

*The Mammals of Trans-Pecos Texas, Including Big Bend National Park and Guadalupe Mountains National Park.* By David J. Schmidly. Illustrations by Chester O. Martin. (College Station, Texas: Texas A&M University Press, 1977. Pp. vii + [1] + 225. Illustrations, maps, appendices, glossary, bibliography, index. \$12.50.)

*The Mammals of the Trans-Pecos* is a survey of the species of mammals that have been recorded as occurring naturally in the area. It covers distribution, behavior, ecology, identification, as well as an explanation of the distributional patterns. A brief historical perspective is presented on some of the larger species such as pornhorn, elk and wolves. Dr. Schmidly's aim was to provide "a guide to the identification of the wild mammals of the the Trans-Pecos and to summarize important facts about their lives" in a design that considers the "interest of both professional and nonprofessional biologists." To the extent that it is possible in such a book, Dr. Schmidly has been successful in achieving this goal. In my opinion, however, the book will be less useful to the professional mammalogist than to other professionals, such as anthropologists, historians, or game wardens who need a ready reference to the natural history of a mammals of the region. The book has a pleasant style and should be enjoyable and informative to teenagers as well as lay people who have an interest in natural history. For such persons, I would judge that the book would make an excellent gift. I found the book to be relatively free of typographical errors as well as errors of interpretation, and I congratulate Dr. Schmidly on the authorship of *The Mammals of Trans-Pecos Texas*.

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