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## Review of *Fishes of Oklahoma* By Rudolph J. Miller and Henry W. Robison

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**Fishes of Oklahoma.** By Rudolph J. Miller and Henry W. Robison. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 2004. ix + 450 pp. Maps, black and white illustrations, color paintings, tables, key to the families, glossary, bibliography, index. \$75.00 cloth, \$39.95 paper.

The second edition of *Fishes of Oklahoma* provides an important update and valuable reference for anyone interested in fishes in the Great Plains. Miller and Robison have extensive experience working on fishes in this region and have done an excellent job conveying their knowledge. There is a wealth of information in this book that can be used by students, anglers, and anyone else interested in learning how to identify fishes or who wants to understand the ecology of the diverse ichthyofauna in Oklahoma.

The introduction provides a clear breakdown of the ichthyofaunal regions in Oklahoma, which should be especially helpful to managers interested in using aquatic organisms for bioassessment, an approach that requires an ecological basis for identifying fauna regions. In addition to the traditional explanation of how to use the taxonomic keys, the authors also provide information on the status of fishes in the region and highlight critical problems facing aquatic systems in the Great Plains. Updated photographs, drawings of fishes, and distributional maps are a marked improvement over the previous version. The color plates are extraordinary and effectively complement the taxonomic keys and species descriptions.

For the most part, the authors have done a fine job synthesizing the enormous amount of information necessary for this book. Several areas, however, are either outdated or need clarification. For example, much of the discussion on threatened fishes only includes literature from the late 1980s and early 1990s. A number of current articles and reviews on conservation of aquatic systems in the Great Plains region have appeared since then and could have been referenced in this section. In addition, the use of the term "exotic" is not consistent with current literature, in which the term typically represents only those organisms introduced from another continent. And it is unclear why the redbreast sunfish, *Lepomis auritus*, is included in table 1 as a threatened species, since this fish is non-native to Oklahoma (as reported in table 2). Finally, an evolutionary or phylogenetic basis for the key to families would have been beneficial. Although the authors' intention was to pro-

vide a simple key for field identification, understanding the evolutionary context of morphological variation is essential to understanding diversity of any geographic region.

I had long anticipated the arrival of this book and was greatly pleased with its contents. Despite the minor problems just listed, I will strongly recommend *Fishes of Oklahoma* to my students or anyone interested in fishes in this region. **Keith B. Gido**, *Division of Biology, Kansas State University*.