

BOOK REVIEW

BRIAN R. CHAPMAN & ERIC G. BOLEN. FOREWORD BY ANDREW SAMPSON. 2018. **The Natural History of Texas.** (ISBN-13: 978-1-62349-572-5, hbk). Texas A&M University Press, John H. Lindsey Building, Lewis Street, 4354 TAMU, College Station, Texas 77843-4354, U.S.A. (**Orders:** www.tamupress.com, 1-800-826-8911). \$50.00 US, 390 pp., 250 color, 6 b/w photos, 15 maps, 2 appendices, glossary, bibliography, index, 8.5" × 11".

From the publisher: From two veteran ecologists comes a new and sweeping exploration of the natural history of Texas in all its biological diversity and geological variation. Few states, if any, can match Texas for its myriad species, past and present, and its many distinctive landscapes, from prairie grasslands and hardwood forests to coastal lagoons and desert mountains.

Beginning with the stories of how biologists and naturalists have over time defined the ecological areas of this very big state, the authors visit each of the eleven regions, including the Texas coast. They describe the dominant flora and fauna of each, explain the defining geologic features, and highlight each region's unique characteristics, such as carnivorous plants in the Piney Woods and returning black bears in the Trans-Pecos.

Throughout, the authors remain especially conscious of the conservation and management issues affecting the natural resources of each region, revealing their deep affection for and knowledge about the state. Bolstered by a glossary, further reading suggestions, a description of the state symbols, and an appendix of scientific names, this is an educational and essential volume for all Texas.

Brian R. Chapman is senior research scientist at the Texas Research Institute for Environmental Sciences at Sam Houston State University. He is the coauthor of *Ecology of North America*. **Eric G. Bolen** is a respected wildlife biologist and has edited or coauthored books on wildlife biology and ecology, including *Ecology of North America and Wildlife Ecology and Management*.

From the rich forests (Piney Woods) of the east through the Post Oak Savannah, over the Blackland Prairies, Cross the Timbers and Prairies, up and down and all around the hills of the Edwards Plateau to some 773 miles west to the beautiful mountains and basins of the Trans-Pecos, and from the vast High Plains and Rolling Plains of the north stretching some 860 miles south to South Texas Plains and the Gulf Prairies and Marshes, Texas is an awesome expanse of wide open country and great natural resources. The variety of rainfall, soils, and elevation results in great diversity of natural history in the Lone Star State. Chapman and Bolen will take you on this beautiful journey across Texas' diverse ecoregions. Before long you'll be ready to take a Texas road trip to see the natural beauty for yourself.

The authors are of course not the first to recognize and appreciate the natural history of Texas. Many nineteenth-century naturalists came, explored, discovered, and collected Texas so the rest of the world could know. The authors give due credit to many of these early Texas naturalists. What a history! What a celebration of Texas Natural History! *The Natural History of Texas* is surely a book that will delight all Texans or wannabe Texans from farmers, ranchers, teachers, students, homeowners, gardeners, horticulturists, florists, botanists, history buffs, and anyone with a curiosity in natural history. Get your copy today. Get two and give one away to a neighbor!—*Barney Lipscomb, Botanical Research Institute of Texas, Fort Worth, Texas, U.S.A.*