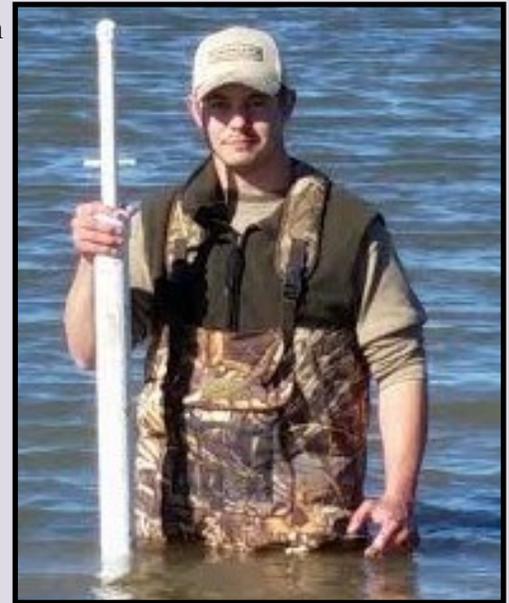


# Charles H. Musick — BRI Undergraduate Researcher

My name is Charlie Musick, and I am from Blanket, a small town in central Texas. I grew up hunting, trapping, fishing, and camping with my family. As a result, I have always loved and respected wildlife and the outdoors. In high school, I was on the wildlife and the environmental and natural resources judging teams through FFA. These experiences led me to pursue a B.S. in Natural Resource Management with a focus in Wildlife Management. I completed dual credit courses while in high school through Ranger College, so I was a sophomore when I came to Sul Ross in the fall of 2015. Shortly after starting at Sul Ross, I joined the Range and Wildlife Club, which created many wildlife-related opportunities for me, such as becoming an undergraduate research assistant for the Borderlands Research Institute and joining the plant ID team and quiz bowl teams. Following graduation in December 2018, I plan on continuing my career as a wildlife biologist.



## Chronology of Shorebirds and Waterfowl at Sandia Wetlands

*16 October 2015 — 15 May 2016*

I am currently working on a study in the Sandia Shorebird Wetland Project, about a mile east of Balmorhea, Texas. My project focuses on what kinds of waterbirds use the wetland at different times of the year. The Sandia Shorebird Wetland Project is a seasonal wetland managed by private landowners to maximize utilization by shorebirds and waterfowl during their migrations. This means that the wetlands are drained for a portion of the year to promote plant growth. My research will be helpful in determining the optimal time to drain the wetland.

In addition to my research, I am also assisting my mentor, graduate student Ryan Anthony, with his thesis project: Seed-bank and Invertebrate Potential of Arid Southwestern Wetland Impoundments. For this, I help with sampling and comparing the biomass of invertebrates between different study units in the wetland. This part of the project is to help study the overall wetland ecosystem, which is important because the Sandia Wetland is one of the only wetlands in this part of west Texas that provides food resources to the shorebirds and waterfowl during a high-energy demanding migratory phase in their life cycle.



The BRI Undergraduate Research Program is proudly supported by a grant from the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo.