GENERAL NOTES

PREDATION ON RUFOUS HUMMINGBIRD BY PRAYING MANTID

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Although observations of hummingbirds at feeders reveal that they sometimes are preyed upon by larger birds in that unnatural environment (Gamboa, 1977; Gehlbach, 1981), there are no known previous reports of predation on hummingbirds by insects. However, on 15 August 1986, an adult male rufous hummingbird (*Selasphorus rufus*) was observed in the grasp of an unidentified adult female praying mantid (Mantidae) at a hummingbird feeder at the Pate Altuda Ranch, approximately 12 mi. SE Alpine, in the Del Norte Mountains, Brewster Co., Texas. The praying mantid was holding onto the back of the hummingbird with its forelegs. The bird was limp, with his head resting on the rim of the feeder. The praying mantid was chewing on the nape of the bird's neck using a sideways motion with enough force to draw blood. When apparently startled by my presence, the praying mantid dropped the bird, which fell approximately five feet to the ground. I examined the hummingbird for injury or signs of life, but it appeared lifeless and had no obvious open wounds. However, a small amount of blood from the bird was present on my hand. After approximately one to two minutes, the bird opened his eyes and suddenly flew up from the prone position.

I speculate that the hummingbird was feeding at the feeder when caught by the praying mantid and then went into a torpid state as a result of shock. Ironically, during the week prior to becoming prey to the insect, the same hummingbird had been aggressively attacking and chasing off all other hummingbirds that attempted to use the feeder.

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LASIURUS BLOSSEVILLII (CHIROPTERA: VESPERTILIONIDAE) IN TEXAS

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A bat netted in the ZH Canyon in the Sierra Vieja Mountains, 9 mi. W Valentine, Presidio Co., Texas, appears to be the first record of the western red bat (*Lasiurus blossevillii teliotis*) from the state of Texas. The specimen is an adult female that was taken on the night of 15 July 1969 by T. R. Mollhagen. The vegetation in ZH Canyon is typical low desert scrub but permanent water is present. Nets were placed in such positions as to catch bats attempting to drink at this water source.

TABLE 1. Forearm and cranial measurements of *Lasiurus blossevillii teliotis* and *Lasiurus borealis*.

No.	Museum	Sex	Locality	Length of forearm	Greatest length of skull	Zygomatic breadth	Postorbital constriction	Mastoid breadth	Length of maxillary toothrow	Breadth across upper molars
Lasiurus blossevillii teliotis										
9184	TTU	F	Texas: Presidio Co., Sierra Vieja, ZH Canyon, 9 mi. W Valentine	[38.8]	12.5	9.0	4.1	7.7	4.2	5.9
10249	TTU	F	México: Tamaulipas, 67 km. S Cd. Victoria	41.7	12.3	8.9	4.1	7.5	4.1	5.8
11490	TTU	F	Arizona: Cochise Co., 2 mi. S jct. roads to Portal, San Simon, and Paradise	39.8	12.5	9.1	4.0	7.5	4.1	5.9
11491	TTU	F	"	41.3	12.7	9.2	4.3	7.6	4.3	5.9
Lasiurus borealis										
9164	TTU	F	Texas: Jeff Davis Co., Davis Mts., 8 mi. S jct. Hwys. 166 and 118	39.0	13.6	10.0	4.3	8.0	4.7	6.4
37538	TTU	F	Texas: Lubbock Co., Lubbock	41.6	14.0	10.0	4.3	8.4	4.7	6.5
39332	TTU	F	Texas: Kimble Co., 5 mi. S TTU Center at Junction	39.7	13.7	10.1	4.3	8.1	4.8	6.7
39333	TTU	F	"	39.0	13.8	10.0	4.1	8.1	4.8	6.4
40411	TTU	F	"	40.6	14.0	10.3	4.3	8.4	4.7	6.7
39331	TTU	F	"	40.9	14.0	10.5	4.4	8.6	4.8	6.5
37217	TTU	F	Texas: Kimble Co., TTU Center at Junction	42.0	14.0	10.2	4.1	8.4	4.8	6.6
34517	TTU	F	Texas: Kimble Co., 17 mi. SE Junction	40.4	14.1	—	4.0	8.2	4.7	6.6

The western and eastern red bats had been considered to be a single species until the recent work of Baker et al. (1988) demonstrated their specific distinctness. Our specimen possesses the rusty-red dorsal pelage that lacks the frosted appearance, because of the absence of white-tipped hairs, that is present in the eastern red bat. The posterior third of the uropatagium of our specimen is only sparsely haired as is characteristic of *L. blossevillii* (Bogan and Williams, 1970). As shown by Schmidly and Hendricks (1984), *L. blossevillii* is significantly smaller than *L. borealis* in most cranial measurements. The specimen from the Sierra Vieja falls below the range of variation in five of six cranial measurements as compared to eight females of *L. borealis* from western Texas (Table 1). It matches almost exactly the measurements of two specimens of *L. blossevillii* examined from southeastern Arizona and one from southern Tamaulipas (Table 1); see also measurements in Schmidly and Hendricks (1984).

The primary significance of the specimen from the Sierra Vieja is that it brings *L. blossevillii* and *L. borealis* into potential sympatry. Specimens of *L. borealis* have been reported from northwestern Chihuahua (Bogan and Williams, 1970; Anderson, 1972), El Paso County, Texas (Jones and Lee, 1962), and the Chisos Mountains, Brewster Co., Texas (Anderson, 1972), and we agree with the assignment of these specimens based upon their published measurements. This gives a broad area of potential overlap between the geographic ranges of the two species in northern Chihuahua and western Texas. The specimen that is geographically nearest the one from Sierra Vieja is from the Davis Mountains (TTU 9164), about 50 miles to the east. Note the difference in cranial

measurements of these two specimens in Table 1. Clearly, in the specimens available to us from western Texas, there is no indication of intergradation or hybridization between the eastern and western red bats.

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RECORD OF *CRYPTOTIS PARVA* FROM BROWN COUNTY, TEXAS

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Four adult least shrews, *Cryptotis parva* (two males and two females), were collected within the city limits of Brownwood, Brown Co., Texas, on 2 February 1986. The shrews were captured in a mesquite grassland habitat, which was being used as a construction dump site. Two of the shrews were captured under a wooden door, inside a grass nest that had been constructed by *Baiomys taylori*. The shrews appeared to be sharing the nest with three pygmy mice, which also were captured there. The nest had a strong odor of *C. parva*. The other shrews were captured under a piece of cardboard and a wooden pallet, respectively. All specimens were deposited in the Texas Cooperative Wildlife Collections (TCWC) at Texas A&M University.

Cryptotis parva appears to be expanding its range northwestward, with eastern New Mexico being the western distributional limit (Hoditschek et al., 1985; Owen and Hamilton, 1986), and has been collected at a number of localities in northwestern Texas (Stickel and Stickel, 1948; Blair, 1954; Packard and Garner, 1964; Packard and Judd, 1968; Davis, 1974; Owen and Hamilton, 1986). In central Texas, Bell, Guadulupe, Hays, McLennan, and Williamson counties (Davis, 1974; Pitts, 1982; Schmidly, 1983) represent the western distributional limit of the least shrew. The counties in southwestern Texas from which *C. parva* has been recorded are Atascosa, Bexar, Frio, and Val Verde (Davis, 1974; Hall, 1981; Schmidly, 1983). This record from Brown County is, therefore, noteworthy, as it fills a distributional gap between Val Verde and Young counties (Davis, 1974).

New county records of other small mammals collected at the same construction dump site are *Baiomys taylori, Peromyscus maniculatus, Sigmodon hispidus, Reithrodontomys montanus*, and *R. fulvescens*.

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