

1989

Field Notes

Jennifer K. Frey

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1989

Journal

1

22 May

Dwight W. Moore from Emporia State University and myself left for the headquarters of the Scilleta National Wildlife Refuge (which is the long term ecological research site) at approximately 15:30. Arrived approximately 16:30. We proceeded to set up camp & eat dinner. A Western diamondback rattlesnake (Crotalus abax) was found in camp. I hope there will be no more as I brought my dog Billy Ray along. I represent the parasitology position for the study. Forest W. Davis will also work in the lab pulling tissue, karyotyping & preping specimens collected. Dwight said he will help prep specimens. Terry L. Yates is here along with many of his students & museum people including: William Gannon, Bret Kiddle, Lisa Valle, Joe Cook, Scott Gardner, Suzy Peurach and Phillip Ortega. Several of us stayed up rather late drinking on the back of a wagon as we were told not to make so much noise in camp. They (other technicians) are not too pleased with we mammalogists-

2 hr

1989

23 May

Left to check trap grids at 5:30. I don't feel too great. The mammalogists split into ~~one~~ two groups; one checking the removal grids + one checking the 3 mark-recapture grids along with the technicians. The site was in Sepultura Canyon in the Los Pinos Mts. We returned about 10:30 + began to process animals. Saw 1 Ammospermophilus ~~two~~ interpres ~~at~~ and heard 1 Eutamias on way back.

All mammalogists but Dwight Frosty + I gone by bed time. 40 hrs 13 hrs

24 May

~~See~~ Frosty (F.W. Davis), Dwight + I checked the 2 removal grids at 5:30. The technicians are no longer going to help us. On the way we spotted a black bear (Ursus americanus) running across the prairie NW of Sepultura Canyon towards the mountains. While checking traps Dwight + I saw approximately 6 Mule deer (Odocoileus hemionus) in the canyon. On way back we spotted 3 pronghorn (Antilocapra americana) in distance on prairie NW Sepultura Canyon. Possibly 1 male, 1 female + 1 young. All three

1989

24 May

2 of them began running angling towards us. As I drove the male was in the lead & ran beside the truck. It was probably running 52 miles per hour. It ran right in front of us. The other 2 collected & crossed road behind us. Processed animals.

Dwight & I went to Water Canyon in the Magdalena Mts, Socorro Co., NM. Saw 1 Sciuridae either Sciurus aberti or Spermophilus variegatus. Didn't get a good look. We returned to camp about 17:30. ~~as we~~ We then went to the Owl Bar & Grill in San Antonio with some of the others.
8 hr

25 May

Checked traps 5:30. Processed animals. went home. Total miles driven in my truck = 321. 10 hr

33 hr total

29 May

Dwight & I left for Seville at 17:30 arrived 18:30. Set up camp. 1 Western diamondback rattlesnack (Crotalus atrox) OR (Crotalus viridis) found under truck in camp
2 hr

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30 May Up to check traps at 5:30. Move to new locations at five points. Two removal grids located in great plains grassland, two located in chihuahuan desert habitat dominated by Larrea. In grasslands caught many Dipodomys ordii + Perognathus flavus. Few Reithrodontomys + 1 Onychomys. In Larrea caught many Dipodomys merriami. 1 site in Larrea used ~~a~~ new long shermans. We collected no Perognathus from these traps. Probably set too tight. Other site on Larrea had many Perognathus in short shermans. Also collected Dipodomys spectabilis + Neotoma microps. Saw 1 Lepus americana, 2 Sylvilagus auduboni and 1 burrowing owl. Returned to prep specimens. Scott Gardner was here to help. Finished pulling parasites at 17:30. Resumed stuffing + alcoholics from 19:30-22:30.
15-5 15 hrs

31 May

Check traps 5:30. Saw 1 Lepus americana at Larrea: site and several pronghorn on grasslands. Caught about 35 specimen. Preped until 17:30. Went to Socorro for Pizza with Frosty + Dwight. Prep again from 20:00-22:00
14-5

12-5

1989

1 June Check traps at 5:30. Saw several pronghorn,
1 mule deer & 1 Sylvilagus auduboni on grasslands.
Prep until 18:00. Home

~~12.5 hr~~ B 305 miles ~~12.5 hr~~

5 June

Drove to Sevilleta with Frosty.
Arrived 18:00. Need some nine tube traps
out here.

