

Brandi L. Hopkins

Personal Data

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Education

Texas A&M University-Kingsville, Kingsville, Texas
Bachelor of Science in Wildlife Management
Degree received 2004

Professional/ Research Experience

Position: Field Biologist 03/08-07/08
Location: The Nature Conservancy in Killeen, Texas
Duties: Fort Hood Endangered Species program, focused on the Black-capped vireo on Fort Hood, Texas. Included the target mist-netting, ageing, sexing, banding of individual birds, re-sighted color banded individuals, located and monitored nests, nestlings, and fledglings. Distance sampling random points on all of Fort Hood. Manual off-road driving with 4x4 truck, GPS navigation, land navigation using topography maps, and working in a variety of weather conditions and biting insects.

Position: Avian Biologists 08/07-10/07
Location: Harris County Public Health & Environmental Safety
Duties: To trap and obtain blood samples from as many species of birds as possible to test for West Nile encephalitis, Eastern Equine encephalitis, and Saint Louis encephalitis. Located and mist-netted parks in given areas, identified, aged, banded, blood samples obtained, and released birds unharmed. Navigating within Harris County to obtain deceased avian species for testing. Blood samples were processed in lab using centrifuge to prepare for testing.

Position: Field Biologist 03/07-07/07
Location: The Nature Conservancy in Killeen, Texas
Duties: Fort Hood Endangered Species program, focused on the Black-capped vireo on Fort Hood, Texas. Included the target mist-netting, ageing, sexing, banding of individual birds, re-sighted color banded individuals, located and monitored nests, nestlings, and fledglings. Distance sampling random points on all of Fort Hood. Manual off-road driving with 4x4 truck, GPS navigation, land navigation using topography maps, and working in a variety of weather conditions and biting insects.

Position: Animal Care Specialist 08/05-08/06
Location: Mobile Veterinary Hospital & The Kennels at Stratton Ridge Clute, Texas
Duties: The care and well being of animals in the veterinary hospital/kennel included maintaining cleanliness, administering medication, assisting veterinary technician and veterinarians, answering phones, and initiating new inventory system.

Position: Student Researcher 01/04-12/04
Location: Texas A&M University-Kingsville
Duties: Comparing rodent population in environment of native vs. non-native vegetation. Trapped using Sherman live traps, Passive Intergraded Transponder (PIT) tagging, data recording, and rodent identification.

Position: Research Assistant 05/05-08/05
Location: Caesar Kleberg Wildlife Research Institute with Texas A&M University-Kingsville
Duties: Graduate research project with feral hogs. Feral hogs were trapped using corral and box traps baited with sour corn. Each individual was weighed, using tripod scale, ear tagged for identification, ear notched for DNA sample, and, if large enough, given a GPS collar. Measurements taken included body length, leg length, tuck length and abdomen circumference for data analysis and recapture comparison. Radio-telemetry tracking to determine range and frequency of visits to domestic hogs. When and if the collar was retrieved, data was downloaded into data system. Field work was conducted in East and Central Texas.

Position: Pen Technician/White-tailed Deer Fawn Care Taker 09/03-07/04
Location: Caesar Kleberg Wildlife Research Institute with Texas A&M University-Kingsville
Duties: Maintain facilities of two research pen areas, which included both adult and fawn white-tailed deer. Care of adult and fawns; providing food, water, medication (both oral and subcutaneous) and de-worming. Feeding fawns involved preparing bottles and mixture of goat's milk and water, ratio of which varied by age of fawn; fawns were on very strict feeding schedule.

Position: Research Assistant 09/01-04/03
Location: Texas A*M University-Kingsville
Duties: Assisted graduate student with white-tailed deer studies, restrained white-tailed deer, cleaned barn, entered data. Observed approximately 30 white-tailed deer

Volunteer Experience

- Deer Captures 09/01-09/04
Multi-year study through Texas A&M University-Kingsville gathering data from white-tailed deer bucks in three ranches in south Texas during the fall months
- Texas A&M University-Kingsville Wildlife Student Chapter 09/00-12/04
Texas Big game awards, mist netting, rodent trapping, spotlighting on King Ranch, relocation of threatened and endangered species, butterfly reforestation, and plant surveys.
- Student Ambassador (Agriculture Department) 08/04-12/04
Went to a variety of High Schools to recruit new students to the agriculture program at Texas A&M University-Kingsville.
- Wildlife Education Committee Chair 01/04-12/04
Organized trips to variety of schools to educate students on south Texas wildlife and what is trying to be done to manage it.
- Celebrity Quail Weekend Unknown
Hosted by Caesar Kleberg Wildlife Research Institute at Kleberg museum in Kingsville, Texas. Set up, move items, help tear down.
- Kingsville Wildlife Birding Festival Unknown
Texas A*M University-Kingsville conducted a booth to educate children on the birds of south Texas.

Awards

- Outstanding student for Texas Wildlife Society Student Chapter member 2004
National Deans List 2004

Skills/Workshops

- Bird identification by sig and sound
- Mammal Identification by sight
- GPS and GIS
- Maps and compass
- Microsoft word, excel, and power-point
- Small mammal trapping (Sherman Live Traps)
- Manual 4x4 off road vehicle operation
- Radio Telemetry
- Handling wildlife
- Pit Tag administration
- Pen Maintenance
- Photography

References

David A. Cimprich, Conservation Biologist (BCVI)
The Nature Conservancy
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