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## DISTRIBUTION OF GROUND SQUIRRELS IN ILLINOIS

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Beginning in 1931 and ending in 1942, the writer recorded the location of every ground squirrel identified during the course of survey work for the Illinois Natural History Survey. Two species occur in Illinois, Franklin's ground squirrel, *Citellus franklinii* (Sabine), and the 13-striped ground squirrel, *Citellus tri-decemlineatus* (Mitchill), both species confined to the northern and central portions of the State.

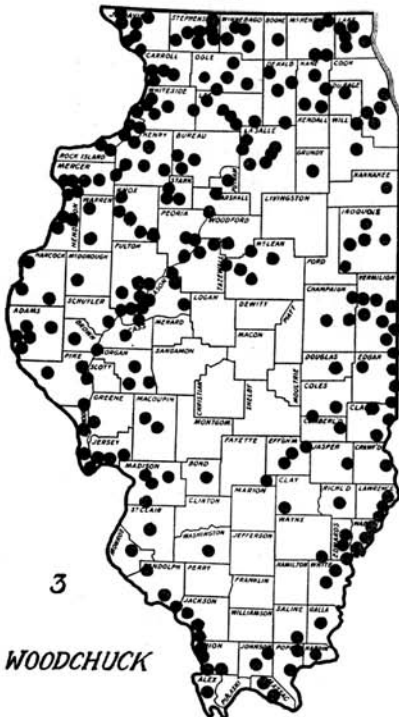
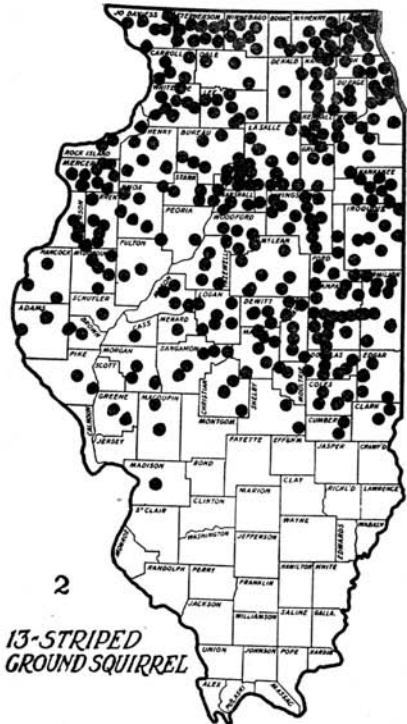
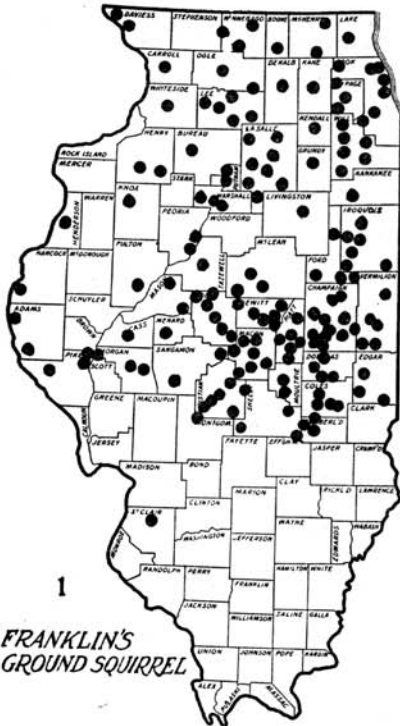
Localities at which these animals were observed are recorded as spots on the accompanying maps (figs. 1 and 2). Town or city names were used as reference points and the ground squirrel recorded as being present near a given town or city if it were observed within five miles of its center as measured by automobile speedometer.

The writer has seen neither species of ground squirrel south of a line connecting Monroe and Crawford counties, although

they undoubtedly occur in a number of restricted areas south of this line. Howell, 1928, recorded that a correspondent reported Franklin's ground squirrels present as far south as St. Clair county. The present writer found 13-striped ground squirrels in limited areas as far south as Madison county.

A rough idea of the numerical distribution of ground squirrels may be gained by comparing the number of localities at which they were seen with those at which a more widely distributed animal, the woodchuck, *Marmota monax* (Linnaeus), was seen during the same period and by the same method.

South of the line mentioned above, I have seen no ground squirrels and 39 woodchucks. North of this line I have observed Franklin's ground squirrels at almost as many localities as woodchucks and have seen striped ground squirrels at two or three times as many localities.



Maps of Illinois on which are recorded by dots the localities in which the Franklin's ground squirrel, the 13-striped ground squirrel, and the woodchuck were observed, 1931-1942. Comparison of the map showing woodchuck records with the other two maps will give a rough approximation of the numerical distribution of ground squirrels in Illinois.