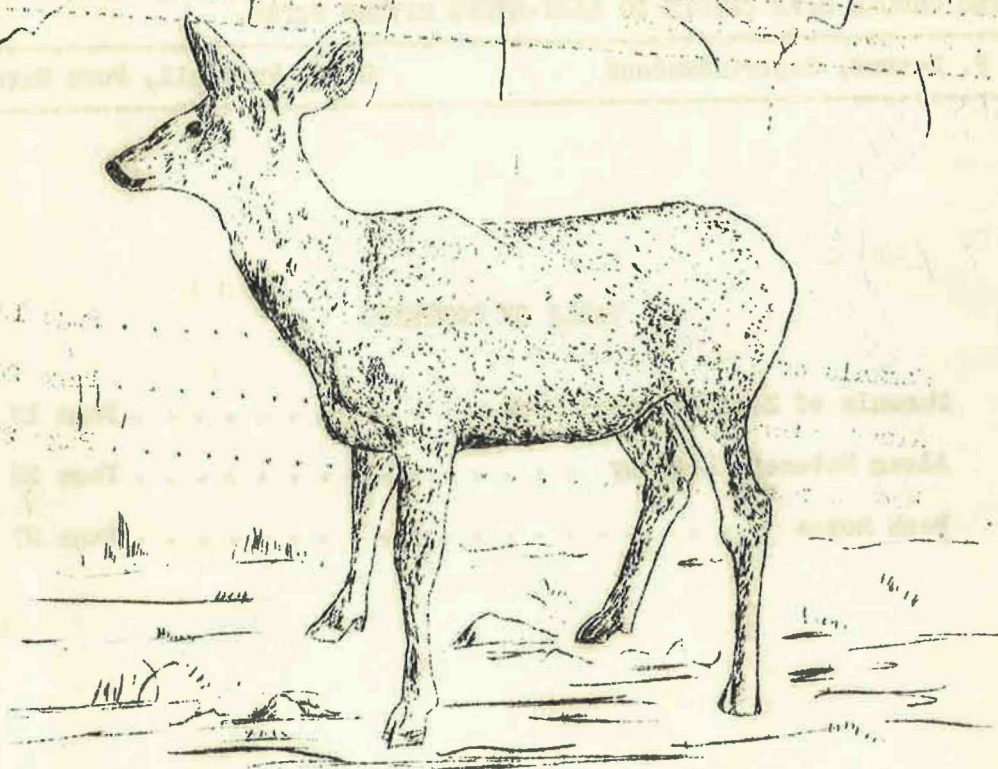


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Zion and Bryce Nature Notes



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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
National Park Service
Zion and Bryce Canyon National Parks, Utah

Vol. 6:
Zion-Bryce Nature Notes

No. 2
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This bulletin is issued monthly for the purpose of giving information to those interested in the natural history and scientific features of Zion and Bryce Canyon National Parks. Additional copies of these bulletins may be obtained free of charge by those who can make use of them by addressing the Superintendent, Zion National Park, Utah. PUBLICATIONS USING THESE NOTES SHOULD GIVE CREDIT TO ZION-BRYCE NATURE NOTES.

P. P. Patraw, Superintendent

C. C. Presnall, Park Naturalist

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MAMMALS OF ZION NATIONAL PARK

A PRELIMINARY CHECK LIST

By C. C. Presnall and Gordon Y. Croft

Due to the fact that animal life attracts a large amount of interest among the visitors to the national parks, great efforts are being made to supply authentic information on the subject. The interest shown by Zion visitors is as great as in other parks, but we have not always been able to give satisfactory answers to tourist's questions, due to lack of sufficient research in vertebrate zoology in this region. It will require several years to even approach a complete record of the animal life of the park, so rather than wait for the completion of such study, it has been thought best to publish portions of it as they accumulate.