2 hr

6 June

Scott Gardner helped Frosty and me
today. Checked traps 5:30. Saw a
mule deer on Larren site 3. A lot of
mammals - about 84. Just managed to
get all guts pulled and feces on all - we
looked for parasites in some. There are
a lot of nematodes in the Onychomys.
Found some Acanthocephala also.
Done 22:30. ^{10:30}

7 June

Check traps 5:30. Saw no mammals.
Caught 41 in Shermans. They did not put
potfalls out this week. Traps are at the
Rio Salado - ~~was~~ This is the first day
no one is here to help Frosty or I.
Frosty & I went to Albuqueque about 18:00

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8 June

I drove out to Scilleta with Frosty at 4:15. Caught fewer animals today. Left 18:00

167 miles

12 June

Frosty will not be at Scilleta this week. He is in Alaska for mammal meetings. Dwight + I drove out at 6:00. This week there are only 2 removal grids located at 222 (the name of some tank) in the piñon juniper foothills of the Ladronne mountains.

13 June

Caught 23 animals mostly Dipodomys merriami. Saw large W diamondback rattlesnake at web 2 A100. They saw one at B50 yesterday. Got all parasites pulled. Drove to Salinas Natl Monument b, Manzanos. Old Pueblo church. We went bird watching in Lajoya NWR. Saw Gambel's quail, Blue grosbeak + mallards. Dwight's getting into bird watching.

14 June

Caught about 18 animals. Drove up Forest road 422 into the manzanos to Pine Shadow Springs. Found some Microtus runs in grass near water. Saw 1 Microtus mexicanus (my first one). There is not much grass - most has been grazed off by cattle. Only extends 1 meter from H₂O.

1989

14 June

Saw 1 ~~fox~~ Sciurus arizonae & 4
mule deer. Drove to Socorro & ate
at New Mexican Kitchen. Hot green chili
sauce.

15 June

Caught few mammals mostly ~~fox~~
Chaetodipus intermedius. Home 18:00
350 miles

1989

20 June

Dwight Moore and I left Albuquerque to go to Willow Creek in the Mogollon Mountains. ~~Dwight~~ We are after Microtus mexicanus. Got out of the city about 14:00 and drove south on I 25 to Socorro. We stopped by the Seville Inn before we got to Socorro to pick up some ice and other supplies. At Socorro we turned West on I 60. We then turned south on state road 78 which is now called state road 52. This is the first road to the south past the one that goes to Mt. Withington. Road 52 is a gravel road that crosses the plains of San Agustin. We saw 2 pronghorn and one spotted ground squirrel (Spermophilus spilosoma). The road forks after about 20 miles and we turned right on 78 now called 163. The other road goes to Dooty + Winston. 163 takes us to Willow Creek camp ground located upstream from where Willow Creek + the Gila meet. Billy Ray (my dog) is quite excited by all the cows in the forest - I'm not. We got a flat tire about 3 miles from Willow Creek. We ran over a logging truck tire iron.

Saw a Eutamias
in piñon juniper

1989

20 June.

Found a fresh
dead red
squirrel TAMMIES
SCURUS on
road.

We finally make it to Willow Creek Camp ground. It is an apt name. The creek is about 2-3 meters wide and surrounded by willows. The elevation is about 8300 ft. The forest is primarily Ponderosa pine + Blue spruce + Douglas fir. There is thick grass in the valley. Obviously not too heavily grazed, although there was a herd of horses and burros. We set up camp, lit a fire + then set out some Shermans. I set 5 near the edge of Creek in hopes of catching a Sorex palustris. Dwight + I set 10 in Microtus runs in grass. While sitting around fire we would often hear traps closing. When I would go check them and they would always be Peromyscus maniculatus near the Creek. We caught about 7 of them that night but let them go.

21 June.

Up early + check traps. Caught 4 Peromyscus maniculatus near creek. + 1 Microtus ~~maniculatus~~ in grass. let Peromyscus go. Kept Microtus alive in cage.

