



Ryan Phillips

WILDLIFE BIOLOGIST, M.SC.

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Education

M.Sc., Environmental Studies, San José State University, 2021.

B.Sc., Wildlife, Fisheries, Conservation Biology, University of California, Davis, 2004.

SUMMARY OF QUALIFICATIONS

Ryan Phillips has been a professional wildlife biologist since 2004 and has focused his work on avian ecology and conservation in California and Central America. He has been an Adjunct Instructor at De Anza College in the Environmental Studies Department since 2008, where he has taught a multitude of courses related to wildlife and environmental science. Ryan has worked with a wide variety of species, including non-avian species, focusing on their ecology and threats to assist with assessing their status and implementing conservation efforts. He has published numerous peer-reviewed articles primarily related to bird ecology and is an expert and authority on Neotropical raptors. During his graduate research, he studied the migration of Hook-billed Kites in Belize and Mexico and how weather influenced this migration. This was the first time this migration had been described. Ryan is currently the Belize Hawk Watch Director with the Belize Bird Conservancy, a non-profit organization he co-founded in 2009. He has extensive experience conducting field research and surveys, implementing conservation strategies, managing various projects, report writing, grant writing, and fundraising. The various field research methods Ryan has experience with include point-count and transect surveys, sweep transects, pitfall traps, acoustic surveys, spot mapping, trapping using various types of traps, banding, radiotelemetry, and camera-trapping. Since 2016, Ryan has been part of a team of burrowing owl experts for the Santa Clara Valley Habitat Agency, currently implementing Tier 3 conservation actions under the Habitat Plan, to manage and implement conservation strategies to save the Burrowing Owl from local extirpation, which includes overwintering juvenile burrowing owls in captivity and soft-releasing them the following spring, as well as a captive breeding program.

PUBLICATIONS

Phillips, R., K. Wolf, R.B. Bourbour, J.A. Urbina, J.E. Ruano, V. Bonilla, V. Gamez, I. Mai, I. Morataya, R. Martinez, L. Pop, P. Balderamos, H.L. Jones, R. Melcer Jr., L. Trulio, and E.R. Inzunza. 2022. Inrtropical migration of the Hook-billed Kite (*Chondrohierax uncinatus*) in Middle America. *Journal of Field Ornithology* (in review).

Phillips, R., R. Martinez, M. Sánchez Nivicela, M. Cordova, A. Bradshaw, C. Britt, and J. Meerman. 2021. Nest and nest-site characteristics, and prey of the solitary eagle (*Buteogallus solitarius*) in Belize and Ecuador (in prep.).

Lanman, R.B., W.C. Leikam, M.V. Arellano, A. Leventhal, V. Lopez, A. Sigona, **R.A. Phillips**, J. Phillips, and K. Denryter. Review of considerations for restoration of tule elk (*Cervus canadensis nannodes*) to the San Francisco Peninsula and northern Monterey Bay counties of California. *The California Fish and Wildlife Journal* 108(3):e14.

Resume

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Phillips, R., J. Meerman, T. Boomsma, R. Bourbour, B. Martinico, R. Howe, and R. Martinez. 2022. Breeding ecology of Hook-billed Kite (*Chondrohierax uncinatus*) in Belize, Central America. *Journal of Raptor Research* 56(2):220-229.

Klein, S. L. Baer., and **Phillips, R.** 2022. Breeding Swainson's Hawks in the Central Coast Range of California. *Western Birds Journal* 53:19-29.

Higgins, P., D. Chromczak, and **Phillips, R.** 2021. Burrowing Owls produce second brood in Mountain View, California. *Western Birds Journal* 52:340-344.

Phillips, R. (2021) Hook-billed Kite, *Chondrohierax uncinatus*, southbound autumn migration in Belize and Mexico. Master's Theses, San Jose State University.

Phillips, R., R. Bourbour, B. Martinico, and J. Meerman. 2020. Foraging and nesting ecology of the Stygian Owl in the Mountain Pine Ridge region of Belize, Central America. *Wilson J. of Ornithology* 132(3):761-768.

Clark, W.S., J. Clinton-Eitinear, and **R. Phillips**. 2020. Record of an alleged Solitary Eagle in Oaxaca is a Great Black Hawk. *Acta Zoologica Mexicana* (nueva serie), 36:1-6.

Phillips, R., 2018. Book review of Raptors of Mexico and Central America. *Western Birds Journal* 49(2).