The decidedly incomplete list given here is intended merely as a starting point from which further studies can be pursued. Meanwhile it may aid somewhat in understanding the animal life of Zion. Forty-eight species and subspecies are listed, of which five are either extinct or of very questionable occurrence within the park. Specimens listed by number are in the Zion Museum collection. We are indebted to the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Berkeley, California, for determination of all forms designated "#". Nomenclature is according to Miller's "List of North American Recent Mammals".

- 1
- 2 BLACK-NOSED BAT, Myotis subulatus melanorhinus (Merriam)
Type Locality. - Ft. Wingate, N. Mex.
Range. - Arid regions of the West.
Zion specimen recorded by Woodbury*.
- 3 PACIFIC PALLID BAT, Antrozous pallidus pacificus Merriam
Type Locality. - Kern County, Calif.
Range. - Western United States and Northwestern Mexico.
Zion specimen taken in front of Zion Lodge, summer of 1933, (Z. M. 3)

* Woodbury, A. M.; Biotic Relationships of Zion Canyon, etc.; Ecology Monographs, Vol. III No. 2.

- 4) POCKET BAT, Tadarida femorosacca (Merriam)
Type Locality. - Riverside County, Calif.
Range. - Southwestern U. S.
Zion specimen recorded by Woodbury. A very rare bat.
- 5) MEXICAN FREE-TAILED BAT, Tadarida mexicana (Saussure)
Type Locality. - Ameca, Jalisco, Mex.
Range. - Southwest U. S. and Northwest Mexico.
Zion specimen recorded by Woodbury*.
- 6) AMERICAN BLACK BEAR, Euarctos a. americanus (Pallas)
Type Locality. - Eastern America.
Range. - North America.
Tracks of a black bear were seen in fresh snow on Horse Pasture Plateau (northwestern corner of park) in the fall of 1924 or 1925 by W. Adams and T. Thorley of Cedar City, Utah. Black bear were once quite common but now are very near extinction in this region.
- 7) GRIZZLY BEAR, Ursus sp?
Once fairly common but now apparently extinct in this region. One was killed in the 80's at Crystal Springs, about 6 miles north of the park. The species is not known, but it might have been U. horribilis bairdi or U. utahensis.
- 8) RACCOON, Procyon lotor subsp?
Formerly common in Zion Canyon and still abundant on North Creek. A few trapped each year near Rockville, one-fourth mile south of the park.
- 9) RING-TAIL CAT, Bassariscus astutus flavus Reeds
Type Locality. - Texas.
Range. - Southwestern U. S.
One of the most common carnivores in the park; found in all parts.
- 10) MOUNTAIN WEASEL, Mustela arizonensis (Mearns)
Type Locality. - San Francisco Forest, near Flagstaff, Ariz.
Range. - Sierra and Rocky Mountain region.
Found throughout the park along the creeks and in thick underbrush.
Quite common in Pine Creek and other Transition Zone locations.
- 11) GREAT BASIN SPOTTED SKUNK, Spilogale gracilis saxatilis (Merriam)
Type Locality. - Provo, Utah.
Range. - Northern portion of the Great Basin region.
A rather uncommon species, known to occur only in the lower portions of the park. One specimen taken near the south entrance during January, 1934, by E. H. Cantrell.
- 12) GREAT BASIN SKUNK, Mephitis occidentalis major (Howell)
Type Locality. - Fort Klamath, Ore.
Range. - Northern portion of the Great Basin region.
Very common in the canyon. In 1931 about 30 were killed on the campground in one night during a campaign to control excess numbers.
(Mounted specimen in Zion Museum.)