1989

21 July

Left for Springtime Campground in the San Mateo Mountains about 15:00. Drove south on I-25 to exit 100 (Redrock exit). Drive west until reach intersection with 85. Turn North + go about 4 miles. Turn west + follow road to Campground. I met Scott Gardner, his daughter Teal + Dr's

from Itikkido Univ. Japan. We set up camp near head Nogal Canyon about 2 miles below Springtime Campground. The area in transition from pinyon-Juniper to Ponderosa pine + Fir. There is hardly any grass due to dry year + overgrazing - the mountains have had little rain until a couple days ago. I am hoping to catch Microtus mexicanus.

We set 200 shermans at a lower elevation in Nogal Canyon. It was raining very hard with much lightning. Came back to camp + ate dinner. Rain stops. We light a fire + drink a few beers before bed. Its fairly cold ($\approx 50^{\circ}\text{F}$)

(Water tank is full) →

1984

22 July

Checked traps in morning after breakfast. Scott shot a Spermophilus variegatus on way back along with a Eutamias dorsalis.

Marianne Martin her husband & his ^{Jay} uncle Bob. showed up about 10:00. Marianne & I drove up Forest Road 225 looking for Microtus habitat. No luck. There is no grass to speak of & we found no runs. We did find 2 possible runs & set some traps on them. They don't look like they have recently been used by Microtus - We set 240 shermans in evening lower down valley. We then set up a bat net over water tank when it got dark. Marianne & Jay were photographing the bats as they flew over water. We only caught 2 bats in net. Scott shot a bat in early evening. The wind picked up & threatened to rain. ~~Scott~~

Scott shot
a
Sylvilagus auduboni

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23 July

Check traps in morning. No
Microtus. Scott & scientists from Japan
left & the rest of us left later in
afternoon about 14:30.

1989

24 July

I left for Sevilleta at about 18:00. It is raining & there is a brilliant rainbow. Set up camp & drink a few beers with other of the crew. 2 hr.

25 July

Check traps 5:30 in Sepultura Canyon. Catch 12 animals - few were Dipodomys. Caught 1 Spermophilus variegatus which we will keep to record vocalizations. Prep animals, get in water fight with Frosty & Chris Attenbuck then grill Spam steaks. They saw a Ovis canadensis in opening of Sepultura Canyon - first sighting in three years I believe. Frosty, Chris & I continued drinking & walked to abandoned house on La Jolla State game preserve. Bed about 1:00. It rained off & on during the day especially in the mountains. I had to sleep in front seat of truck. 9 hr.

1989

26 July
605mm main
beam

Check traps 5:30. I found a very large Odocoileus virginiana antler in canyon by web 15. Caught 10 animals including an Ammospermophilus interpres & another Rock Squirrel.

No sign of the Bighorn sheep. It is very ~~so~~ cold ($\approx 50^{\circ}\text{F}$) & wet.

Prep animals till 13:30 then napped until 15:00 & started working again until 18:30.

27 July

Check traps 5:30. Caught only 1 mammal. ~~Napped~~ Prep the specimen then head for home.

August

Drove to Seville 4:30. Waited with Frosty for Amy who said she would help us but she never showed. Checked traps at 5 points. Caught about 87 mammals. Done prepping about 16:00. Chris helped us pull tissue.

1989

5:30

2 August

Checked traps 5:30. Caught about 50 mammals. Prepped animals until 17:30. Chris, Frosty & I walked to a abandoned house to catch bats after sun went down. Chris caught several *Antrozous pallidus* & *Myotis* by hand. We stayed until about 2:00 or 3:00 3 August drinking beer & playing "I've never." (Entertaining game)

3 August

5:30

Checked traps 5:30. Caught about 28 mammals. Prepped animals & finally got home about 20:30. Out checking traps in the Larrea Frosty & I noticed that the woodrats seem to be occupying abandoned *Dipodomys spectabilis* mounds as there are no observable woodrat nests above ground and ~~no~~ some of the *Dipodomys* mounds have sticks at entrances in woodrat fashion.

8 August

Dwight Moore & I drove to Sevilleton at 4:30. We & Frosty checked traps at the Rio Salado site. Amy Blythe was there to help us. Caught 79 mammals. Prepped specimens. It sure ~~is~~ went fast with the extra help. got done about 14:00. Amy left & Frosty, Dwight & I drove out to BLM land on north side of La Drones. We shot

2:00

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8 August

Frostys ad rifle attempting to adjust his scope. We saw black ~~th~~ throated sparrows + a dried up tiger salamander at a BLM wildlife + cattle tank. (I think the tank is called something like Colorado or Coronado). That evening everyone sat around + drank a few beers. Dwight went bird watching for awhile.

