

OCCASIONAL PAPERS



Museum of Texas Tech University

Number 233

23 April 2004

DISTRIBUTIONAL RECORDS OF MAMMALS FROM THE SOUTHERN CROSS-TIMBERS OF TEXAS

JIM R. GOETZE AND ALLAN D. NELSON

As a result of active fieldwork in Brown, Comanche, Erath, and Mills counties within the southern Cross-Timbers region of Texas and subsequent examination of the Collection of Recent Mammals of Midwestern State University (MWSU), several noteworthy mammalian distribution records have been obtained. The specimens reported herein help clarify and extend the ranges of these species within Central Texas. The 17 species represent first records for their respective counties within the Cross-Timbers of Texas. Species accounts are arranged according to Davis and Schmidly (1994).

Didelphis virginiana.—A specimen of the Virginia opossum (MWSU 21738) was collected from Brown County, 2 mi. SE intersection County Road 279 and Smith Cemetery Road, on 12 February 2000. Only a skull was salvaged from the specimen, so external measurements and sex were not recorded. This specimen represents the first record for Brown County. Additional records of the Virginia opossum have been reported from neighboring Comanche and Mills counties to the east and southeast (Goetze and Nelson 2000).

Cryptotis parva.—Five specimens of the least shrew from Brown County were found in the Collection of Recent Mammals of Midwestern State University. Four of the specimens, two females and two males (MWSU 11647, 11502, 11526, 11529, respectively), were collected from 15 mi. N Brownwood on

13 December 1986. An additional female specimen (MWSU 14168) was collected from 6 mi. N Brownwood on 18 October 1986. These specimens are first records from Brown County. The nearest reported records are from adjacent Mills County (Goetze and Nelson 2000).

Dasypus novemcinctus.—A first record of *D. novemcinctus* (MWSU 21725) was obtained from Brown County, 2 mi. SE intersection County Road 279 and Smith Cemetery Road, on 12 February 2000. Only the skull and locality data were obtained for the specimen. Goetze and Nelson (2000) reported the nine-banded armadillo from Mills County and Riddle et al. (1999) reported the species from Palo Pinto County within the Texas Cross-Timbers.

Lepus californicus.—Davis and Schmidly (1994) report a state-wide distribution of the black-tailed jackrabbit within Texas. However, records are lacking from the southwestern Cross-Timbers. A specimen of *L. californicus* was found in the Midwestern State University collection (MWSU 11161) from 14 mi. NNW Brownwood. No date of collection was recorded for this male specimen. This is the first black-tailed jackrabbit reported from Brown County. An additional *L. californicus* (MWSU 21736) was obtained from 0.5 mi. S Priddy on 1 January 2000. The rabbit was a female and contained no embryos. A third female black-tailed jackrabbit (MWSU 21866)

was taken from 2 mi. S, 1 mi. W Mullin on 5 July 2000. The latter two specimens represent first records from Mills County.

Chaetodipus hispidus.—The hispid pocket mouse has been reported from all but extreme southeastern Texas (Davis and Schmidly 1994). Records of the species on the southern Cross-Timbers are limited to Eastland and Palo Pinto counties. Six specimens from the MWSU collection help document this species' range within the region. Three female hispid pocket mice (MWSU 11585, 14106, 14140) were collected from 4 mi. N Brownwood on 16 March 1980 and 18-19 October 1986, respectively. The remaining three specimens (MWSU 14104, 14105, 14238) were obtained from 18 mi. N Brownwood on 18 October 1986. Two specimens (14104, 14105) were non-reproductive females and the third was a non-scrotal male. These specimens are first records for Brown County.

Castor canadensis.—Records of the American beaver are lacking for almost all of the Cross-Timbers region (Davis and Schmidly 1994). A skull was collected from an individual (MWSU 21740) on 25 March 2000 from a locality 0.25 mi. S Intersection State Highways 377 and 281, on State Highway 281. The beaver had been struck by an automobile and was found alongside the highway. The locality was adjacent to a small, wooded stream. This specimen represents the first record of *C. canadensis* from Erath County.

Peromyscus leucopus.—The white-footed mouse has an ubiquitous distribution within Texas (Davis and Schmidly 1994), but specimens are rare from parts of its range. The species has been reported from Callahan, Comanche, Eastland, Mills and Palo Pinto counties within the Cross-Timbers region (Davis and Schmidly 1994; Riddle et al. 1999; Goetze and Nelson 2000). Twenty specimens represent first records of this species from Brown County. Eight individuals (MWSU 12191, 14075-14078, 14154-14155, 14172) were collected from 4 mi. N Brownwood. The first of these eight specimens was collected on 16 March 1980, whereas the other seven were taken on 18-19 October 1986. Three additional white-footed mice (MWSU 10261, 10293, 12088) were obtained from 15 mi. N Brownwood; the first two (MWSU 10261, 10292) on

6 December 1975 and the last individual (MWSU 12088) on 23 December 1980. Three other *P. leucopus* (MWSU 11722, 11728, 11735) were from 16 mi. N Brownwood; the first individual on 16 November and the latter two on 23 November 1980. Five white-footed mice (MWSU 14099-14103) were obtained from 18 mi. N Brownwood on 18 October 1986 and a single male (MWSU 9062) was collected 2.5 mi. NE Grosvenor on 26 July 1969.