- Colorado
13 ~~COMMON BADGER~~, Taxidea taxus phippesi Figgins
Type Locality. - ~~Labrador and Hudsons Bay~~, Chromo, Colo.
Range. - ~~North America~~, S.W. Colo., Utah, and Arizona
Common near mouth of canyon and on East Rim Road. (Mounted specimen in Zion Museum.)
- 14 ARIZONA GRAY FOX, Urocyon cinereoargenteus scottii (Mearns)
Type Locality. - Pinal County, Arizona.
Range. - Arid region of the Southwest.
Common throughout the park. (Mounted specimens in Zion Museum.)
- 15 MOUNTAIN COYOTE, Canis lestes Merriam
Type Locality. - Nye County, Nev.
Range. - Great Basin, Rocky Mountains, and Sierra Nevada Mountains south to Mexico; in Transition Zone.
Very rare in the higher portions of Zion Park. Two killed in 1933 on Miner's Peak in Kaibab Plateau, about 10 miles north of the park.
- 16 DESERT COYOTE, Canis estor Merriam
Type Locality. - Noland Ranch, San Juan River, Utah.
Range. - Deserts of Utah, California, and Nevada.
Probably wanders into the southwestern corner of the park (Lower Sonoran Zone), but not definitely recorded.
- 17 GRAY WOLF, Canis nubilus Say
Type Locality. - Washington County, Neb.
Range. - North America.
Several were taken near Short Creek, south of the park, in 1918 by Biological Survey hunters. One now reported on good authority to be in the Paria country, about 60 miles east of the park.
- 18 ROCKY MOUNTAIN COUGAR, Felis oregonensis hippolestes (Merriam)
Type Locality. - Wind River, Wyo.
Range. - Great Basin and Rocky Mountain region.
Common in the park, occasionally entering the canyon. (Mounted specimen in Zion Museum.)
- 19 CANADA LYNX, Lynx c. canadensis Kerr
Type Locality. - Eastern Canada.
Range. - North America - Transition, Hudsonian, Canadian Zones.
One killed by a car near Winder Ranch on East Rim Road during summer of 1933. This is possibly the extreme southern boundary of its range.
- 20 BAILEY BOBCAT, Lynx baileyi Merriam
Type Locality. - Moccasin Springs, Arizona.
Range. - Southwestern U. S.
This is the common wild cat of the southern Utah country, and is frequently seen in all portions of the park.
- 21 ROCKCHUCK OR MARMOT, Marmota flaviventris engelhardti (Allen)
Type Locality. - Beaver Mountains, Utah.
Range. - Beaver and Farowan Mountains, Utah.

- ~~22~~ ROCKCHUCK OR MARMOT - Continued
Common in the Transition Zone of the park. Occasionally wandering into Upper Sonoran to breed. (Mounted specimens in Zion Museum.)
- 22 ROCK SQUIRREL, Otospermophilus grammurus utah (Merriam)
Type Locality. - Weber County, Utah.
Range. - Utah and Colorado only.
Very common throughout the park. (Z. M. 80.)
- 23 SAY GROUND SQUIRREL, Callospermophilus l. lateralis Say
Type Locality. - Pueblo County, Colo.
Range. - Colorado, Utah, Arizona.
Noted but once in Zion Park, on Horse Pasture Plateau (Transition) in the summer of 1933.
- 24 ANTELOPE SQUIRREL, Ammospermophilus leucurus cinnamomeus (Merriam)
Type Locality. - Coconino County, Arizona.
Range. - Colorado and Green River drainage north of the Virgin, also Beaver Mountains, Utah.
Zion specimens seem to be an intergrade with l. leucurus which has been taken at Cedar City. (Z. M. 54, 55, 106.) #.
- 25 WASATCH CHIMMUNK, Eutamias rufinus consobrinus (Allen)
Type Locality. - Salt Lake County, Utah.
Range. - Eastern border of the Great Basin, western and southern Colorado, and northwestern New Mexico.
Fairly common in the Transition Zone of the park. Specimens taken on the West Rim are in the U. of Utah collection.
- 26 INYO CHIMMUNK, Eutamias quadrivittatus inyoensis Merriam
Type Locality. - White Mts., Inyo Co., Calif.
Range. - Portions of eastern Calif. and mountains of Nevada and southern Utah (excepting Beaver Mts.)
Common in Transition Zone throughout the park (Z. M. 1, 2, 56, 57, 59) #
- 27 UTAH CLIFF CHIMMUNK, Eutamias dorsalis utahensis Merriam
Type Locality. - Weber County, Utah.
Range. - Utah, Colorado, and Arizona.
Common in the Upper Sonoran Zone along the western and southern edges of the park, including Zion Canyon. (Z. M. 52, 53)
- 28 ~~RED SQUIRREL~~ Sciurus ~~sp.~~ ^{Fremont Chickaree f. fremonti Audubon & Bachman} Type. Rocky Mts (probably Colo.)
Red Squirrels are seen at rare intervals on the West Rim, but nothing is known of their specific status.
- 29 (WHITE-TAILED SQUIRREL, Sciurus kaibabensis Merriam)
Persistent reports of this beautiful squirrel in the mountains immediately north of the park are directly traceable to the liberation of 5 or 6 pets some 40 or 50 years ago by one of the Thorley boys of Cedar City, Utah.)

