

PEER EDITED

COMPILATION OF KIT FOX AND SWIFT FOX LITERATURE

HOWARD O. CLARK, JR.

Garcia and Associates, 993 Ezie Avenue, Clovis, California 93611-2019, USA
e-mail: hclark@garciaandassociates.com

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When a large body of knowledge has been produced on a group of closely related species, especially when they are becoming comparatively rare on the landscape, it is paramount that these works be easily accessible to researchers, students, and the general public. With the advent of the World Wide Web, it may seem that bibliographies are becoming obsolete, but after a brief search, an interested party will soon discover that there is no logical order behind the results they obtain. Further confusion results from searches that yield articles that are mainly opinion or conjecture rather than peer-reviewed material. In addition, it is becoming increasingly difficult to keep abreast on the emerging new literature, even when using internet search engines, because of the continual increase of potential article outlets. A concise catalog of available peer-reviewed material is necessary for any researcher wishing to extract the available information on a given species. Herein is a compilation of the large body of peer-reviewed information on two species of fox: the Kit Fox, *Vulpes macrotis*, and the Swift Fox, *V. velox*. These two foxes are closely related and are often used as umbrella species in conservation efforts of their ecosystems, which include grassland prairie and arid deserts. The conservation of these two fox species will in turn provide protection for a suite of other plant and wildlife species in dire need of preservation. For every peer-reviewed article included in this compilation, there are likely three or four “gray literature” reports, theses, dissertations, and inter-agency articles; these are not included because, ideally, anything noteworthy in these publications has also been published in scientific journals. On the other hand, as unorthodox as it may seem, popular magazine articles about these foxes have also been included in the compilation. Typically, such material is not included in a scientific venue such as this, but it is important that the public finds this compilation useful as well. Articles in magazines such as *Smithsonian* and *National Wildlife* are crucial in educating the public about endangered species. Such references are included here, in a separate section, because they typically have a much larger readership and distribution than other forms of gray literature and, as a result, make a larger impact on wildlife conservation awareness. Also included in this collection are significant conference proceedings, book chapters, and books written on these foxes. Caution should be exercised

when reading older works. Recent works either confirm or invalidate older hypotheses, and cross-referencing by the reader is recommended.

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HOWARD O. CLARK, JR., is a Certified Wildlife Biologist® with nearly 20 years of professional wildlife and research experience. He earned his Master's degree in Biology from California State University, Fresno in 2001. His work as a researcher focused on the fauna and ecosystems of Northern, Central, and Southern California, and the Mojave Desert provinces and included extensive baseline mammalian inventories, surveys focused on rare animals, habitat assessment, radio telemetry, and long-term ecological studies on several endangered species. He regularly works with the Western Burrowing Owl (*Athene cunicularia*), San Joaquin Kit Fox (*Vulpes macrotis mutica*), Giant Kangaroo Rat (*Dipodomys ingens*), Salt Marsh Harvest Mouse (*Reithrodontomys raviventris*), and the Mohave Ground Squirrel (*Xerospermophilus mohavensis*). He is currently a senior wildlife ecologist with Garcia and Associates, Fresno, California. (Photographed by Graham Bidy).