Peromyscus maniculatus.—The deer mouse has a mapped range that includes all of Texas, but specimens of record exist only for Eastland, Erath, and Mills counties of the southern Cross-Timbers (Davis and Schmidly 1994; Goetze and Nelson 2000). First records from Brown County extend the range of this species to the west within the Cross-Timbers. Two specimens (MWSU 11331, 11736; male and female respectively) were collected on 16 March 1980 from the municipal airport, 4 mi. N Brownwood.

Peromyscus pectoralis.—The white-ankled mouse has been recorded from Eastland, Erath, and Mills counties of the southern Cross-Timbers (Davis and Schmidly 1994; Goetze and Nelson 2000). The first reported specimens from Brown County help clarify the species' range within the region. Nine specimens from the MWSU collection (MWSU 10358-10359, 12881-12887) were taken from 15 mi. N Brownwood. The first two mice (MWSU 10358-10359) were obtained on 16 March 1976 and the latter seven (MWSU 12881-12887) were collected on 16 April 1983. Twelve additional specimens were collected 18 mi. N Brownwood (MWSU 14147-14148, 14153, 14157, 14174-14175, 14179-14180, 14358, 14360, 14446, 14479) on 18-19 October (the first eleven specimens) and 30 October 1986 (the last individual listed).

Sigmodon hispidus.—The hispid cotton rat has been reported from Callahan, Comanche, Eastland, Mills, and Palo Pinto counties of the southern Cross-Timbers (Davis and Schmidly 1994; Riddle et al. 1999; Goetze and Nelson 2000). Four specimens from the MWSU collection represent first records for Brown County. Two females (MWSU 10451, 10487) and two males (MWSU 10452, 10488) were obtained from 15 mi. N Brownwood on 6 December 1975.

Neotoma micropus.—The southern Cross-Timbers has been mapped as part of the eastern limit of *N. micropus*' range within Texas (Davis and Schmidly 1994). Goetze and Nelson (2000) reported the southern plains woodrat from Mills County within this region. Three specimens from Brown County and a single specimen obtained from Comanche County help document the presence of *N. micropus* within the southern Cross-Timbers. A male *N. micropus* (MWSU 18817) was obtained 7 mi. SW Brownwood on 10 January 1979, and a second male specimen (MWSU 18818) was collected 1 mi. E Brownwood on 18 January 1980. A third female, southern plains woodrat (MWSU 14178) was collected 18 mi. N Brownwood on 18 October 1986. The female woodrat contained no embryos at the time of collection. An additional, male woodrat (MWSU 21688) was obtained from Graham Chapel Cemetery in Comanche County on 21 May 2000. Habitat at this locality consisted of little bluestem grass, live oak trees, scattered post oaks, and juniper trees.

Canis latrans.—Although Davis and Schmidly (1994) reported a ubiquitous range for *C. latrans* within Texas, no specimens were documented from the southern Cross-Timbers region. A coyote (MWSU 21739) was collected from 0.25 mi. W intersection county road 132 and farm road 2247 on 2 January 2000. The collection site was adjacent to a mesquite, post oak pastureland. The specimen was decomposed and no external measurements or reproductive data were obtained. This specimen represents a first record for Comanche County.

Vulpes vulpes.—Specimens of the red fox from Brown and Comanche counties support the species' range within the southern Cross-Timbers. A male specimen of *V. vulpes* (MWSU 6437) collected in 1967 (no specific month or day given) from 11 mi. SW Brownwood was discovered in the MWSU collection. A second red fox (MWSU 15366) from 23 km NNW Brownwood was collected on 7 November 1981. The Comanche County specimen (MWSU 21734) was collected 0.1 mi. N Comanche - Mills County Line on 22 December 1999. The specimen was salvaged as a skull only specimen and no measurements or reproductive data were obtained. These specimens represent first records of *V. vulpes* from Brown and Comanche counties. Previous records of the red fox exist for Coleman, Hamilton, Mills, and Palo Pinto coun-

ties in the region (Davis and Schmidly 1994; Riddle et al. 1999; Goetze and Nelson 2000).

