
NOTES ON OHIOAN MAMMALS.¹—During the course of field studies throughout the state, as well as the preparation of specimens both as study-skins and taxidermist-mounts, various notes on Ohioan mammals have been accumulated.

MASKED SHREW, *Sorex cinereus ohionensis* BOLE AND MOULTHROP

Masked shrews have not been known in south-central Ohio from near the Ohio River. On February 7, 1963, we caught two of these shrews at a locality five miles north of Minford, Scioto County. This is only 11 miles from the Ohio River and 38 miles from the West Virginia-Kentucky-Ohio boundary. One shrew was caught in a fencerow of grasses and briars, alongside a stubble cornfield. The other was taken in a swampy patch of grasses at the end of the same cornfield. Specimens of *Microtus pennsylvanicus* were caught in the same runways with the *Sorex cinereus*.

The two specimens are tentatively referred to *S. c. ohionensis*, although we are not certain that this is a valid and distinct subspecies. The two specimens fit well the small size ascribed to *ohionensis* by Bole and Moulthrop (1942: 89), for they are not only small but actually have some features that are smaller than in topotypes. Measurements of the two specimens, nos. 26959, ♀, and 26960, ♂, Univ. Illinois Museum of Natural History, are respectively: total length, 82, 76; tail, 31, 29; hind foot, 12, 12; condylobasal length, 15.2, —; palatal length, 6.15, 6.0; cranial breadth, 7.3, —; interorbital breadth, 2.55, 2.75; maxillary breadth, 4.1, 4.1; maxillary toothrow, 5.5, 5.4.

BIG BROWN BAT, *Eptesicus fuscus fuscus* (BEAUVOIS)

The following indirect evidence that big brown bats are preyed upon by Norway rats, *Rattus norvegicus*, at least under certain conditions, is presented. On a cool October morning, some big brown bats were dislodged with tear gas from the rafters of a two-story house at Bantam, Clermont County. Three of these semi-dormant, semi-gassed bats fell between the walls to the ground level, where a Norway rat immediately seized one and ate nearly all of it, even though the bat was squeaking, biting, and moving its wings and legs. The rat then ate the other two bats.

Big brown bats can withstand extremely low temperatures, as indicated by the following. A cloth sack containing six big brown bats was placed in a freezer that normally maintains a temperature of -10°F . After 24 hours in the freezer,

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four of the bats were in good condition and readily flew away when released outdoors. In Urbana, Illinois, a banded big brown bat escaped from a building sometime between November 24 and December 1, 1963. On December 31, the bat was found about one-eighth mile away in an outside window-well, under about four inches of leaves. As the leaves and bat were picked up, the big brown bat, which was apparently in good condition, began to squeak and move, despite the facts that the temperature at the time was 3°F and that, during the night, the temperature had dropped to as low as 0°F.

THIRTEEN-LINED GROUND SQUIRREL,
Citellus tridecemlineatus tridecemlineatus (MITCHILL)

A melanistic thirteen-lined ground squirrel was taken at Mound City, one mile west of Chillicothe, Ross County, on July 25, 1952. The specimen is of more interest than just because of the fact that it is completely black, for it also shows the pattern of stripes and spots characteristic of thirteen-lined ground squirrels. Albinos also display this pattern (Hoffmeister and Hensley, 1949: 403), but the pattern is more difficult to discern in a melanistic than in an albinistic specimen.

EASTERN CHIPMUNK, *Tamias striatus rufescens* BOLE AND MOULTHROP

Completely melanistic eastern chipmunks are rarely encountered. However, in Ashtabula Township Park, Ashtabula County, several black chipmunks have become established, living alongside normally colored individuals.

COYOTE, *Canis latrans* subsp.

Coyotes are said to be spreading eastward through Ohio, but actual records of occurrence are not numerous. In the fall of 1963, a coyote was shot at Stonelick Lake, Clermont County, and was brought in to the senior author to be prepared as a mounted animal. The coyote was shot in a pig pen while feeding on hog food. As late as 1959, Hall and Kelson (1959, p. 845) reported that there were no Ohio records of this animal.

RINGTAIL, *Bassariscus astutus* subsp.

The unusual records in Ohio of the ringtail, *Bassariscus astutus*, a western species, were summarized in a report on the mammals of this state by Bole and Moulthrop (1942, p. 119). They had reason to believe that the following mid-1800 records of capture of the animal were authentic: Parma, Cuyahoga County; Boston Ledges, Summit County; Fairfield County.

On December 5, 1962, another *Bassariscus astutus* was caught just outside Cincinnati by E. J. Carsey while hunting raccoons. The *Bassariscus* was treed by dogs, shot, and brought in for mounting. There were no obvious indications that this animal had been a pet, although the determination of this fact would have been difficult. Its stomach was filled with hackberry seeds. One must surmise that this is an escapee, though it is interesting that there are at least three other records for Ohio. Unfortunately, we did not have access to the skull of this Cincinnati specimen so that we might attempt to determine its subspecific identification and possible geographic origin.—WOODROW W. GOODPASTER, 6559 Salem Pike, Cincinnati, Ohio, and DONALD F. HOFFMEISTER, Museum of Natural History, University of Illinois, Urbana.

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