

# ABIGAIL POZULP

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## ABOUT ME

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I am an avid naturalist with a passion for ecology and animal behavior. In daily life as well as in the lab I strive to lead by example, fostering inquisitiveness in the world around us and respect for all living things. I believe that science benefits from a cross-disciplinary approach in which knowledge, integrity, and empathy are equally prioritized. I am here to learn and improve myself, to serve the environment and connect people.

## WHAT I CAN OFFER UTRGV

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I believe my experience in teaching would make me an excellent hire for this position. A little about that: During my master's coursework I worked as a GTA for four semesters, I taught Bio 1 and Bio 2 labs. I received my M.S. in Biology from University of Texas Rio Grande Valley (UTRGV) in December 2021. My thesis project (2018-2021) consisted of hundreds of hours of field observation and population monitoring in order to describe in detail the duet behavior of the endangered red-crowned parrot (*Amazona viridigenalis*), in hopes of better understanding this reproductively-relevant behavior. My project was completely self-motivated, under the guidance of my P.I. and mentor Karl S. Berg, I researched, developed, and implemented the project methodology. I was lucky to manage a few excellent student volunteers who helped with my data collection and processing. All this culminating in my thesis titled: Duet Phonology and Syntax of the Red-Crowned Parrots of South Texas. After graduating, I worked for 4 months (January-May 2022) as a research associate conducting population surveys of wintering shorebirds and mapping historical data for a long-term species impact monitoring project of the Boca Chica SpaceX launch site. Upon completion of my contract, in June 2022, my mentor and I secured a seed grant from (UTRGV) to continue conservation research on the campus' wild red-crowned parrot population by setting up a nest monitoring system.

I am the kind of person to throw myself fully into my work, for example, in the process of conducting my thesis research, I became involved in the community-wide effort collaborating with public and private partners to survey the local population of red-crowned parrots and succeed in getting the species listed as "State Threatened" by the state of Texas in 2019. Even after the culmination of my research project, I have felt a continued pull to help build a parrot-friendly space on campus and work to thoughtfully combine conservation and field research in hopes of establishing an ongoing local research interest in this species.

## WHAT I WANT IN A POSITION WITH UTRGV

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I am interested in pursuing PhD work in the field of animal behavior and ecology, I know that my future career will likely involve teaching and I look forward to the opportunity to work with UTRGV undergraduate students again, I delight in being able to lead new college students into the exciting world of upper-level science.

As much as I love my experience in Brownsville, my spouse and I are not positive we want to settle down here. We have a longterm dream of settling down in a smaller town, somewhere closer to my family in northern CA. With a cooler climate and taller trees. Therefore, I would prefer a shorter-term contract, since I would like the flexibility to continue to look for positions out of state.

I do enjoy teaching labs and although I only taught three at a time before, I think I could teach more than that in a week. I am hesitant to teach a full nine labs per week, that is a schedule that might

overwhelm me. I am aware the compensation for the position is based on how many labs I teach per week. If possible, I would like to be paid less if I can teach fewer labs per week, 6 would be ideal for me.

## EDUCATION

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### University of Texas Rio Grande Valley

*Graduated December 2021*

Master of Science in Biology

Thesis title: *Duet Phonology and Syntax in the Red-Crowned Parrots of South Texas*

Overall GPA: /3.9

### College of Charleston

*Graduated May 2014*

Bachelor of Arts in Biology

Overall GPA: /3.65

Minor in Spanish

## WORK EXPERIENCE

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### UTRGV Faculty Seed Grant

June 2022 - Present

*Research Associate*

- Develop and implement an in-the-nest audiovisual monitoring system for an endangered parrot species
- collect and analyze data from pilot project
- secure broader grant funding for the continuation of the project

### SpaceX Shorebird Monitoring Project

January 2022 - May 2022

*Research Associate*

- Conduct regular counts of target species in the field
- use QGIS to map and analyze longterm dataset of shorebird sighting data.
- create report-quality graphs to communicate the results to project bosses.

### University of Texas Rio Grande Valley

August 2018 - Present

*Graduate Research Assistant*

- Investigating the vocal behavior of endangered wild Red-Crowned Parrots in the Rio Grande Valley
- Establishing field methodology to collect audiovisual data of urban psittacines
- Maintain records of active nesting sites throughout the city, including artificial nest tubes located at UTRGV and assorted public parks.
- Analysis of collected data to explore the vocal repertoire of an understudied avian population.

### University of Texas Rio Grande Valley

August 2019 - August 2021

*Graduate Teaching Assistant BIOL 1406 1407 Lab*

- Leading UTRGV students in hands-on application of general biological concepts.
- Collaborating with staff/faculty to design and implement instructional activities.
- Additional responsibilities: Grading and evaluating student performance, preparation and cleaning of laboratory experiments.

### Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

August 2017 - April 2018

*Hunting Operations*

- Monitored legal harvest activities at the JW Corbett Wildlife Management Area, collected population data for target species by performing field examination of harvested wildlife. Educated the public regarding hunting regulations.
- Additional responsibilities: Wildlife identification, dissection of specimens.

**Florida Oceanographic Society**

January 2017 - April 2018

*Research Intern*

- Independently develop and conduct a grant-funded research project to investigate the potential presence of microplastic pollution near restored oyster reefs in the Indian River Lagoon.
- Additional responsibilities: field data collection, lab protocol and hygiene, data entry, statistical analysis of collected data. Coordinating with volunteers and interdepartmental staff.

**USDA-APHIS National Wildlife Research Center**

May 2016 - October 2016

*Predator Management Research Technician*

- Maintain a working relationship with sheep herders at 7 separate field study sites spanning multiple states in order to independently collect behavioral data on livestock guardian dogs, use of radio telemetry to locate and monitor animal subjects. Perform field necropsies on livestock to identify cause of death and species of predator involved. Develop and implement a network of camera traps to observe predator occupancy, review and sort camera images.
- Additional responsibilities: Coordinate with local government and civilian organizations in respect to livestock, dog, and predator interactions, handheld GPS, translate official documents into Spanish, data entry, dog husbandry.

**Patriot's Point Science Program**

September 2015 - March 2016

*Education Staff*

- Leading exhibit presentations and hands-on activities about local coastal ecology with an emphasis on native species and human impacts.
- Additional responsibilities: Collaborate with a team of scientists and educators in the development of curriculum-based natural science immersion experiences.

**Charleston County School District**

August 2015 - March 2016

*Substitute Teacher K-12*

- Lead classrooms of students of all ages and ability levels in common core curriculum. As the mentors for future generations, teachers are held to the highest code of conduct of perhaps any career, requiring patience, creativity, time management, punctuality, conflict resolution.

**College of Charleston Biology Department**

August 2013 - May 2014

*Teaching Assistant, BIOL 301*

- Working in the field with students to train skills of navigation, identification, and classification of vascular plant communities, with special emphasis on local flora and ecology.
- Additional responsibilities: student evaluations, grading, tutoring, designing study materials and leading reviews and discussion of content.

**ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENTS**

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2018 Recipient of UTRGV President's Graduate Research Assistantship

2014, Cum Laude College of Charleston

2014, 2013 College of Charleston Dean's List