



RYAN KEELING

Undergraduate Mentorship Program
Desert Quail
Aledo, TX

STUDENT PROFILE

Ryan grew up in Aledo, TX, but has lived in many places including Accra, Ghana; Auckland, New Zealand; Los Angeles, and Washington state. While living outside of Texas, her passion for travel and wildlife grew into a career interest in wildlife rehabilitation. This passion led her to further her education in the Wildlife Management Program at Sul Ross State University. After graduation she hopes to work with wildlife sanctuaries and national parks in various countries, helping to set up long-term conservation plans, protections, and rehabilitation/reintroduction techniques for wildlife.

PROJECT PROFILE

Ryan is assisting her mentor Maya Ressler on estimating the abundance of the Montezuma quail within the Davis Mountain region. The goal of Ryan's project is to understand the flushing behavior of Montezuma quail. To collect data, she observes the distance of the full flush, how close an observer is to a quail before it feels the need to flush, and if there is a pattern to the landing sites of each flush. She is also tracking sightings of Montezuma quail with weather patterns to determine if there is a certain time and temperature where encounters with quail will be more likely. Ryan's project will add to the growing data and knowledge about this elusive species.