Bassariscus astutus.—Although the ringtail has a statewide distribution (Davis and Schmidly 1994), records are uncommon from many regions of Texas. A ringtail (MWSU 21687) was salvaged from the side of state highway 84 on 30 October 1999, 1.5 mi. E Goldthwaite. Habitat at the collection site consisted of rocky hills and pastureland with dominant vegetation consisting of little bluestem grass and live oak trees. This specimen constitutes the first record of occurrence for Mills County.

Procyon lotor.—Records of the raccoon have been reported from Callahan, Comanche, Eastland, Mills, and Palo Pinto counties on the southern Cross-Timbers (Davis and Schmidly 1994; Goetze and Nelson 1998; Riddle et al. 1999; Goetze and Nelson 2000; Campbell et al. 2002). Four specimens deposited in the MWSU collection represent first records of this species for Brown County. One specimen (MWSU 14112) was collected on 19 October 1986, 13 mi. N Brownwood, and a second raccoon (MWSU 15448) was collected 14 mi. N Brownwood on 28 October 1978. The third raccoon (MWSU 11164) was obtained in 1976 (no specific day given) 14 mi. NNW Brownwood. This specimen was a male. The fourth *P. lotor* (MWSU 9828) was taken from 16 mi. NW Brownwood in December 1974 (no specific day given).

Taxidea taxus.—Records of the badger are rare throughout most of its range within Texas. The species has only been reported from Comanche and Palo Pinto counties on the southern Cross-Timbers (Davis and Schmidly 1994; Riddle et al. 1999). A specimen (MWSU 15850) from 3 mi. NE Grosvenor represents the first record for Brown County and a second record for the Cross-Timbers region. The male badger was collected on 1 June 1988.

Mephitis mephitis.—The striped skunk has a statewide distribution within Texas (Davis and Schmidly 1994), but is rarely represented in large numbers in natural history collections. Records for the southern Cross-Timbers are rare and include only Eastland and Mills counties (Davis and Schmidly 1994; Goetze and Nelson 2000). A specimen was discovered in the MWSU collection (MWSU 15421) and represents a county record for Brown County.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We wish to thank Dr. Frederick B. Stangl, Jr. for allowing us to report upon specimens under his care in the Midwestern State University Collection of Re-

cent Mammals and for kindly depositing and cataloging our recent additions from the Cross-Timbers of Texas.

LITERATURE CITED

- Campbell, C. A., T. E. Lee, Jr., and A. J. Landwer. 2002. Noteworthy records of mammals from the Rolling Plains of Texas. *Texas J. Sci.*, 54: 365-368.
- Davis, W. B., and D. J. Schmidly. 1994. The mammals of Texas. Texas Parks and Wildlife Press, Austin, x + 338 pp.
- Goetze, J. R., and A. D. Nelson. 1998. Noteworthy records of mammals from central and south Texas. *Texas J. Sci.*, 50: 255-258.
- Goetze, J. R., and A. D. Nelson. 2000. Distributional records and comments on mammals from six Texas counties. *Occasional Papers Museum, Texas Tech Univ.*, 197: 1-7.
- Riddle, W. W., B. L. Blossman-Myer, K. D. Spradling, and F. B. Stangl, Jr. 1999. Noteworthy records of mammals from Palo Pinto County, Texas. *Texas J. Sci.*, 51: 335-338.

Addresses of authors:

JIM R. GOETZE

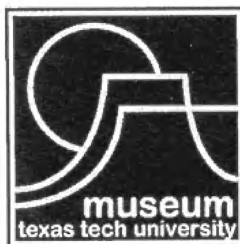
*Science Department
Laredo Community College
Laredo, TX 78040
email: jrgzoo@lmtonline.com*

ALLAN D. NELSON

*Department of Biology
Tarleton State University
Stephenville, TX 76402
email: nelson@tarleton.edu*

PUBLICATIONS OF THE MUSEUM OF TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

Institutional subscriptions are available through the Museum of Texas Tech University, attn: NSRL Publications Secretary, Box 43191, Lubbock, TX 79409-3191. Individuals may also purchase separate numbers of the Occasional Papers directly from the Museum of Texas Tech University.



ISSN 0149-175X

Museum of Texas Tech University, Lubbock, TX 79409-3191



Goetze, Jim R. and Nelson, Allan D. 2004. "Distributional records of mammals from the southern Cross-Timbers of Texas." *Distributional records of mammals from the southern cross-timbers of Texas* 233, 1–4.

View This Item Online: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/263342>

Permalink: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/partpdf/281479>

Holding Institution

Museum of Texas Tech University

Sponsored by

Museum of Texas Tech University

Copyright & Reuse

Copyright Status: In copyright. Digitized with the permission of the rights holder.

Rights Holder: Museum of Texas Tech University

License: <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/4.0/>

Rights: <http://biodiversitylibrary.org/permissions>

This document was created from content at the **Biodiversity Heritage Library**, the world's largest open access digital library for biodiversity literature and archives. Visit BHL at <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org>.