

# Additional Records for the Porcupine (*Erethizon dorsatum*) in Oklahoma

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The porcupine (*Erethizon dorsatum*) was originally a resident of the Black Mesa country in the northwestern corner of the Oklahoma Panhandle (1). However, it has been encountered with increasing frequency in the western half of the state during the last half of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century; these records were summarized through October 1996 by Tyler and Joles (2). The purpose of the present note is to augment that study and we report 49 new specimen and sight records in 21 counties of western Oklahoma other than Cimarron County. Six counties (Canadian, Cleveland, Grady, Murray, Noble, Oklahoma, and Stephens) are represented for the first time (Fig. 1). Records are based primarily on Tyler's field notes from 1996-2000. Sight records (mostly road-kills) were accrued on an opportunistic basis from biologists, game rangers, landowners, and other individuals. Referenced specimens (a majority are quills from carcasses) are housed in the Cameron University Museum of Zoology (CUMZ).

Knowledge of porcupine distribution in the state should be documented geographically and historically. Such work will provide baseline information for future studies of the ecology of porcupines in the southern Great Plains.



Figure 1. Distribution and numbers of porcupine records east of Cimarron County, Oklahoma, October 1996 - June 2001.

Table 1 summarizes the 26 additional sightings and 23 additional specimen records from October 27, 1996 through June 20, 2001. In 8 of the 21 counties, there was more than one occurrence, and 7 counties were not represented in Tyler and Joles (2).

## REFERENCES

1. Caire W, Tyler JD, Glass BP, Mares MA. Mammals of Oklahoma. Norman (OK): University of Oklahoma Press; 1989.
2. Tyler JD, Joles S. The porcupine in Oklahoma. Proc Okla Acad Sci 1997;77:107-110.

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TABLE 1. Sight records (without number) and specimen data for porcupines in Oklahoma, 1996-2001.

County	Mo/Day/Year	Specimen Location	CUMZ No.
Beaver	05-11-98	11 km (7 mi) W Beaver	1238
Canadian	09-27-98	3.2 km (2 mi) N, 3.2 km (2 mi) E Mustang	
Cleveland	07-21-97	20 km (13 mi) E Norman	
Comanche	11-16-97	WMWR <sup>a</sup>	1253
	06-22-98	WMWR	
	07-29-98	4.3 km (2.7 mi) S, 4.3 km (2.7 mi) W Indianola	1240
	10-02-98	WMWR	
	11-04-98	WMWR	
	11-19-98	WMWR	
	11-24-98	4 km (2.5 mi) W Cache	1239
	06-07-99	Lawton	
	10-28-00	WMWR	
	06-20-01	8 km (5 mi) E Medicine Park	
Cotton	02-05-97	9.6 km (6 mi) N, 2 km (1.25 mi) E Randlett	1230
	02-07-97	11 km (7 mi) N, 1.6 km (1 mi) E Randlett	1221
	09-04-98	7 km (4.5 mi) S, 8 km (5 mi) W Walters	
Custer	07-05-98	3.2 km (2 mi) SW Thomas	
	07-11-98	4.8 km (3 mi) NE Custer City	1237
	10-18-98	4.8 km (3 mi) N, 8 km (5 mi) W Custer City	
Dewey	04-29-99	16 km (10 mi) N, 1.6 km (1 mi) W Oakwood	

TABLE 1. continued

County	Mo/Day/ Year	Specimen Location	CUMZ No.
Ellis	10-24-98	8 km (5 mi) E Arnett	
	10-24-98	9 km (5.5 mi) E Arnett	
Grady	11-08-96	8.7 km (5.4 mi) N, 2.9 km (1.8 mi) E Chickasha	1223
	08-29-98	15 km (9 mi) SE Chickasha	1251
	10-08-00	15 km (9 mi) SE Chickasha	1252
Greer	08-30-98	5.3 km (3.5 mi) N Willow	1234
Harmon	08-31-97	NW of Hollis	
	02-21-98	16 km (10 mi) N, 8 km (5 mi) W Hollis	1232
Harper	09-17-99	1.6 km (1 mi) SE May	1247
Jackson	09-06-97	8 km (5 mi) W Eldorado	1228
	10-06-97	9.6 km (6 mi) S Duke	1229
	03-22-98	4 km (2.5 mi) S Elmer	1231
	04-30-98	10 km (6 mi) SW Eldorado	
	09-15-98	6.2 km (4 mi) W Tipton	1250
	01-01-99	8 km (5 mi) S, 7 km (4.5 mi) E Elmer	1243
	11-24-98	5.6 km (3.5 mi) S, 15 km (9 mi) E Blair	
Kiowa	06-17-98	.8 km (0.5 mi) S, 5.8 km (3.5 mi) W Snyder	
	06-17-98	7 km (4.5 mi) S, 1.6 km (1 mi) E Lone Wolf	
	08-29-98	2.4 km (1.5 mi) S, 9.6 km (6 mi) E Snyder	1233
	08-11-99	5.3 km (3.5 mi) W Hobart	1246
	10-23-00	Between Snyder and Mountain Park	
Murray	09-04-99	5 km (3 mi) SE Wynnewood	
Noble	04-23-97	11 km (7 mi) S, 11 km (7 mi) E Perry	12961 <sup>b</sup>
	09-19-98	1.6 km (1 mi) N, 5 km (3 mi) E Edmond	
Stephens	08-31-97	1.6 km (1 mi) S, 13 km (8 mi) E Comanche	
	08-21-98	Comanche	
Texas	09-17-99	8 km (5 mi) N Guymon	1248
Tillman	10-27-96	5.2 km (3.25 mi) S, 4 km (2.5 mi) E Grandfield	1222
	04-04-98	5 km (3 mi) N, 9.7 km (6 mi) E Freedom	

<sup>a</sup>Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge.

<sup>b</sup>Oklahoma State University Museum.