

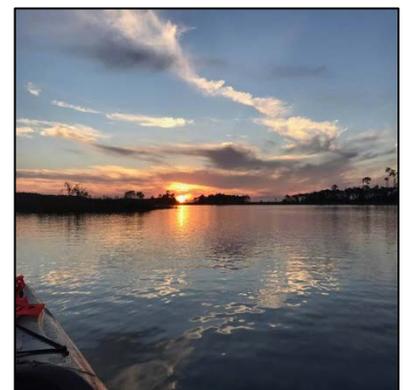
Zoe Carroll, M.S. Thesis Candidate



My name is Zoe Carroll and I am from Earlysville, Virginia. I am passionate about conservation and management of the wide diversity of bird species in the United States. I graduated from Virginia Tech with my Bachelor's degree in Wildlife Science in May 2014. Since then, I have held a variety of jobs and internships focused on wildlife in the Eastern United States. Some of my experiences have included assisting with fish surveys in the Roanoke River basin of Virginia, conducting call-back point count surveys for marsh birds in Florida, and monitoring the water quality of Lake Mattamuskeet in North Carolina. In 2017 I was certified as an Associate Wildlife Biologist® through The Wildlife Society. I am fortunate and excited to continue my education by pursuing my Master's degree in Range and Wildlife Management at Sul Ross State University under the guidance of Dr. Ryan Luna.

Thesis Project: Investigating Primary Forages, Diet Shifts Associated with Supplemental Feed and Vegetation Associations with Eyeworm (*Oxyspirura petrowi*) Infestations in Scaled Quail (*Callipepla squamata*)

While the Trans-Pecos region of Texas hosts four species of quail, the scaled quail is no doubt the most important quail species in the region ecologically and economically. Despite this, research is still needed on diet and vegetation aspects of its life history. This project seeks to investigate three aspects of Scaled Quail life history: 1) investigating the primary forages for Scaled Quail throughout the year, 2) diet shifts associated with supplemental feed, and 3) determining if associations exist between vegetation and eyeworm infestations. Quail crops will be collected to determine the year-round diet composition of scaled quail on various ranches in the Trans-Pecos. This information will be collected in conjunction with vegetation transects and information on eyeworm infestations in collected quail to determine if any links exist between vegetation, diet and parasite loads. With the information collected, we will be able to better inform land managers and researchers on quail habitat, diet, and parasite infestations.



CONSERVING THE LAST FRONTIER