

TEXAS STATE VITA

I. Academic/Professional Background

A. Name: James Emerson

Title: Senior Lecturer of Wildlife Biology

B. Educational Background

<i>Degree</i>	<i>Year</i>	<i>University</i>	<i>Major</i>	<i>Thesis/Dissertation</i>
Ph.D.	2020	University of Texas at El Paso	Ecology and Evolutionary Biology	Behavioral ecology of a desert ambush predator: assessing movement patterns, habitat and microhabitat uses, and the innate feeding response of Eastern Blacktailed Rattlesnakes (<i>Crotalus ornatus</i>) in the northern Chihuahuan Desert
B.S.	2010	West Texas A&M University	Wildlife Biology	N/A

C. University Experience

1. 2019–2020: Research Fellow – University of Texas at El Paso
2. 2013–2019: Assistant Instructor – University of Texas at El Paso
3. 2014–2018: Site Manager – Indio Mountains Research Station, University of Texas at El Paso
4. 2013: Research Assistant – West Texas A&M University
5. 2010–2013: Teaching Assistant – West Texas A&M University

D. Relevant Professional Experience

1. 2022–Present: Senior Lecturer of Wildlife Biology – Texas State University
2. 2020–2021: Adjunct Professor of Biology – El Paso Community College

II. TEACHING

A. Courses Taught:

1. Herpetology (Bio 4434)
2. Mammalogy (Bio 4422/5422)
3. Techniques in Wildlife Management (Bio 4435/5435)
4. Wildlife Management (Bio 4423)
5. Natural History of the Vertebrates (Bio 4420/5420)
6. Introductory biology (Bio 1306)
7. Introductory biology lab (Bio 1106)

B. Directed Student Learning (i.e. theses, dissertations, exit committees, etc.):

1. Spring 2024: Faculty mentor for the Internship for Credit course (Bio 4481) for Douglas Franks II

2. 2022–Present: Non-thesis Masters Committee Member – Virgillio Gomez, Texas State University
3. 2015–2018: Guided REU projects (Adolfo Rodriguez, Ruben Gamez, Hope Smith, Sara Ebert, and Miranda Gaupp)

C. Courses Prepared and Curriculum Development:

1. Bio 4435/5435
2. Bio 4434
3. Bio 4423/5423
4. Bio 4422/5422
5. Bio 4420/5420
6. Bio 1306
7. Bio 1106

D. Teaching Professional Development Activities Attended

1. 2020: El Paso Community College Faculty Training for Distance Education

III. SCHOLARLY/CREATIVE

A. Works in Print (including works accepted, forthcoming, in press):

1. Articles:

a) Refereed Journal Articles:

1. Emerson, J.D., and J.D. Johnson. 2023. Evidence for an Innate Basis of Prey Preference in a Desert Ambush Predator. *Evolutionary Ecology* 37:https://doi.org/10.1007/s10682-023-10286-w.
2. Emerson, J.D., D.L. DeSantis, A.E. Wagler, V. Mata-Silva, and J.D. Johnson. 2022. Movement, home range size, and habitat use of Eastern Black-tailed Rattlesnakes (*Crotalus ornatus*) in the northern Chihuahuan Desert. *Herpetologica* 78:110-118.
3. Emerson, J.D., and J.D. Johnson. 2020. *Crotalus ornatus* (Eastern Black-tailed Rattlesnake) Feeding Behavior. *Herpetological Review* 51, p. 346.

B. Works Not in Print:

1. Papers Presented at Professional Meetings:

1. Emerson, J.D., D.L. DeSantis, V. Mata-Silva, and J.D. Johnson. Spatial Ecology of a Secretive Desert Colubrid (*Lampropeltis alterna*). [Oral Presentation]. 60th Annual Texas Chapter of the Wildlife Society Meeting, Houston, Texas. February 2024.
2. Emerson, J.D., and J.D. Johnson. Do Naive Neonate Eastern Black-tailed Rattlesnakes (*Crotalus ornatus*) discriminate among scent cues of potential prey items? [Oral Presentation]. Southwestern Association of Naturalists 70th Annual Meeting, San Antonio, Texas. August 2023.
3. Emerson, J.D., D.L. DeSantis, V. Mata-Silva, and J.D. Johnson. Spatial Ecology of a Secretive Desert Colubrid (*Lampropeltis alterna*). [Oral Presentation]. Southwestern Association of Naturalists 70th Annual Meeting, San Antonio, Texas. August 2023.

