



### The New Mexico Ridge-nosed Rattlesnake

Tell Hicks — oil on canvas 26" x 20"

The Ridge-nosed Rattlesnake (*Crotalus willardi*) is one of the smallest rattlesnakes found in the USA and northwestern Mexico. It is a montane species with a very limited distribution. The New Mexico Ridge-nosed Rattlesnake (*C. w. obscurus*), one of five subspecies currently recognized, occurs in the Sierra San Luis in Sonora, Mexico, as well as the Animas and Peloncillo Mountains of New Mexico. Its total range includes the Sierra San Luis, in Mexico, and the Animas Mountains and Peloncillo Mountains of New Mexico and extreme southeastern Arizona. It is listed as a Threatened Species under the U.S. Endangered Species Act and is fully protected.

This painting, by wildlife artist **Tell Hicks**, depicts the snake in typical habitat in the remote Peloncillo Mountains. It will be used as the cover artwork for a forthcoming book, *The Rattlesnakes of Arizona*, edited by Gordon Schuett, Randall Reiserer, and Charles Smith. The book will include peer-reviewed contributions from leading rattlesnake researchers, and will feature over 20 highly detailed illustrations by Hicks. The book's release is set for late 2014 (ECO Publishing; [ecouniverse.com](http://ecouniverse.com)).

Tell Hicks is a professional wildlife artist, specializing in reptiles and amphibians. He was born in London and has a studio in Somerset, in the UK, where he lives with his wife and family. A founding member of the International Herpetological Society in

the 1960s, he has recently served as its President. He is an active conservationist and in the 1960s assisted with the field study that successfully led to the legal protection of Britain's most endangered amphibians and reptiles.

As a teenager, he worked in British zoos before travelling through Europe and Asia, to Australia, catching and painting reptiles and other wildlife along the way.

His passion for herpetology and natural history continues to take him around the world, gathering material for his highly detailed paintings, and he regularly gives talks to wildlife groups and natural history societies, about his work and travels to such places as Turkey, Cyprus, Canary Islands, Australia, New Zealand, The Galapagos Islands, Peru, and the USA.

Tell has won major awards within the screen-printing industry, for his t-shirt designs, and still produces work for Eco and other leading t-shirt printers in the USA and Europe. Examples of his paintings are on display in several museums, including the Chiricahua Desert Museum, Rodeo, New Mexico, where his large mosaic of a Gila Monster and 16-ft metal sculpture of a rattlesnake tail can also be seen.

Many of his paintings are available as limited edition prints from [www.tellhicks.com](http://www.tellhicks.com) (Europe), or [www.ecouniverse.com](http://www.ecouniverse.com) (USA) where t-shirts and caps featuring his artwork are also available.