



# ZOE CARROLL

MS Thesis Candidate  
Gamebirds, Desert Quail  
Earlsville, VA

## STUDENT PROFILE

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Zoe is passionate about conservation and management of the wide diversity of bird species in the United States. She graduated from Virginia Tech with her bachelor's degree in Wildlife Science in May 2014. Since then, she has held a variety of jobs and internships focused on wildlife in the eastern United States. She feels fortunate and excited to continue her education by pursuing her master's degree in Range and Wildlife Management at Sul Ross State University under the guidance of Dr. Ryan Luna.

## PROJECT PROFILE

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While the Trans-Pecos region of Texas hosts four species of quail, the scaled quail (*Callipepla squamata*) is arguably the most significant quail species in the region ecologically and economically. Despite this, research is limited regarding diet and parasite aspects of its life history. This project seeks to investigate three aspects of scaled quail life history on a Trans-Pecos region-wide scale: determine the primary foods throughout the year, examine diet shifts connected with supplemental feeding, and determine if associations exist between diet and eyeworm (*Oxyspirura petrowi*) and cecal worm (*Aulonocephalus pennula*) infections. The conclusions from this project will be used in order to better understand quail life history and population declines in Texas.

