

Notes Section

THE PORCUPINE (*ERETHIZON DORSATUM* LINNAEUS) IN THE TEXAS PANHANDLE AND ADJACENT NEW MEXICO AND OKLAHOMA—Distributional records of the porcupine are lacking for much of western Texas and eastern New Mexico (Hall and Kelson, 1959, *The Mammals of North America*, Ronald Press, Vol. 2: 782). Davis (1960, *The Mammals of Texas*, Texas Parks and Wildlife Dept., Bull. No. 41) reported additional specimens from the Big Bend area of Texas eastward to Kerr County. He also reported definite records from Foard, Taylor, and Mason counties to the North. Blair's (1954, *Texas J. Sci.*, 6: 235–264) record from Hutchinson Co. and Milstead and Tinkle's (1958, *Southwestern Nat.*, 3: 236–237) records from Lubbock, Armstrong, and Lamb Co., are the only collection sites between these localities and the easternmost localities in New Mexico. The New Mexico records are from Santa Fe Co. (Seton, 1932, *J. Mammal.*, 13: 168–169) and Colfax Co. (Hill, 1942, *J. Mammal.*, 23: 75–82). Additionally, from Oklahoma the porcupine has been reported only from: Cimarron Co. (Glass, 1949, *Proc. Okla. Acad. Sci.*, for 1949, pp. 26–30; Blair, 1939, *Amer. Midland Nat.*, 22: 127); Comanche Co., Harper Co., and Jackson Co. (McMurry, 1944, *J. Mammal.*, 25: 413). The purpose of the present paper is to present additional information on the distribution of porcupine in these areas.

The piñon-junior woodlands along the Cimarron River in northern Union Co., New Mexico, appears to be well-utilized habitat by porcupines. On 30 May 1970, an adult male was collected on Pepper Ranch, 5.5 mi. N, 33.6 mi. E Folsom, Union Co., New Mexico (ENMU 2762), and on 26 February 1969, an adult male was collected about 25 miles downstream at 0.7 mi. E, 1.3 mi. N Kenton, Cimarron Co., Oklahoma (ENMU 2763). Sight records in this region include: OKLAHOMA—Cimarron Co., 4 mi. N Kenton; 1.5 mi. E Kenton. The drainage area of the Cimarron River was the only area studied where the species was common.

Specimens collected at the following localities were collected singly and in areas that did not appear favorable for porcupine habitation (i.e., relatively flat open grasslands and irrigated grain fields for the most part): NEW MEXICO—Curry Co., 1½ mi. S, ½ mi. W Melrose (ENMU 580; 29 June 1966); Roosevelt Co., 10 mi. W, 10 mi. S Melrose (ENMU 107; 6 November 1966); OKLAHOMA—Ellis Co., Fargo (UOMZ 5389; 30 August 1968); and TEXAS—Parmer Co., 2.3 mi. SW SW Bovina (ENMU 2764; 22 August 1971). Sight records include: NEW MEXICO—Roosevelt Co., 0.5 mi. N Tolar; 1.7 mi. S Tolar; Curry Co., Blanco Creek, 18.5 mi. N Clovis; Union Co., Clayton; OKLAHOMA—Woods Co., Alva. Our material is not adequate for reference to any one of the described subspecies.

Specimens are deposited in the Eastern New Mexico University Natural History Museum (ENMU) and the University of Oklahoma Stovall Museum of Science and History (UOMZ). We would like to thank Gary D. Schnell for critically reading this manuscript.—Troy L. Best and Michael L. Kennedy, *Department of Zoology and Stovall Museum of Science and History, The University of Oklahoma, Norman, 73069*. Accepted for publication Nov. 22, 1971.