

LEAST SHREW (*CRYPTOTIS PARVA*) IN NEW MEXICO.—Although Pleistocene remains of New Mexico least shrews (*Cryptotis parva*) have been found in Eddy and Grant Counties (for example, Harris et al., J. Mammal. 54:512-513, 1973; Harris, pp. 23-54 in Wauer, R. H., et al. (eds.), U.S.D.I., Nat. Park Serv. Trans. Proc. Ser. No. 3, 658 pp., 1977; Logan, Proc. Eighth Internat. Congr. Speleol. 1:159-160, 1981), no extant populations were previously known to occur in the state. Herein we report the first information on an extant population of *C. parva* in New Mexico.

On 9 October 1981 an adult male *C. parva* was captured by a housecat in a heavily grassed area 1.1 km SW Tucumcari Lake, S $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. 13, T11N, R30E, Quay Co. On 15 July 1983 a second adult male was captured in a pitfall trap in a mesic grassy area under a willow tree (*Salix gooddingii*) next to cattails (*Typha angustifolia*) at the edge of Tucumcari Lake on the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. 13, T11N, R30E, Quay Co. The nearest reported occurrences of this species are in western Texas about 225 km east of Tucumcari Lake: Yellowhouse Canyon, 4.5 mi. N Slaton, Lubbock, Co.; vicinity of Buffalo Lake National Wildlife Refuge, Randall Co. (Packard and Judd, J. Mammal. 49:535-538, 1968); and Stinnet, Hutchison Co. (Blair, Texas J. Sci. 6:235-264, 1954).

Tucumcari Lake is a shallow playa containing about 180 surface ha of water. It receives drainage from a large area of irrigated farmland and non-irrigated mesquite-scrub desert (see Ross and Pease, U.S.D.A., S.C.S., New Mexico Agric. Exper. Sta., 94 pp. + maps, 1974, for agricultural and soils information). Currently, most of the water in Tucumcari Lake comes from underground seepage of irrigation water. In the past, water came primarily from runoff following rain showers which provided a more variable water level than at present. The area surrounding Tucumcari Lake has received varying amounts of grazing and other disturbances due to human activities, but it has apparently provided a continuous patch of mesic habitat suitable for the survival of *C. parva*.

A third specimen was collected in Quay Co. during 1984. On 14 January a female was obtained 5 mi. S, 1 mi. E jct. highways 66 and 88. The least shrew may be relatively widespread in east-central New Mexico. The Santa Rosa Lakes area, 95 km W Tucumcari in Guadalupe Co., and the mesic areas along the South Canadian River drainage may also support populations of *Cryptotis*. More field survey is needed to accurately determine the distribution of this species in eastern New Mexico.

The 1981 and 1984 specimens are deposited in the University of New Mexico Museum of Southwestern Biology and the 1983 specimen is in the collection of the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish, Santa Fe. We thank J. S. Findley for his helpful suggestions and for verifying our identifications of the specimens, and D. J. Hafner for reviewing the manuscript. Funds for the 1983 studies were provided by the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish Share With Wildlife Program.—BARBARA HODITSCHER, JACK E. CULLY, JR., TROY L. BEST AND CHARLES PAINTER, Dept. of Biology and Museum of Southwestern Biology, Univ. of New Mexico, Albuquerque, NM 87131.