

## CLASS OF 2025

# *Outstanding Graduate*



**“With my NMSU education, I aim to contribute to the conservation of our natural world for the enjoyment of future generations.”**

### **DYLAN M. OSTERHAUS**

Graduate School, Doctoral

Dylan M. Osterhaus is graduating with a Ph.D. in biology. His master's is in fisheries biology from Iowa State, and he graduated magna cum laude from Emporia State.

Working with White Sands Missile Range, his dissertation, *Avian Migration in the Anthropocene: Anthropogenic Impacts, Methodological Approaches, and New Directions*, examines how bright artificial light at night impacts migratory birds in an otherwise dark desert sky. Although his work emphasizes birds, Dylan says, “I think of myself as more of an ecologist and a naturalist — not specifically studying a species, but the underlying ecology.”

His dissertation has already resulted in four journal articles, three published and one in review. While at NMSU, he was lead or co-author

of an additional six articles on avian migration, and prior to NMSU he had eight academic papers published and another eight articles in non-technical publications.

Dylan has taught Avian Field Ecology, been awarded two research grants, given nine conference talks, and been an influential leader in both NMSU's Avian Migration Program and the Mesilla Valley Audubon Society, for which he was a board member and popular bird walk leader.

Co-advisor Dr. Martha Desmond says Dylan “is the most productive student I have seen during my 26 years on the faculty at NMSU,” adding, “[he] is a critical thinker with strong research ideas as evidenced through his productivity and the fact that he is sought after as a collaborator.”

Co-advisor Dr. Tim Wright agrees: “[Dylan's] accomplishments are very impressive for anyone at this stage of an academic career and a clear indication not just of Dylan's well-honed work ethic but also his scientific creativity and ability to form productive scientific collaborations.”

For fun, Dylan and his wife, Dr. Hannah Shield, hike, camp, visit family, and, of course, go birding. After graduation, they are heading to Indiana where Dylan will begin a postdoc in the Aeroecology Laboratory at Purdue University. ▲