

It is unclear whether *O. palustris* is presently expanding its range westward, or whether the documented range extension represents populations missed by previous collecting efforts. However, because the Brazos River appeared to represent the western limit of the range (Davis, 1974; Hall, 1981; Hall and Kelson, 1959) for many years, and only recently was that boundary extended from Walker and Colorado counties (Davis, 1974) to include Brazos County (Schmidly, 1983), we suggest that our specimens may represent a recent expansion along Yegua Creek. Such a phenomenon may have been aided by recent water management practices creating riparian habitat favorable to the northern rice rat.

We thank S. A. Smith for his thorough review of a previous draft of this manuscript.

LITERATURE CITED

- Davis, W. B. 1974. The mammals of Texas. Bull. Texas Parks and Wildlife Dept., 41:1-294.
 Hall, E. R. 1981. The mammals of North America. John Wiley & Sons, New York, 2:vi + 601-1181 + 90.
 Hall, E. R., and K. R. Kelson. 1959. The mammals of North America. Ronald Press Co., New York, 2:viii + 547-1083 + 79.
 Schmidly, D. J. 1983. Texas mammals east of the Balcones Fault Zone. Texas A&M Univ. Press, College Station, xviii + 400 pp.

DISTRIBUTIONAL RECORDS OF THE NORTHERN RICE RAT, *ORYZOMYS PALUSTRIS* (RODENTIA: CRICETIDAE)

THOMAS E. LEE, JR., AND LUIS A. RUEDAS

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Texas A&M University,
 College Station, Texas 77843-2258

In January 1989, three specimens of the northern rice rat, *Oryzomys palustris*, were collected 0.4 mi. S, 0.06 mi. E Somerville, Burleson Co., Texas, and another was taken 2.3 mi. N, 3 mi. E Giddings, Lee Co., Texas. In Burleson County, rice rats were collected in a one-hectare cattail (*Typha latifolia*) marsh at the base of Lake Somerville Dam, 100 meters north of Yegua Creek. They were taken (over a 40 trap-night period) in association with cotton rats (*Sigmodon hispidus*, n = 2), white-footed mice (*Peromyscus leucopus*, n = 1), fulvous harvest mice (*Reithrodontomys fulvescens*, n = 5), and house mice (*Mus musculus*, n = 2). The rice rat from Lee County was obtained on the west bank of Yegua Creek, near Burleson County Rt. 132, in habitat dominated by cockle burr (*Xanthium* sp.). It was collected (50 trap nights) along with pygmy mice (*Baiomys taylori*, n = 5), white-footed mice (*P. leucopus*, n = 3), fulvous harvest mice (*R. fulvescens*, n = 5), and house mice (*M. musculus*, n = 1). The above specimens all are deposited in the Texas Cooperative Wildlife Collection at Texas A&M University.

These specimens of *O. palustris* were trapped outside the recorded range of this species (Davis, 1974; Hall, 1981; Schmidly, 1983). The specimen from Lee County extends the known distribution of the northern rice rat approximately 35 kilometers west from the previous westernmost locality in east-central Texas (7 mi. S, 4 mi. W College Station, Brazos County). These northern rice rats are the first recorded from Burleson and Lee counties. There are no records from surrounding counties (Austin, Grimes, Madison, Robertson, and Washington), which are presumably within the range of the species (Schmidly, 1983).