- 30 YELLOW POCKET GOPHER, (Thomomys perpallidus aureus (Allen))
Type Locality. - San Juan County, Utah.
Range. - Arid regions of southern Utah, western Colorado, New Mexico, and Arizona.
Very common in Zion Canyon. (Numerous specimens in Zion Museum.)
(Thomomys perpallidus planirostris has also been collected in Zion Canyon by J. E. Blazsard of Cedar City. #. Nothing is known of the gophers inhabiting the Transition Zone, but Thomomys fessor may possibly be found there.)
- 31 POCKET MOUSE, Perognathus sp?
A Pocket mouse was dug up in the spring of 1934 by an archaeological party in Parunuweap Canyon, but was not preserved for identification.
- 32 MERRIAM KANGAROO RAT, Dipodomys m. merriami Mearns
Type Locality. - New River, Arizona.
Range. - Southwestern U. S.
Common in Coalpit Wash and Parunuweap Canyon, occasionally in Zion Canyon proper. Confined to Lower Sonoran Zone. (Z. M. 76, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102.)
- 33 SONORA BEAVER, Castor canadensis frondator Mearns
Type Locality. - Sonora, Mexico.
Range. - Southwestern U. S.
Once quite common along the Parunuweap River, but were trapped out before the area was set aside as a national park. A few beaver still live on Cedar Mountain, north of the park.
- 34 DESERT HARVEST MOUSE, Reithrodontomys m. megalotis (Baird)
Type Locality. - Grant County, N. M.
Range. - Southwestern U. S., northeastern Lower Calif., and northern portion of Mexican table land.
Not common in Upper Sonoran Zone of Zion Canyon. (Z. M. 45, 46, 47, 48, 49 - all taken in one small meadow, the only one of its kind in the canyon.)
- 35 STEPHENS CANYON MOUSE, Peromyscus crinitus stephensi (Mearns)
Type Locality. - Mountain Spring, Imperial County, Calif.
Range. - Desert valleys of the Southwest.
The one specimen in the Zion Museum collection is not quite typical of the species. (Z. M. DLX Woodbury) #.
- 36 SONORAN WHITE-FOOTED MOUSE, Peromyscus maniculatus sonoriensis (Le Conte)
Type Locality. - Santa Cruz, Mex.
Range. - Great Basin region.
The most common mouse in Zion Park, being abundant in all parts. (Numerous specimens in the Zion Museum.)
- 37 ROWLEY CLIFF MOUSE, Peromyscus boylii rowleyi (Allen)
Type Locality. - Noland Ranch, San Juan County, Utah.

ROWLEY CLIFF MOUSE - Continued

Range. - Southern portion of Great Basin region.

Fairly common in all portions of the park. (Numerous specimens in Zion museum.)

