What was the first bird job you ever had?
Like many veterinarians I have met, my first job working with birds was in a pet store getting to raise and care for young birds.

Most memorable AAV experience or contribution
My most memorable AAV experiences have been getting a few articles published in the Journal of Avian Medicine and Surgery and being able to present at a few conferences. It’s very fulfilling to be able to assist our profession in this way even if they are just small contributions. I hope that they stimulate further discussion and are used as a step to advance our knowledge base in avian medicine.

What is your favorite avian species and why?
Zebra finches. I had a hand-raised zebra finch, Leonardo DaFinci, who was a wonderful companion and taught me a lot. I really enjoy all the small species who can sometimes be more challenging to treat but still deserve just as much care as any other individual.

What was the last interesting avian medical or surgical issue you dealt with in your work?
I have been working with the Fish and Wildlife Service to vasectomize Texas bobwhite quail as part of a reintroduction of the Masked bobwhite quail into southern Arizona. There have been a few bumps along the way but it’s nice to have a role in conservation and do a small part in helping an endangered species.

Best benefits of AAV membership?
All the educational offerings! I routinely check out old journals online, access the conference proceedings through the website and check out the education portal for videos and newly posted learning opportunities.

If you had not chosen your present career, what would you be doing?
I would probably be working in biology in some shape or form. Whether it would be in a lab, in a classroom teaching, or out in the field doing some sort of research; I could be happy doing many different science-focused careers. If not biology though, I would work more on my artistic side and focus more on painting.

What was your favorite class or activity in vet school/vet tech school/college?
Avian and exotic medicine of course! I loved getting to work with all the passionate veterinarian teachers at the Minnesota Raptor Center.