

XXIII. THE OCCURRENCE OF *BISSON OCCIDENTALIS* IN OKLAHOMA

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From the Public Museum, Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Early in August, 1922 the writer secured several skeletal fragments of a fossil bison from Red beds alluvium, about four miles south and east of Yukon, central Oklahoma. This skeleton had been partially exposed by heavy rains during the preceding June, and so mutilated by souvenir hunters and subsequent natural disintegration, that the writer considered himself fortunate in being able to obtain a large piece of the proximal end of a femur, which, with much difficulty and labor, he succeeded in preserving in its entirety for the University Museum, at Norman.

Plate V is a photograph of the specimen which has the following detailed measurements: (1) maximum width, 5 5-8; (2) anteroposterior width of crest of tuberosity, $3\frac{1}{2}$; (3) circumference, $7\frac{1}{2}$; (4) width, 1 7-8; depth, 1 13-16; circumference, $6\frac{1}{4}$; (5) anteroposterior width of head, $2\frac{3}{4}$; (6) dorsoventral depth of head, 2 3-16. All measurements are in inches; figures indicate the location of these measurements. Photographs and measurements of this specimen were sent to Dr. F. A. Lucas of the American Museum for identification. His reply concerning this data is as follows:

"Doctor Matthew tells me that while it is not possible to identify the exact species of *Bison* from the femur, your photographs and measurements are about the right size and proportion for *Bison occidentalis* although it would also agree with *antiquus* and *bison*, but taking all things into consideration, the chances are rather in favor of *occidentalis*."

So far as the writer is aware, this is the first physical evidence, though admittedly weak and incomplete, of the occurrence of *Bison occidentalis* in Oklahoma. Kansas has afforded several specimens of this species, and in at least one instance the skeleton was preserved almost entire. This specimen was mounted and is now on exhibition in the University's museum, at Lawrence.