4. Emerson, J.D., D.L. DeSantis, V. Mata-Silva, A.E. Wagler, and J.D. Johnson. Movement, home range size, and habitat use of Eastern Black-tailed Rattlesnakes (*Crotalus ornatus*) in the northern Chihuahuan Desert. [Oral Presentation]. 59th Annual Texas Chapter of the Wildlife Society Meeting, Houston, Texas. February 2023.
5. Emerson, J.D., D.L. DeSantis, V. Mata-Silva, A.E. Wagler, and J.D. Johnson. Movement, home range size, and habitat use of Eastern Black-tailed Rattlesnakes (*Crotalus ornatus*) in the northern Chihuahuan Desert. [Poster]. Biology of the Pitvipers 4 Symposium, Rodeo, New Mexico. July 2022.
6. Emerson, J.D., D.L. DeSantis, and J.D. Johnson. Ambush site selection by Eastern Black-tailed Rattlesnakes (*Crotalus ornatus*) in the Northern Chihuahuan Desert. [Poster]. Biology of the Pitvipers 3 Symposium, Rodeo, New Mexico. July 2019.
7. Emerson, J.D., V. Mata-Silva, J.D. Johnson. Movement patterns of Eastern Black-tailed Rattlesnakes (*Crotalus ornatus*) in the northern Chihuahuan Desert. [Oral Presentation]. Biology of Snakes, Rodeo, New Mexico, July 2017.
8. Emerson, J.D., and R.T. Kzmaier. Influence of habitat type on the snake community in a Rolling Plains ecosystem. [Oral Presentation]. Southwestern Association of Naturalists 61st Annual Meeting, Stillwater, Oklahoma, April 2014.
9. Emerson, J.D., R.T. Kzmaier, and D.C. Ruthven III. Sampling a snake community: comparing different sampling methods. [Oral Presentation]. Southwestern Association of Naturalists 60th Annual Meeting, Lake Charles, Louisiana, April 2013.
10. Emerson, J.D., R.T. Kzmaier, J. Baker, and D.C. Ruthven III. Variation in snake communities: comparing two habitats at a site in the northeastern Texas Panhandle. [Oral Presentation]. The Texas Chapter of the Wildlife Society Annual Meeting, Houston, Texas, February 2013.
11. Emerson, J.D. and Kzmaier, RT. Ecology of a snake community along the Canadian River drainage. [Oral Presentation]. Kansas Herpetological Society Annual Meeting, Fort Hayes, Kansas. November 2012.

2. Invited Talks, Lectures, and Presentations:

1. Emerson, J.D. Behavioral ecology of a desert ambush predator: movement patterns, home range size, and innate foraging response of Eastern Black-tailed Rattlesnakes (*Crotalus ornatus*) in the northern Chihuahuan Desert. [Oral Presentation]. Lake Superior State University Seminar. April 2022.
2. Emerson, J.D. Harvest management for recreational use of game species. [Oral Presentation]. Lake Superior State University Seminar. April 2022.
3. Emerson, J.D. Behavioral ecology of a desert ambush predator: movement patterns, home range size, and innate foraging response of Eastern Black-tailed Rattlesnakes (*Crotalus ornatus*) in the northern Chihuahuan Desert. [Oral Presentation]. Northwestern Oklahoma State University Seminar. April 2022.
4. Emerson, J.D. The origin of evolutionary theory. [Oral Presentation]. Northwestern Oklahoma State University Seminar. April 2022.
5. Emerson, J.D. Behavioral ecology of desert ambush predators. [Oral Presentation]. Bethel College Seminar. February 2022.

