

NOTEWORTHY RECORDS OF OCCURRENCE OF MAMMALS IN CENTRAL ILLINOIS*

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A revived interest, on the part of several zoologists, in the mammals of Illinois prompts me to place on published record the following selected information. This information comprises mainly records of occurrence which better indicate the geographic ranges of several species. The catalogue numbers given refer to those of the writer's private collection.

I am grateful to M. J. Soran and James Francis for assistance in the trapping which yielded some of the information given below, and to E. Raymond Hall, University of California, Berkeley, for suggestions and advice.

Myotis lucifugus lucifugus (Le Conte), **LITTLE BROWN BAT.**—One was taken on July 21, 1939 flying on the east edge of Brownfield Woods (R. 9 E., T. 20 N., Sec. 34) in Champaign County (No. 250). The species has hitherto not been recorded for this county although Wood (1910) mentions specimens in the State Natural History Survey Collections with data wanting. The identification has been verified by C. C. Sanborn of the Field Museum.

Lasionycteris noctivagans (Le Conte), **SILVER-HAIRED BAT.**—One was received from M. J. Soran, who obtained it in a tree in the day time in Piper City (R. 9 E., T. 27 N., Sec. 4). This provides the first record for Ford County (No. 258). The writer shot others at Brownfield Woods in Champaign County on September 18, 1940, and later. Collections of bats were made there at other times during the summer, but September 18 was the first date on which the species was found. Probably these individuals were migrating (Nos. 353, 354, 358, 359).

Pipistrellus subflavus (F. Cuvier), **GEORGIAN BAT.**—Of this species, Wood (1910:596) writes, "If it occurs in the northern part of Illinois it must usually be rare. Either the species is often overlooked or its distribution is very uneven over most of its range." Only one specimen of the Georgian bat was taken in a summer's collecting at Brownfield Woods,

Champaign County. This one was shot flying on September 16, 1940. It is the first record for the county and is the northernmost for Illinois, although it has been taken in more northern states (No. 349).

Lasiurus borealis (Müller), **RED BAT.**—The red bat is the species most often seen flying in towns in residential districts where there are a considerable number of trees. It is one of the first to appear in the evening. Often it emerges when there is still enough light for a person to see its color easily. I took one specimen in Piper City, Ford County, flying and feeding at 3 A. M., and many others were seen flying about street lights at this time. This is the most common species in Champaign-Urbana, while in Brownfield Woods, a red oak-maple virgin forest, it is much less abundant (No. 256).

M. J. Soran and I collected fifteen of these bats which were trapped in the fresh oil on a road in Piper City, Ford County (Nos. 338-348). The bats, together with birds of several species, were picked up in midafternoon from the heavily oiled road which was well shaded by trees. Most of the bats were taken within a distance of 500 feet and when washed with gasoline all proved to be this species. Probably the bats mistook the oil for water and were flying to dip into it. The majority of the bats were alive although they were completely covered with oil, which coated also the lining of the mouth. Those exposed to the direct rays of the sun were dead.

Lasiurus cinereus (Beauvois), **HOARY BAT.**—Wood (1910) assumed this species was present in Champaign County, but mentions no specimens. The writer shot one along the edge of Brownfield Woods, Champaign County (No. 335).

Nycticeius humeralis (Rafinesque), **RAFINESQUE'S BAT.**—This species was included in Wood's list although he made no mention of specimens, and Sanborn (1930) records the first one from Cham-

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paign County. The writer collected specimens in Brownfield Woods. There, it was the most abundant species and was found throughout the summer. The presence of large numbers of both adults and young indicates that the species breeds there (Nos. 251-253, 322, 327, 329-331, 333, 335, 357).

Procyon lotor lotor (Linnaeus), RACCOON.—Three skulls of young females were obtained for me by M. H. Goodrich about six miles north of Piper City in Ford County (R. 9 E., T. 27 N., Sec. 2) near a brush pile along a stream. In Ford County suitable cover for raccoons is scarce (Nos. 393-395).

Mustela rixosa allegheniensis (Rhoads), LEAST WEASEL.—The least weasel is not often taken in Illinois although it is probably more generally distributed than records indicate. Fur-trappers frequently tell of taking small or young weasels which they rarely, if ever, save because of the slight fur value. The writer was privileged to examine the skull of a male least weasel taken in a sunken basement window in La Grange, Cook County, Illinois in the autumn of 1939. The skull and the mounted skin are in the possession of Glenn Ulrich of Western Springs, Illinois. The identification was verified by E. Raymond Hall.

Synaptomys cooperi gossii (Coues), GOSS LEMMING MOUSE.—Howell (1927:1) writes: "Synaptomys is not common in collections, but it is by no means certain that it is not more numerous in nature than is generally supposed. Except in a very few places, or in years of unusual abundance, lemming mice have proved exceedingly difficult to obtain in numbers." Wood (1910:559) says "this species seems to be the rarest of the small mammals—or, at least, the one most seldom trapped." He further states that the only specimens he had were two (one without head) found dead near Urbana. He was unable to get additional individuals by trapping in the same area.

The writer collected four specimens of this species in December two miles west of Seymour, Champaign County (R. 7 E., T. 19 N., Sec. 18) within a few hundred feet of the Champaign-Piatt county line. The exact place was in a quadrat that had been trapped over in the previous year by the same method, without indication of the presence of this species. The same general area had been trapped

yearly for short periods by ecology classes from the University for ten or more years and no other specimens were ever reported.

The first specimen, a half grown male, was taken on December 10, 1940, on the fifth day of trapping in a quantitative plot. It was dead when found although, it was caught in a live trap. Large numbers of *Microtus ochrogaster* (Wagner), *Peromyscus leucopus noveboracensis* (Fischer), *Cryptotis parva* (Say), *Mus musculus* (Linnaeus), and a few individuals of some other species of small mammals were taken here in the four days preceding. A female was taken on December 15 on the second day of trapping in a second plot, located about 100 feet west of the first. A lactating female was taken on December 20, and an adult male on the following day. The food in the stomachs and intestines of this species was uniformly green-colored, indicating that the animals feed largely on green vegetation even at this time of the year. The green vegetation present was mostly blue grass (*Poa pratensis* L.). The specimens were identified by Donald M. Hatfield of the Chicago Academy of Sciences (Nos. 364, 371, 374, 375).

The trapping which provided the records mentioned above for Ford County has naturally yielded species of commoner occurrence and more general distribution. Those of which the writer has specimens (*), or has handled fresh specimens are as follows:

- **Didelphis virginiana* Kerr
- **Scalopus aquaticus machrinus* (Rafinesque)
- **Blarina brevicauda* (Say)
- **Lasionycteris noctivagans* (Le Conte)
- **Lasiurus borealis* (Müller)
- **Procyon lotor lotor* (Linnaeus)
- **Mustela frenata noveboracensis* (Emmons)
- **Mustela vison* mink (Peale and Beauvois)
- Mephitis mephitis avia* Bangs
- **Vulpes fulva* (Desmarest)
- **Citellus tridecemlineatus tridecemlineatus* (Mitchill)
- **Citellus franklinii* (Sabine)
- Sciurus niger rufiventer* (Geoffroy)
- **Peromyscus maniculatus bairdii* (Hoy and Kennicott)
- **Peromyscus leucopus noveboracensis* (Fischer)

Ondatra zibethica (Linnaeus)

Rattus norvegicus (Erxleben)

**Mus musculus* (Linnaeus)

**Sylvilagus floridanus mearnsii* (Allen)

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