Phillips, R., W. G. Bousman, M. Rogers, R. Bourbour, B. Martinico, and M. Mammoser. 2014. First successful nesting of Swainson's Hawks in Santa Clara County, California, since the 1800's. *Western Birds Journal* 45(3): 176-182.

Phillips, R. 2013. Book review of Neotropical Birds of Prey: biology and ecology of a forest raptor community. *Journal of Raptor Research* 47(4): 423-424.

Phillips, R., and C. Hatten. 2013. Nest observations on the Ornate Hawk-Eagle *Spizaetus ornatus* in Belize, Central America. *Boletin SAO* 21: 1-9.

Phillips, R. 2012. An active nest of the rare Solitary Eagle *Harpyhaliaetus solitarius* discovered in Belize. *Spizaetus* 13: 2-8.

Phillips, J., **R. Phillips**, N. Srinivasan, D. Aso, W. Lao, and P. Cornely. 2012. Safe Passage for Coyote Valley: A user's guide to developing protective highway crossings for wildlife while connecting California's students with science and nature. De Anza College, Cupertino, California.

Phillips, R. 2011. Studying the Stygian Owl *Asio stygius robustus* in Mountain Pine Ridge, Belize. *Spizaetus* 12: 2-6.

Seminario, Y., **R. Phillips**, and M. Curti. 2011. Observations of the post-fledging behavior and prey of the Solitary Eagle (*Harpyhaliaetus solitarius*). *Journal of Raptor Research* 45:261-264.

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Phillips, R., P. Balderamos & D. Roth. 2010. First nesting of Crested Caracara, *Caracara cheriway*, in Belize, Central America. *Bulletin of the British Ornithologists* 130: 69-70.

Phillips, R and Y. Seminario. 2009. Aging characteristics of *Spizaetus melanoleucus*: first photographic documentation. *Neotropical Raptor Network Newsletter* 8: 1-5.

Phillips, R. 2009. Studying hawk-eagles in Belize. *Neotropical Raptor Network Newsletter* 7: 10-11.

SELECTED PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Wildlife Biologist, Shoreline Regional Wildlife Area (City of Mountain View)

Wildlife Biologist (November 2018–Present)

Conduct various avian surveys (point-count, transect, acoustical). Avian nesting colony monitoring and co-management of multiple species including Black Skimmers, Forster's Terns, and many other nesting bird species. Conduct surveys for nesting birds and Endangered and listed species (SF Common Yellowthroat, Alameda Song Sparrow, Ridgway's Rail, Black Rail, Burrowing Owl, Black Skimmer). Conduct wildlife surveys for Project Evaluations and project recommendations for reducing impact to wildlife and to abide by CEQA and Fish and Wildlife laws. Participate and conduct habitat restoration projects to enhance biodiversity and prey for Burrowing Owls. Conduct insect and bird surveys of restored areas. Burrowing Owl conservation and habitat management including trapping, banding, monitoring, surveys, supplemental feeding, and installation of artificial burrows. Trapping and removal of invasive species (feral cats and Red Fox). Report writing for wildlife monitoring.

Burrowing Owl Ecology Study at Moffett Field/NASA (Talon Ecological Research Group under contract with BB&E Consulting Engineers & Professionals and NASA)

Project Manager and Burrowing Owl Biologist (April 2021–Present)

Conduct breeding surveys for burrowing owls, with additional nest monitoring during the breeding season. Collect information on population size, brood size, and nesting success to estimate the productivity of the owl colony. Implement supplemental feeding and assist with banding of adult and juvenile birds during the breeding season. Write monthly and annual reports.

Burrowing Owl Management at the Sunnyvale Landfill and Baylands Park (Talon Ecological Research Group under contract with the City of Sunnyvale)

Co-Project Manager and Senior Wildlife Biologist (December 2016–Present)

Conduct monthly habitat management activities, including vegetation management.

Burrowing Owl Surveys in the Warm Springs Unit of Don Edwards National Wildlife Refuge (Talon Ecological Research Group under contract with the Santa Clara Valley Habitat Agency)

Avian Biologist (February 2019–Present)

Conduct monthly surveys for burrowing owls and all avian species. Collect information on colony size and breeding status. Installation of artificial burrows.

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Burrowing Owl Management at the San Jose-Santa Clara Wastewater Facility (Talon Ecological Research group under contract with Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society and the Santa Clara Valley Habitat Agency)

Wildlife Biologist (April 2021–Present)

Conduct monthly surveys for burrowing owls. Conduct monthly habitat management activities, including vegetation management and artificial burrow installation. Assist with banding of adult and juvenile birds during the breeding season. Conduct avian survey of site.