38 TRUE WHITE-FOOTED MOUSE, Peromyscus t. truei (Shufeldt)

Type Locality. - Fort Wingate, N. M.

Range. - S. W. United States and Northern Mexico.

Zion specimens were taken in the Parunuweap Canyon. (Z. M. 82, 90, 91, 92.)

39 WOOD RAT, Neotoma lepida monstrabilis Goldman

Type Locality. - Ryan (west of Kaibab Plateau) Ariz.

Range. - Lower (some upper) Sonoran Zone N of G. Canyon.

Common throughout the scrub conifer forests of the park (Upper Sonoran Zone). (Z. M. 58, 81, 95, 96, 97.)

40 GRAY BUSHY-TAILED WOOD RAT, Neotoma c. cinerea (Ord)

Type Locality. - Great Falls, Mont.

Range. - Rocky Mt. region and southern part of Sierra Nevada range.

Probably in Transition Zone portions of the park, but no definite records.

41 MEADOW MOUSE, Microtus sp? ^{montanus ssp? (shows no great difference from the)} Specimens in Zion Museum somewhat resemble nanus and montanus, but have not yet been determined.

Very common in Canadian Zone meadows immediately north of the park, and known to extend downstream into the park at one locality - Potato Hollow - which has some Canadian Zone features. (Numerous specimens.)

42 MEADOW MOUSE, Microtus sp? ^{mordax} ~~Resembles mordax, species not yet determined.~~

Not so common, lives in dry places, near meadows inhabited by the preceding form. It forages chiefly at night. (Z. M. 31, 43; 44.)

43 NEVADA MUSKRAT, Ondatra zibethica merrimens (Hollister)

Type Locality. - Churchill County, Nevada.

Range. - Great Basin.

A few are still found in the southern part of Zion Canyon. (Mounted specimen in Zion Museum.)

44 HOUSE MOUSE, Mus m. musculus Linnaeus

Type Locality. - Upsala, Sweden.

Range. - Entire world.

Introduced with settlers in the early days and is still quite common around Zion Lodge and dwellings, and has even spread to points several miles from human habitations. It is nowhere as common as are either the Sonoran or Rowley White-footed Mice.

45 YELLOW-HAIRED PORCUPINE, Erethizon e. epixanthum Brandt

Type Locality. - California.

subspecies magropus, which occurs in Nevada and will now be described by E. Raymond Hall

YELLOW-HAIRED PORCUPINE - (Continued)

Range. - Sonora, Mexico, into New Mexico, eastward to Missouri, west to the Pacific, and north to Alaska.

Common in the park except in Lower Sonoran Zone. (Mounted specimen in museum.)

46 COLORADO DESERT JACK RABBIT, Lepus californicus deserticola (Mearns)

Type Locality. - Western edge of Colorado desert, Imperial County, Cal.

Range. - Arid regions of the western U. S.

Common in the lower portions of the park. (Mounted specimen in Zion Museum.)

47 BLACK HILLS COTTONTAIL, Sylvilagus nuttallii grangeri (Allen)

Type Locality. - Black Hills, S. Dakota.

Range. - Western S. Dakota, most of Wyoming, Idaho, Utah, Colorado.

Zonal range mainly Transition and Upper Sonoran.

Common in lower portions of Zion Canyon. (Mounted specimen in Zion Museum.)

48 AMERICAN ELK, Cervus c. canadensis (Erxleben)

Type Locality. - Eastern Canada.

Range. - Formerly spread over the greater part of United States, but now confined to a few spots in the west.

Elk were introduced into southern Utah in 1925 on Cedar Mountain. In 1933 they were estimated at about 150 head. Tracks have been reported inside the park on numerous occasions, and 5 or 6 were seen on Horse Pasture Plateau in the fall of 1933.