9 August

Check traps 5:30. Caught 27 mammals. Prepped animals until about 19:00. Dwight + I went into town (Socorro) ate at McD's + went shopping. On way back to Seulleta we stopped at La Joya Wildlife Refuge for awhile for some relaxation. That evening was a New Mexico wine tasting party outside between to trailers. Some of them were pretty good. The bottle Dwight + I brought was terrible. As usual everyone else but us + Frosty was in bed by 21:30.

10 August

Check traps 5:30 Caught 16 mammals
We prepped these + then went home

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15 August

Frosty & I left for Sevilleta at 4:30.
 Headed for 222 site in La Drome Mountains.
 46.4 I-25 Bernardo exit turn west
 46.85 turn right, cross cattle guard
 48.4 go straight thru gate (2506)
 48.5 turn right
 52.5 under power line
 56.8 turn right
 58.7 windmill on left (I think this is tank 222)
 59.9 web #3 on ridge to south
 60.2 arroyo - walk up road to web #2 on south side

Collected 13 mammals. Back to headquarters to process. When done I took a nap for a couple hours. Frosty, Chris Altenbach & Marisol Campbell & I went out to the bridge that crosses the Rio Puerco to shoot at cans. Ate dinner, drank few beers then went to bed. Looks like it may rain

16 August

Frosty & I went out 5:30 to check traps. Caught 9 mammals, 2 Brown towhees & 1 lizard (*Cnemidophorus*). Took a short nap & then processed animals. Saw a golden eagle 4.5 miles SW Bernardo on way back from 222, and saw 2 deer at 222 (I think mule deer)

17 August

Frosty & I checked traps, prepped animals packed everything up & headed home

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1989

2 September

Met Greg Hartman and Doug Kelt at UNM about 9:00. We are heading for Qo Redondo Campground in the Zuni Mts. Cibola County T11N R12W sec 28. Drove west out of Albuquerque on Interstate 40 to Grants. In Grants drove west down Santa Fe Road to Malpais Information center. Asked for info on road conditions to campground. All are good. We then continued west on Santa Fe to the McDonalds. Turn left ^(south) and cross over Interstate 40. (This road is state 53). Turn right on first road ^{past} Interstate ^(Forest Rd 49) and head west on Zuni Canyon Road. We saw a canid walking down to road somewhere in the Natl Forest but below Malpais spring probably T10N R11W sec 2 or 3. I believe it was a Kit fox (*Vulpes macrotis*) but there was some doubt as to whether it may be a coyote (*Canis latrans*). It looked like an adult animal to me but was much smaller than coyotes I've seen in Kansas. In addition, the ears were very large and the tail very bushy in comparison with Kansas coyotes. I have not yet seen a coyote in New Mexico to compare

Jennifer Krey

1989

2 September

the animal with. At the intersection near Malpais spring we turned north on Forest Rd. 480. and continued NW on this to the campground. The habitat where we saw the canal was Piñon Juniper with few scattered Ponderosa pine. At the campground Ponderosa pine predominates with scattered Douglas Fir. There is a large meadow with lush green grass. It does not look heavily grazed. Upon inspection Microtus runs were abundant with fresh chipmunk and feces. I am trying to catch Microtus mexicanus. We set out some Sherman's and waited for Frosty Davis and Marianne Martin & her husband Jay to show up. Checked traps after a couple hours and found we had caught some Microtus mexicanus & were dead but the others I will try to keep alive. Frosty & Marianne show up. & Frosty set out some gopher traps. There is a lot of gopher activities. Mounds everywhere. He caught 11 & karyotyped 2. It started to rain about ~~17:00~~ 17:00 & rained much of the night until about 3:00 AM 3 Sept. It was cold. We huddled under a tarp & ate a fire & drank

Jennifer K. Treay

1989

3 September

a few beers.

Got up & pulled traps & packed up to leave. Caught 13 *Microtus mexicanus* total. We drove down to Malpais ice caves & looked at it & a volcano. I think I saw a ring tail ~~rat~~ (*Passeriscus astutus*) on lava flow. Headed for home.

LTER

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