

# Zach Jones is New Chair of SWOSU Biological Sciences Department

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Dr. Zach Jones is the new chair of the Biological Sciences Department at Southwestern Oklahoma State University in Weatherford.

Jones, an ornithologist by training, became a SWOSU faculty member in 2015 after serving as a tenured associate professor of biology at Eastern New Mexico University.

He was valedictorian at Arapaho High School in 1991, finished an undergraduate degree in biology at the Colorado College in 1995 and completed his Ph.D. from the University of Colorado in 2003.

Jones mentors undergraduates in research utilizing bird and mammal populations, including the influences of native and non-native grassland habitats, grazing, fire, urbanization, and most recently migration patterns.

Jones has taught a wide range of biological, organismal, wildlife and ecology courses, and at SWOSU currently teaches Vertebrate Biology, Capstone in Biology, Biological Concepts laboratory and Human Anatomy courses.

SWOSU biology students regularly participate and present faculty-mentored research at Oklahoma Research Day, Oklahoma Academy of the Sciences' field and technical meetings, BioBlitz—the Tri-Beta Honor Society regional convention—and national discipline-specific meetings. In July, Jones and a student received fellowships, supported by the National Science Foundation, to attend a week-long Radar Aeroecology conference and training at the University of Oklahoma.