

# OCCASIONAL PAPERS

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## DISTRIBUTIONAL RECORDS OF MAMMALS IN TEXAS

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Distributional records, as interpreted from distribution maps in Davis and Schmidly (1994), are reported for eleven species of small mammals from Cottle, Hemphill, Hockley, Lynn, Real, Runnels, Wheeler, and Willacy counties in Texas. These include one opossum (*Didelphis virginiana*), two shrews (*Cryptotis parva* and *Notiosorex crawfordi*), one armadillo (*Dasypus novemcinctus*), one rabbit (*Sylvilagus floridanus*), two mice (*Reithrodontomys fulvescens* and *Baiomys taylori*), one porcupine (*Erethizon dorsatum*), one raccoon (*Procyon lotor*), one badger (*Taxidea taxus*), and one skunk (*Conepatus mesoleucus*).

The following species accounts represent noteworthy records from collecting trips in October of 1996 to the Gene Howe Wildlife Management Area (Hemphill county), and in August of 1997 to the Las Palomas Wildlife Management Area (Willacy county). Miscellaneous records from Cottle, Hockley, Lynn, Real, Runnels, and Wheeler counties also are included. All voucher materials were deposited in the Natural Science Research Laboratory, the Museum, Texas Tech University and are listed by museum catalog number (TTU).

### *Didelphis virginiana virginiana*

**Kerr, 1792**

Virginia Opossum

The Virginia opossum is known to occur throughout the state of Texas, to the exclusion of dry regions in the Trans-Pecos and Llano Estacado (Davis and Schmidly, 1994). Although specimens have been reported from adjacent Lipscomb County, this represents the first record from Hemphill County. The specimen was collected at a beaver pond surrounded by mature hardwood forest.

*Specimen examined* (1).— Hemphill Co., Gene Howe Wildlife Management Area (UTM: 14 380767E 3975856N), 1, female specimen (TTU 71268), 26 October 1996.

### *Cryptotis parva parva*

**(Say, 1823)**

Least shrew

Davis and Schmidly (1994) report the distribution of this species in eastern and central portions of the state, west in the Panhandle to the New Mexico line, and to Val

Verde County along the Rio Grande. According to Choate et al. (1994), the least shrew is not dependent on mesic habitats and may be common in more xeric habitats. It has been suggested that these tiny shrews inhabit the grasslands where they can use the runways of cotton rats (*Sigmodon*) and other grassland rodents (Davis and Schmidly, 1994). These specimens were collected from conservation reserve program lands which were predominately midgrass prairie habitat.

*Specimens examined* (3).—Lynn Co., 2 mi. S, 5 mi. E Tahoka, 3, one male specimen (TTU 77538) and two female specimens (TTU 77539-77540), 21 July 1997.

***Notiosorex crawfordi crawfordi***  
**(Coues, 1877)**  
Desert shrew

The distribution of the desert shrew includes the western two-thirds of Texas, as well as portions of the north-central and southern areas of the state (Davis and Schmidly 1994). Although the desert shrew is more common in arid regions, it does not appear that it is restricted to any specific habitat (Blair, 1954; Jones et al., 1985; Jones & Jones, 1992; Davis & Schmidly, 1994). The specimen was collected from the same habitat as the *Cryptotis parva* specimens.

*Specimen examined* (1).—Lynn Co., 2 mi. S, 5 mi. E Tahoka, 1, specimen of unknown sex (TTU 77541), 22 July 1996.

***Dasyopus novemcinctus mexicanus***  
**Peters, 1864**  
Nine-banded Armadillo

Although the distribution of the nine-banded armadillo is well documented in eastern Texas (Davis and Schmidly, 1994), its distribution in northwest Texas is poorly understood. This specimen represents the first report of *Dasyopus novemcinctus* in Cottle County. The specimen collected was a roadkill on US Highway 83, and the surrounding habitat was predominately pasture lands of short to midgrass prairie.

*Specimen examined* (1).—Cottle Co., 7 mi S. Paducah, 1, female specimen (TTU 77535), 25 October 1996.

***Sylvilagus floridanus chapmani***  
**(J. A. Allen 1899)**  
Eastern Cottontail

The eastern cottontail is distributed throughout most of Texas (Davis and Schmidly, 1994). These specimens document the first record from Willacy county. The collection locality was a riparian habitat interspersed with small areas of coastal bermuda grass.

*Specimens examined* (2).—Willacy Co., Las Palomas WMA, Arroyo Colorado Unit, 2, one male specimen (TTU 77448) and one female specimen (TTU 77447), 12 August 1997.

***Lepus californicus melanotis***  
**Mearns, 1890**  
Black-tailed Jackrabbit

The distribution of the black-tailed jackrabbit is statewide (Davis and Schmidly, 1994), although it is known from predominately short to midgrass areas. This record was collected in a short grass area which was interspersed with mesquite and yucca.

