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NOTEWORTHY RECORDS OF SEVEN SPECIES OF SMALL MAMMALS FROM WEST-CENTRAL TEXAS

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Coincidental to other field studies in west-central Texas that related primarily to pocket gophers, we obtained a variety of small mammals in the winter and spring of 1991. Furthermore, collecting activities of students enrolled in a class in mammalogy at Texas Tech University's Junction Center in May 1991 resulted in additional material. Specimens of seven species thus obtained provide marginal distributional data of note and are treated in this paper. Life history observations are recorded for several taxa.

All specimens (catalogue numbers in parentheses) are on deposit in the Museum of Texas Tech University. We thank Gary Edson, director of the Museum, and Clyde Hendrick, dean of the Graduate School at Texas Tech, for support of field operations.

Cryptotis parva parva (Say, 1923). —Cranial remains of six least shrews were recovered from owl pellets found in an abandoned farm house 6 mi. S and 4 mi. E Sylvester, Fisher County, in April 1991. This locality lies along the southern boundary of the estimated distribution of the species in west-central Texas as mapped by Davis (1974), and thus provides a noteworthy marginal record for *C. parva* in the state.

Perognathus flavescens copei Rhoads, 1984. —On 14 May, J. M. Teichmann trapped a nonpregnant female plains pocket mouse (59398) in the Spraberry area, 5 mi. S and 15 mi. E Midland, Midland County. Soil at this place was described as sandy to fine sandy loam; prominent vegetation included mesquite, prickly pear, and grasses of the genus *Muhlenbergia*. Three other heteromyids, *Perognathus merriami*, *Dipo-*

domys merriami, and *D. ordii*, along with *Peromyscus leucopus*, were taken in the same trap line.

Davis (1974) recorded the eastern limits of distribution of this species in Texas as Clay County and, farther south, Callahan County. Dalquest and Horner (1984:112), however, dispensed with the Clay County locality by indicating that there is "only a single record from north-central Texas," based on a specimen from 17 mi. NW Vernon in northwestern Wilbarger County. We always assumed that mention of Callahan County by Davis was founded on material housed in the Texas Cooperative Wildlife Collection at Texas A&M University, but, as it turns out, there is no voucher specimen from that county, at least in that collection (G. D. Baumgardner, personal communication). Consequently, we do not know the basis for listing *P. flavescens* as occurring in Callahan County and must assume Davis did so in error or based upon unsupportable data. Therefore, the pocket mouse herein reported from Midland County constitutes the documented southeastern limit of distribution for this species in Texas. *P. flavescens* should be looked for in sandy habitats elsewhere in the southeastern part of the Llano Estacado and on the adjacent Rolling Plains of west-central Texas.

Dipodomys merriami ambiguus Merriam, 1890. — A male of this species (59401, testes 8×3 mm) was taken 5 mi. S and 15 mi. E Midland, Midland County, under circumstances described in the account above. This specimen provides a new locality of record for Merriam's kangaroo rat along the northeastern margin of its distribution in Texas. Other counties that define the northern and northeastern limits of the range of *D. merriami* in the state are (north to south) Gaines, Martin, and Reagan (Jones *et al.*, 1988).

Dipodomys ordii medius Setzer, 1949.—In northern Texas, the distribution of Ord's kangaroo rat extends "along the sandy terraces of the Red River east to Montague County" (Dalquest and Horner, 1984:116), the easternmost occurrence in the state save for on the Rio Grande Plain far to the south. South of the Red River in west-central Texas the geographic range of *D. ordii* recedes westwardly, with the easternmost known locality of record at a place 2 mi. E Swenson, Stonewall County (Ramsey and Carley, 1970). We also have trapped this species in Stonewall County as well as on both sides of the line separating Fisher and Jones counties, some 40 miles to the south-southeast of Swenson. Actual localities of record are: 3 mi. E Sylvester (59332–33) and 2 mi. S, 5 mi. E Sylvester (59334–35), Fisher County; 13 mi. S, 0.5 mi. W Hamlin, Jones County (59209–10); 0.5 mi. S, 0.5 mi. E Peacock, Stonewall County (59211–12).

Two females (Stonewall County) trapped on 13 January each carried three fetuses (8 and 33 mm in crown-rump length), whereas one taken on 27 January and two on 14 April were not pregnant. A January-taken male and two from April had testes that measured 12×7 , 13×5 , and 16×8 mm, respectively. Trap sites were along overgrown fencerows on sandy or fine sandy loam soils at all three localities.

Reithrodontomys fulvescens laceyi J. A. Allen, 1896.—The westernmost published records for this harvest mouse in west-central Texas are from Runnels and Shackelford counties (Stangl *et al.*, 1989; Packard and Judd, 1968). Slightly to the west, we collected five specimens from 3 mi. E Sylvester, Fisher County (59376–77), and 13 mi. S, 0.5 mi. W Hamlin, Jones County (59289, 59378–79). A general description of trap sites at these localities is given in the account of *Dipodomys ordii* above. Fulvous harvest mice from the first-listed site were trapped in a stand of dead *Helianthus*; two of those from Jones County were taken in tangled grasses and shin oak in company with *Peromyscus leucopus*, whereas the other was caught along a nearby grassy fencerow.

A January-taken male had testes that measured 6 mm in length, whereas those of three captured on 14 April measured 8, 8, and 9. An April-caught female evinced no reproductive activity.

Onychomys leucogaster arcticeps Rhoads, 1898.—Nine specimens of the northern grasshopper mouse from Fisher, Jones, and Stonewall counties help to define the eastern margin of distribution for this species in west-central Texas. Specific localities are as follows: 3 mi. E Sylvester, Fisher County (59340–42); 13 mi. S, 0.5 mi. W Hamlin, Jones County (59219–20, 59343); 0.5 mi. S, 0.5 mi. E Peacock, Stonewall County (59221–23).

A female caught on 13 January carried five fetuses (6 mm in crown-rump length), whereas one taken on 14 April was lactating and had five fetuses that measured 12 mm; a juvenile male also was obtained in April. January-taken subadult males had testes that measured 10×5 and 11×7 mm, whereas those of adults from the same month were 19×10 and 22×12 mm. Two adults collected in April each had testes 18×10 mm in size.

Neotoma micropus micropus Baird, 1855.—Hollander *et al.* (1987:8) published records of this species from Kimble and McCulloch counties that helped “to fill a large distributional gap . . . in the range of this mammal in central Texas.” Three additional specimens that address the same issue are from: 3 mi. S, 6.5 mi. W Voss, Coleman County (59403); 0.5 mi. E Stacy, McCulloch County (59404); 4 mi. SW Bal-lenger, Runnels County (59405).

The first-listed specimen is a postlactating female obtained on 14 May. The two others, both May-taken subadult males, had testes that measured 15×8 and 15×10 mm. We tentatively assign these woodrats to the nominate subspecies because they are darker in color than specimens from, say, the Llano Estacado. Intraspecific variation in *N. micropus* is in need of detailed study.

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