
Records for Seven Species of Mammals From Jackson County, Oklahoma

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The mammalian fauna of Jackson County has been included in general treatments of Oklahoma (Caire et al 1989), and of the southwestern region of the state (Stangl et al 1992), which provide our current knowledge of resident species. However, the county has never been systematically surveyed. Such sampling often permits the filling in of distributional gaps, refining range margins, and providing affirmation of species with the deposition of voucher specimens in accredited collections. This study reports the first documented evidence with voucher specimens for seven species of mammals from Jackson County. Vouchers are deposited in the Collection of Recent Mammals, Midwestern State University (MWSU).

Cryptotis parva (least shrew).—This tiny insectivore is common in the eastern half of the state, but is usually less often encountered in the more arid western regions. It is not often taken by conventional collecting methods, even where inspection of regurgitated owl pellets suggest the species may be common. We retrieved 39 skulls of the least shrew (MWSU 21932), together with 19 skulls of the eared shrew (*Notiosorex crawfordi*), from a deserted building 15.3 km south, 5.6 km west of Olustee, utilized as a roost by the barn owl (*Tyto alba*). An additional four skulls (MWSU 21931) from barn owl pellets were recovered from 11.3 km southwest of Eldorado. These owl roosts are along or near the Red River boundary between Texas and Oklahoma, and it is possible that some of these skulls represent animals retrieved by the owls from north Texas. Both sites are sandy river terraces dominated by sandsage (*Artimesia* sp.) and sparse grasses. Tyler and Jensen (1981) reported this species from the pellets of the great horned owl (*Bubo virginianus*), although no

vouchers were retained.

Myotis velifer (cave myotis).—This common migrant bat frequents caves and deserted buildings with equal facility, but our specimens, two scrotal males and a subadult female (MWSU 21831-21833) were collected by hand on 27 July 2002 from between railroad timbers of trestles bridging small creeks 7.7 km west of Altus. The skull of another myotis (MWSU 21934) was recovered from barn owl pellets at the site near Olustee (reported above) that contained shrew remains.

Castor canadensis (beaver).—Evidence of the beaver (e.g., tracks and gnawed tree trunks) occurs along almost every waterway in the county, although the animal is seldom sighted. The skull of an adult animal (MWSU 21938) was salvaged from the floodplain of the North Fork of the Red River, 14.5 km northeast of Altus.

Reithrodontomys fulvescens (fulvous harvest mouse).—This rodent prefers comparatively lush vegetation, and is most common in eastern parts of the state, although its range is expanding eastward (Stangl et al 1992). One specimen from 14.5 km east, 5.6 km north of Blair (MWSU 21910), and four from 11.3 km southwest of Eldorado (MWSU 21842-21844, 21909) comprise the easternmost records of this species for Oklahoma.

Procyon lotor (raccoon).—Evidence for the raccoon occurs throughout the county, as tracks along watercourses, and carcasses of road-killed animals. The salvaged skull of a single animal (MWSU 21815) from 14.5 km east, 5.6 km north of Blair comprises our only record.

Mephitis mephitis (striped skunk).—Like the raccoon, this skunk is abundant, but at least one previous collector, while remarking on its presence (Tyler 1970), did not retain a specimen. Our record is the salvaged skull of a road-killed specimen (MWSU

21876) from 16.1 km east, 7.2 km north of Altus.

Lynx rufus (bobcat).—The secretive bobcat is often more common than realized. A single specimen, represented by a salvaged skull (MWSU 21937), is recorded from 10.5 km southwest of Olustee.

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