3. Other Works not in Print:

a) Works "in progress":

1. DeSantis, D.L., J.D. Emerson, V. Mata-Silva, and J.D. Johnson. Accepted. Spatial ecology of a secretive nocturnal colubrid (*Lampropeltis alterna*) in far west Texas. Herpetology Notes.
2. Emerson, J.D., V. Mata-Silva, and J.D. Johnson. In Prep. Reproduction in a wild population of Eastern Black-tailed Rattlesnakes (*Crotalus ornatus*). Herpetological Conservation and Biology.
3. Emerson, J.D. In Prep. New distributional records for herpetofauna in the Texas Panhandle. Herpetological Review.
4. Emerson, J.D. Accepted. *Trimorphodon lambda* (Sonoran Lyre Snake) Envenomation. Herpetological Review.

C. Scholarly / Creative Grants and Contracts:

a) Funded Internal Grants and Contracts:

1. 2019: UTEP Summer Grant for Graduate Students–UTEP Graduate School, \$1,650
2. 2018: UTEP Grant for Graduate Students–UTEP Graduate School, \$1,650
3. 2018: Texas Public Educational Grant–The State of Texas, \$1,000
4. 2017: UTEP Grant for Graduate Students–UTEP Graduate School, \$1,650
5. 2017: Texas Public Educational Grant–The State of Texas, \$1,000
6. 2016: Dodson Research Grant– UTEP Graduate School, \$3,000
7. 2016: Dodson Research Grant– UTEP Graduate School, \$3,000

D. Scholarly / Creative Fellowships, Awards, Honors:

1. 2020: Graduate Excellence Fellowship Award–UTEP Graduate School, \$10,000
2. 2019: Graduate Excellence Fellowship Award–UTEP Graduate School, \$8,000

E. Scholarly / Creative Professional Development Activities Attended:

1. 2020: UTEP Graduate School Professional Development and Writing Workshop

IV. SERVICE

A. Institutional

a) University:

1. Wildlife Biology program advisor – Texas State University (2022–Present)
2. Biology Curriculum Committee – Wildlife biology representative (2022–Present)
3. Christmas Mountains Advisory Committee – Texas State University (2022–Present)
4. Biology Department Representative – Bobcat Day, Spring/Fall 2023
5. Student mentorship – University of Texas at El Paso, Campus Office of Undergraduate Research Initiatives

b) Department/School:

1. 2023–present: Served on Biological Sciences seminar committee, Wildlife Biology representative, Texas State University

2. Spring 2023: Served on faculty search committee for wildlife evolutionary ecologist position, Texas State University
3. 2022–present: Co-representative for the Texas State University Student Chapter of the Wildlife Society
4. 2014–2015: Faculty search committee (Graduate student representative): Department of Biology Chair, Department of Biological Sciences, University of Texas at El Paso

B. Community:

1. 2024: Peer-reviewer for *Herpetological Conservation and Biology*
2. 2023: Peer-reviewer for *Texas Journal of Science*
3. 2022: Peer-reviewer for *Herpetological Review*
4. 2016–2019: Venomous snake education, coexistence, and relocation – Tom Mays Unit, Franklin Mountains State Park, El Paso, TX
5. 2015–2016: Student Science Fair Judge – El Paso County Day School
6. 2012: Volunteer – Spring Snake Count, Center for Snake Conservation
7. 2012: Ecological importance of snakes and how to coexist with them, Cross Bar Cooperative Management Area, Amarillo Independent School District
8. 2012: Volunteer – Christmas Bird Count, National Audobon Society, Gene Howe Wildlife Research and Demonstration Area
9. 2011: Volunteer – Fall Snake Count, Center for Snake Conservation
10. 2011: Ecological importance, research, and coexistence with snakes – Camp Don Herrington, Boy Scouts of America
11. 2009: Volunteer – Fall Black-footed Ferret Survey, Arizona Game and Fish Department

C. Organization Memberships:

1. The Southwest Section of the Wildlife Society: 2023–Present
2. The Herpetologist's League: 2013–Present
3. Society for the Study of Reptiles and Amphibians: 2013–Present
4. The Wildlife Society: 2012–Present
5. The Texas Chapter of the Wildlife Society: 2011–Present
6. Turtle Survival Alliance: 2012-2014
7. The Kansas Herpetological Society: 2008–2014
8. The West Texas A&M University Student Chapter of the Texas Wildlife Society: 2008–2013

D. Service Professional Development Activities Attended:

1. 2011: Grazing Management Workshop, Matador Wildlife Management Area