49 ^{Rocky Mts.} ~~CHIHUAHUA~~ MULE DEER, Odocoileus hemionus ^{macrotis Say} ~~canus Merriam~~

Type Locality. - ~~Chihuahua, Mexico.~~ ^{Mora, New Mexico}

Range. - ~~Arid region of the southwest and northern Mexico.~~

Common resident of the park. At least 75 live in Zion Canyon, and other areas are almost as heavily populated, but there is no apparent over stocking of the range.

50 ROCKY MOUNTAIN SHEEP, Ovis c. canadensis nelsoni Merriam

Type Locality. - ~~Bow River, Canada.~~ ^{Grapevine Mts., Nev.-Calif.}

Range. - ~~Rocky Mountain region of North America.~~

About 25 head reside in the park, most of them on Bridge Mountain.



Ring-tail cat

It was previously thought that

To live

ALONG NATURE'S HIGHWAY

A new use for dust mops was recently demonstrated at the home of the park naturalist, when a Costa Hummingbird started using one for nesting material. In fact, it used portions of two mops. The lady of the house, who first noticed the hummer's odd actions on April 7th, consented to leave the mops hanging undisturbed outside the door until the hummingbird had stolen all the cotton fibers that it required. The bird visited the mops about every half hour, poising in front of one or the other while picking a minute quantity of fiber from the loosely woven strings. Green fibers from an old oily mop were used exclusively during the first three days, but later the clean white fibers of a new mop were preferred. Last spring a hummer (perhaps the same one) used strings that were hung outside the house, but efforts to locate the nest were unsuccessful, as have been similar efforts this year. C.C.F.

The pet mountain sheep, which has occasionally ranged in the vicinity of the horse corral during the past two years, returned on the last day of March after an absence of several months. It had several porcupine quills in its muzzle. Two of the boys pulled out most of the quills, and since then it has remained in the corral, or very close to it, and has been unusually tame. G.Y.C.



Another new bird was recorded for Zion National Park on March 27th when a small flock of Western Evening Grosbeaks appeared in the public campground and fed for several days on the buds of boxelder trees. There are now 119 kinds of birds recorded as having been seen within the park. C.C.F.

BOOK NOTES

The most common request made by national park visitors is, "Please tell me about your adventurous life as a Ranger". Many an embarrassed park ranger has wished he could reply by presenting the wide-eyed tourist with a complete diary of what seems to him a commonplace ordinary existence. Now one of our number has done it. Dor Yeager, of Rocky Mountain National Park, is the author, and "Bob Flame, Ranger" is the diary. After reading this simple, straightforward chronicle of one year in one ranger's life I am forced to believe that the general public is right; - we do lead an adventurous life. In recounting the plain facts of a typical Yellowstone Park ranger's existence, Mr. Yeager has demonstrated that truth is stranger than fiction. He tells of capturing bear cubs and fighting forest fires; of rescue parties and lonely ski patrols; of routine duty and sudden emergency; - all plentifully spiced with native wit. "Bob Flame, Ranger" is a book that should appeal to every red-blooded boy or young man, and it will be of equal interest to the thousands who have visited the national parks and to the other thousands who anticipate such a visit. It is published by Sears Publishing Company and is a Junior Literary Guild Selection. C.C.F.

Two other recent books that should be of interest to lovers of the outdoors are listed as follows: -

Cave Life of Kentucky, Mainly in the Mammoth Cave Region, by Vernon Bailey, University Press, Notre Dame, Ind. Mammals, fishes, reptiles and amphibians are described by Mr. Bailey, and birds are by Mrs. Florence Merriam Bailey. There is also a chapter on invertebrates by Leonard Giovannoli, making a remarkably complete and interesting treatise.

Cactus, by Laura Adams Arner, Frederick A. Stokes Co., New York. While this well illustrated little volume is intended primarily for the amateur cactus gardener, it is also an excellent guide for those who study cacti in their native habitat. Forty-six species are described, as well as four others not of the cactus family.

C.C.F.