

locally to Taylor and Val Verde counties. Var. *americana* may reach the extreme southeastern part of the state, but I have seen no collections from Texas. The smaller related species, *D. lanceolata* (Chapm.) Small, is rather common in southeastern Texas and Louisiana. This is sometimes treated as a variety of *D. ovata* Walt. (*Justicia humilis* Michx.) of the Southeastern U.S.; though that has been credited to Texas, I have seen no specimens from west of the Mississippi River.—*Lloyd H. Shimmers*

MAMMALS OF THE GREAT LAKES REGION. William Henry Burt. University of Michigan Press, 1957; cloth, \$4.75. (Pp. xv + 246, 3 tables, 54 numbered figures, and other illustrations.)

This volume is a revision of Burt's (1948) *The Mammals of Michigan*, expanded to include the area surrounding the Great Lakes; so that now we have accounts of the 77 species of wild animals that now live, or have recently lived, in this area.

Burt's Introduction discusses briefly the faunal position of the Great Lakes region, the faunal relationships within that area, the economic importance of its mammals, and their adaptations for various habits of life.

The mammals are here placed in their proper subclass, orders, families, genera, and species. In most instances subspecies have not been included—wisely, I believe. A common name is given for each species, followed by its scientific name and author. There is also a distribution-map for each species of the Great Lakes area, and a smaller map giving the range of the individual species in North America. Each species is diagnosed in a brief description which includes size, weight and characteristics of skin and skull. The habits of the animal are described, and habitats and economic importance are noted.

In the last section of the book are chapters on the collection and preparation of specimens, and also a classification of the living mammals down to families. Two keys to the mammals of the area are given: one based on skin-characters and the other on skull-features. These keys are illustrated by diagrams, and clarified by a glossary of terms. Tables give dental formulae, summaries of measurements, and life-history data.

Burt states that his purpose in this book is to summarize our knowledge of the habits, life-histories, economic importance, and distribution of the mammals of the area, and to encourage research on mammals among his readers. In my opinion, these purposes are adequately fulfilled.

The book is well done: the data are presented in a concise manner, the composition and presswork excellent, and the illustrations clear. While its value to experienced mammalogists is not notable, it should be of great value to high-school and college students, as well as to the beginning mammalogist and amateur naturalist. Sportsmen and nature-lovers should find this book both interesting and useful. Much of the information presented applies to mammals in general, and thus this work should be of interest and value even in areas outside that specifically covered.—WILLIAM B. STALLCUP