Overwintering Juvenile Burrowing Owls and Release Project (Talon Ecological Research Group under contract with the Santa Clara Valley Habitat Agency)

Wildlife Biologist (January 2021–Present)

Assist with trapping juvenile burrowing owls. After overwintering and prior to release, build hacking enclosures and install artificial burrows. Built breeding facility for captive breeding program.

Adjunct Faculty of Environmental Science in the Kirsch Center for Environmental Studies (De Anza College)

Instructor (September 2008–Present)

Taught a multitude of courses, which include Environmental Sciences (ESCI1 and 1L), Biodiversity (ESCI20), Biodiversity 2 (ESCI21), Conservation Biology (ESCI30), Introduction to Connectivity (ESCI 50), Wildlife Corridor Design (ESCI55) Advanced Tracking (ESCI 57, 58), Wildlife Corridors (ESCI 82, 87, 88), Field Studies: Tule Elk (ESCI90), Field Studies: Raptors of Santa Clara County (ESCI92). Program coordinator of the Wildlife Science Technician AS/Certificate Program from 2014-2018. Principal investigator for various research projects (Tule Elk, Coyote Valley Corridor, Highway 17 connectivity). Develop curriculum, design research projects, oversee student projects, and lead instructor of the Belize Study Abroad Program.

Belize Hawk Watch and Raptor Certification Program, Belize, Central America (Belize Bird Conservancy)

Program Director (2013–Present)

Founded and developed hawk watch program in Belize to monitor migratory raptor populations and to conduct research on raptor migration in Belize for the first time. Started the Hawk Watch Project in 2013 and Raptor Certification Program in 2016. Developed protocols, budget, objectives and hawk watch manual. Fundraising and grant writing. Hiring and formation of staff. Manage and analyze data. Report and manuscript writing.

Executive Director and Co-founder (Belize Raptor Research Institute)

Executive Director (June 2009–December 2016)

Co-founded and obtained non-profit status of organization in Belize, Central America. Developed and conducted research projects and educational outreach. Managed interns, volunteers, and staff. Developed national and international partners. Grant writing and fundraising.

Banding Raptors, National Park Service, Marine Headlands, California (Golden Gate Raptor Observatory)

Volunteer Bander (June 2014–December 2015)

Assisted banding program by trapping, handling, banding, and processing various species of raptors as part of GGRO's long-term banding program.

Orange-breasted Falcon Nest Surveys and Monitoring in Belize, Central America (The Peregrine Fund)

Raptor Biologist (March-May 2007)

Monitored nest sites of the rarest Neotropical falcon in Belize, the Orange-breasted Falcon, and collected data on breeding ecology such as prey and phenology of breeding events. Supervised volunteers monitoring nests and worked with local communities. Assisted with installing camera systems in nests.

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Harpy Eagle Reintroduction and Conservation Program in Belize, Central America (The Peregrine Fund)

Raptor Biologist and Project Manager (October 2004-May 2007)

Hard released Harpy Eagles into the forests of Belize, specifically Rio Bravo Conservation and Management Area, and radio tracked them on the ground and via helicopter and airplane. Assisted with trapping, tagging, and handling eagles. Collected data on movement patterns, prey, habitat utilization, and survivorship. Managed a 2-4 person crew and conducted educationally outreach.

Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship (MAPS) Program in Davis, California (University of California, Davis)

Field Ornithologist (May-August 2005)

Co-lead a MAPS program in the riparian habitats at various field sites in the Davis area. Used mist nets to trap primarily passerine species of California and band them to understand populations, migration, phenology, breeding status, molt, and survivorship. Conducted avian transect and point-count surveys, as well as habitat assessment surveys.

Avian Surveys and Monitoring in Davis, California (University of California, Davis)

Field Research Technician (February-August 2004)

Conducted Breeding Bird Atlas surveys, transect and point-count surveys, monitored nest-boxes, banded nestlings and adults, and acoustical surveys for owls throughout the riparian habitats in the Davis region. Identified all California bird species visually and by sound.

Staff Member of the California Raptor Center (University of California, Davis)

Raptor Biologist (January 2002-July 2004)

Cared for sick, injured, and resident raptors. Handled nearly all California raptor species. Conducted blood sampling, wing and talon wrappings, and administered subcutaneous fluids. Administered net trappings, released rehabilitated bird into the wild and provided

PROFESSIONAL MEMBER AFFILIATIONS

North American Ornithological Society

Association of Field Ornithology

Raptor Research Foundation

Neotropical Raptor Network

Association of Field Ornithology

Neotropical Ornithological Society

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