*Specimen examined* (1).—Cottle Co., Matador WMA (UTM: 14 375351E 3775615N), 1, male specimen (TTU 77542), 7 February 1998.

***Baiomys taylori taylori***  
**(Thomas, 1887)**  
Pygmy Mouse

The pygmy mouse is distributed throughout Texas, with the exception of the Trans-Pecos and the Piney woods regions (Davis and Schmidly). The recent westward expansion of the distribution of *Baiomys taylori* has been well documented (Jones and Manning, 1989; Choate et al., 1990; Choate, 1997) and these records extend the distribution of pygmy mice further west-central portion of the Llano Estacado. The specimens reported herein were collected from a midgrass prairie habitat.

*Specimens examined* (4).—Hockley Co., 12 mi W Lubbock (Hwy. 114), 1, female specimen (TTU 77534), 31 October 1997; 4.5 mi W, 0.5 mi S Lubbock (Hwy. 114), 3, two female specimens (TTU 77531-77532) and one male specimen (TTU 77533), 8 December 1997.

*Reithrodontomys fulvescens laceyi***J. A. Allen, 1896**

Fulvous Harvest Mouse

The fulvous harvest mouse occupies the eastern two-thirds of the state of Texas and extends into the Trans-Pecos region (Davis and Schmidly, 1994). The specimens reported from Hemphill County represent a 45 km extension in range northward into the panhandle region. Mice at this locality were collected in an area of dense underbrush in a mature hardwood bottom land habitat. The specimens from Cottle County were collected in a mesquite grassland, and are county records within the predicted distribution of this species.

*Specimens examined* (4).—Hemphill Co., Gene Howe Wildlife Management Area, (UTM: 14 38557E 3975185N), 2, one male specimen and one female specimen (TTU 71285-71286) 26 October 1996 and 28 October 1996, respectively; Cottle Co., Matador WMA (UTM: 14 374841E 3778551N), 2, female specimens (TTU 77543-77544), 8 February 1998.

*Erethizon dorsatum bruneri***Swenk, 1916**

Porcupine

The distribution of the porcupine encompasses the western half of the state of Texas (Davis and Schmidly, 1994). The specimen from Wheeler County was collected as a road kill along US Highway 83, and the specimen from Hemphill County is represented by a skull only. The surrounding habitat for both of these specimens was a mature hardwood bottom land.

*Specimens examined* (2).—Wheeler Co., 4 mi S. Wheeler, 1, female specimen (TTU 77536), 25 October 1996; Hemphill Co., Gene Howe Wildlife Management Area (UTM: 14 38557E 3975185N), 1, specimen of undetermined sex (TTU 71339), 26 October 1996.

*Procyon lotor fuscipes***Mearns, 1914**

Raccoon

Raccoons have a state-wide distribution, although they are not well documented in west-central Texas

(Davis and Schmidly, 1994). The specimens were collected as road kills and document the presence of raccoons from two central Texas counties (Real and Runnels).

*Specimens examined* (3).—Real Co., 12.3 mi N Leakey, 1, female specimen (TTU 77159), 9 August 1997; Runnels Co., 6.0 mi W Ballinger, 1, male specimen (TTU 77160), 9 August 1997.

*Taxidea taxus berlandieri***Baird, 1858**

Badger

The badger is known from throughout the state of Texas, to the exclusion of extreme eastern counties (Davis and Schmidly, 1994). The specimen from Lynn County was a road kill found at a rest area along US Highway 87. The surrounding lands were predominately cotton farms, interspersed with conservation reserve program lands. The immediate roadside habitat was grassy with scattered trees.

*Specimens examined* (1).—Lynn Co., 1 mi N Tahoka (Hwy. 87 rest area), 1, male specimen (TTU 77537), 23 November 1996.

*Conepatus mesoleucus mearnsi***Merriam, 1902**

Common Hog-nosed Skunk

The common hog-nosed skunk occurs throughout southwestern, central, and southern Texas; primarily inhabiting the foothills and brushy regions of the state (Davis and Schmidly, 1994). The specimen was collected as a road kill in Real County along US Highway 83.

*Specimen examined* (1).—Real Co., 0.5 mi S Garvin, 1, male specimen (TTU 77158), 9 August 1997.

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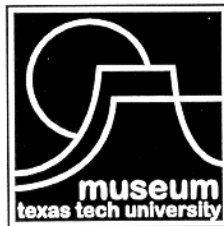




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It was through the efforts of Horn Professor J Knox Jones, as director of Academic Publications, that Texas Tech University initiated several publications series including the Occasional Papers of the Museum. This and future editions in the series are a memorial to his dedication to excellence in academic publications. Professor Jones enjoyed editing scientific publications and served the scientific community as an editor for the Journal of Mammalogy, Evolution, The Texas Journal of Science, Occasional Papers of the Museum, and Special Publications of the Museum. It is with special fondness that we remember Dr. J Knox Jones.

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