

BOOK NOTICE

ROBIN W. DOUGHTY AND MATT WARNOCK TURNER. 2019. **Unnatural Texas? The Invasive Species Dilemma.** (ISBN-13: 978-1-62349-705-7, hbk). Texas A&M University Press, John H. Lindsey Building, Lewis St., 4354 TAMU, College Station, Texas 77843, U.S.A. (**Orders:** www.tamupress.com). \$32.00 US, 272 pp., 72 color photos, 12 maps, Table, index, 6" × 9".

From the Publisher: The story of introduced species in Texas is long (hogs were introduced by European settlers in the 1500s) and fraught with controversy. In *Unnatural Texas? The Invasive Species Dilemma*, Robin W. Doughty and Matt Warnock Turner introduce the “big hitters” of invasive species in the state. They profile the usual suspects—feral hogs, salt cedar, and fire ants—and also lesser known invasives, such as cats and sparrows. Blending natural and environmental history with geography, this book is a much-needed, balanced exploration of invasive species in Texas.

The distinctions between native and invasive are not hard and fast, and perceptions of what is invasive have changed over the centuries. A striking example, free-ranging cats—domestic, stray, and feral—can wreak havoc on small mammal and bird populations. There is not a one-size-fits-all solution for invasives, and removal or complete eradication may not be possible or even desirable. The dilemma of what to do about invasive species also raises moral, social, economic, and cultural questions. This engaging introduction to the concept of invasive species in Texas will provide context for readers and will educate people on this important issue facing the state.

ROBIN W. DOUGHTY is an internationally renowned biogeographer and the author or coauthor of nine books, including *Wildlife and Man in Texas: Environmental Change and Conservation*. He lives in Austin, Texas. MATT WARNOCK TURNER is a freelance writer and the author of *Remarkable Plants of Texas: Uncommon Accounts of Our Common Natives*. He lives in Austin, Texas.

A formal review is forthcoming.