
Invasive species	Axis deer, Macartney rose, and woody plants.
Monitoring and survey design	Refuge monitoring protocols, distance sampling, drone and camera surveys, and citizen-science records.
Quantitative ecology	Survival, habitat selection, and distribution models; integrated population models; network analysis; remote sensing; and airborne environmental DNA. My statistics sheet gives the detail.
Science for policy and planning	The science teams behind a federal Species Status Assessment and a range-wide conservation plan, research on wind energy development, a review of a proposed spaceport, and a course I built on wildlife permitting and regulation.

Leadership and service

Texas Tech University	Faculty advisor, 2014 to 2025, to The Wildlife Society at Texas Tech (formerly the student chapter of the Society for Conservation Biology, 2014 to 2018), which grew from about 6 members to 73 and from a budget of about \$500 a year to about \$20,000, and was named State and National Student Chapter of the Year in 2022. I also chaired the department’s media and outreach committee, where I started its newsletter, led its logo redesign, and created its Fund for Excellence, and served on college curriculum, research, and search committees.
Texas Chapter of The Wildlife Society	President, 2023 to 2024, after serving as Secretary, Vice President, and President-Elect; on the executive board from 2018 and Past President from 2024. The Wildlife Society named the Chapter its National Chapter of the Year in 2022 and 2023. A member since 2008: chair of the Awards and Promotion Committee (2018 to 2019) and of the Program Committee (2019 to 2021), for which I developed the annual meeting’s short and long programs in 2020 and 2021 and co-developed its 2020 plenary session; coordinator and host of the 2018 awards ceremony; and a judge of poster presentations at seven annual meetings (2013 to 2018 and 2021).
Other service	North American Crane Working Group: executive board, 2019 to 2020; host of the group’s January 2020 meeting in Lubbock, with attendees from across North America. Lesser Prairie-Chicken science advisory roles: science advisory team, Interstate Working Group, 2012 to 2014; scientific oversight committee, 2012 to 2013, and science advisor, 2014 to 2016 and 2019 to 2021, for the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies’ range-wide conservation plan; science team for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s Species Status Assessment, 2014 to 2016. Wildlife Conservation Affairs Committee, Texas Wildlife Association, from 2022; invited expert panelist, South Texas Biodiversity Conference, University of Texas Rio Grande Valley, 2025.
Consulting	The habitat monitoring plan for the Lesser Prairie-Chicken Initiative (2012); scientific steering committee reviews for the Center of Excellence for Hazardous Materials Management (2014 and 2018); a review of a proposed spaceport’s effects on lekking prairie-chickens (2016); a landowner meeting on habitat plans in Bailey County, Texas (2017).

Mentoring

Graduate students	I advised or co-advised 18 master’s and doctoral students as chair or co-chair of their graduate committees, and I served on the committees of 32 more students led by other principal investigators, as my curriculum vitae counts them. My students’ research covered prairie-chickens, Sandhill Cranes, Wild Turkeys, quail, Purple Martins, waterfowl, axis deer, and other topics.
Postdoctoral researchers and research staff	Four postdoctoral researchers, working on prairie-chicken conservation and disease and on spatial data tools, one of whom stayed on as a research faculty member; and a research associate who developed monitoring protocols for National Wildlife Refuges.
Undergraduate researchers	More than a dozen, whom I mentored directly: I helped them find funding and carry out their own projects. The goal was for them to learn the research process, not to publish. All of them presented posters at conferences, and two published refereed papers.
Where they work now	The people I mentored now work for federal and state wildlife agencies, universities, and private industry.

Teaching

Undergraduate courses	Range-Wildlife Habitat; Wildlife Population Dynamics and Analysis; Wildlife Management Techniques; Applied Ornithology.
Graduate courses	Population Estimation and Dynamics; Advanced Wildlife Habitat; Fish and Wildlife Population Modeling; Climate Response Modeling; Natural Resource Professionalism; Wildlife Permitting and Regulatory Processes; Grouse Ecology and Management.
Courses I built	Natural Resource Professionalism; Wildlife Permitting and Regulatory Processes, first offered in 2023; Applied Ornithology; Climate Response Modeling; Grouse Ecology and Management.

Funding

Since 2013: 77 proposals submitted and 52 funded (67.5%), for \$7.11 million in grants and gifts for research, conservation, and education, counting every proposal and award, research gifts included. My funding has come from federal and state agencies, universities, a migratory bird joint venture, nonprofit conservation and research organizations, foundations, a family trust, a private ranch, and individual donors, through grants, subawards, fellowships, and gifts. My largest single award was \$537,000.

Publications and talks

40 refereed journal publications (2008 to 2025), 2 invited book chapters (lead author on both, in *Ecology and Conservation of Lesser Prairie-Chickens*, *Studies in Avian Biology*), 2 refereed proceedings papers, 12 technical reports, 10 articles and edited works for practitioners and the public, 137 conference abstracts, and 21 talks and lectures. The papers appear in journals that include the *Journal of Wildlife Management*, *Wildlife Society Bulletin*, *The Condor*, *PLoS ONE*, *PNAS Nexus*, *Genome Biology and Evolution*, *Scientific Reports*, *Journal of Mammalogy*, *Prion*, *Ecosphere*, *Ecology and Evolution*, *Landscape Ecology*, *Rangeland Ecology & Management*, *Remote Sensing*, *Waterbirds*, and the *Journal of Fish and Wildlife Management*. My talks have reached Natural Resources Conservation Service and Fish and Wildlife Service staff, extension audiences, Audubon and birding societies, and veterinary students. The full list is on [Google Scholar](#) and [ResearchGate](#).

Awards and honors

- National Chapter of the Year, The Wildlife Society, to the Texas Chapter while I was President-Elect (2022; Dr. John Kinsey, President) and President (2023; Mary Pearl Meuth, President-Elect)
- State and National Student Chapter of the Year, The Wildlife Society at Texas Tech, as faculty advisor (2022; Sophie Morris, President, academic year 2021 to 2022; Madeleine Roush, President, academic year 2022 to 2023)
- Outstanding Popular Publication, Texas Chapter of The Wildlife Society (2022), for “[Maintaining Purple Martins’ Majesty](#)” (*The Wildlife Professional* 14(1):34–38, 2020), with Jim Ray as lead author
- Texas Tech nominee, Blavatnik Award for Young Scientists (2020)
- Nominee, Spencer A. Wells Creativity in Teaching Award (2018 to 2019)
- Educator of the Year, Texas Chapter of The Wildlife Society (2018)
- Outstanding Junior Faculty Award, College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources, Texas Tech (2018)
- Outstanding Student Organization Advisor, Texas Tech Student Government Association (2017)
- Outstanding New Faculty, Texas Tech Alumni Association (2015)
- Outstanding Scientific Publication, Texas Chapter of The Wildlife Society (2014), for “[The Predicted Influence of Climate Change on Lesser Prairie-Chicken Reproductive Parameters](#)” (*PLoS ONE* 8(7):e68225, 2013)
- Outstanding Undergraduate Achievement in Wildlife Biology, Arkansas State University (2005)

Media

Film and television

Scientific contributor on Wild Turkeys, *Underdogs* (National Geographic, on Disney+), episode three; guest expert on applied wildlife management and Sandhill Crane ecology, Mossy Oak *Gamekeeper Podcast* and *Gamekeepers TV* (Outdoor Channel); lead on-camera expert on grassland indicator species and prairie conservation, *Bellwether of the Plains* (YouTube).

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