

## Additional Mammal Notes from The Wichita Mountains Region of Oklahoma

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The authors have written of the mammals of the Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge in southwestern Oklahoma (1959, 1961). Subsequently, historical material not previously available, as well as new field records from the Wichita Mountains region, have been accumulated. This paper presents these findings. Much of the historical material was found in a handwritten report by James H. Gaut, a naturalist with the U.S. Biological Survey (a predecessor agency to the present Bureau of Sport Fisheries & Wildlife, U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Department of Interior). Mr. Gaut visited the Wichita Mountains in the spring of 1904. His notes on the elk and bears of the Wichita Mountains were briefly reported by Bailey (1905). Mr. Gaut's field activities centered around Mt. Scott, which is now included within the boundaries of the Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge. His headquarters was at the Mount Scott Postoffice, now abandoned, which was approximately two miles directly north of the top of Mount Scott, (Taff, 1904).

### *Accounts of Species*

*Antrozous pallidus bunkeri* Hibbard. A group of these bats occupied the eaves of the Cache schoolhouse for several days in April, 1963. Eight were collected by Paul Zweifelacker on April 14, and added to the mammal collection at Oklahoma State University. The only other locality in the Wichita Mountains where the species has been collected is Granite, in Greer County (Morse and Glass, 1960). Unquestionably the species occurs throughout the entire mountain range.

*Tadarida brasiliensis mexicana* (Saussure). A single specimen was found by Amel D. and Charles R. Darling May 3, 1963 at Post Oak Lake in the Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge. This bat crawled out from between two granite rocks adjacent to the lake shore. It is the first specimen record for the refuge, although it has long been suspected that this species was present. This specimen is in the Oklahoma State University mammal collection at Stillwater.

*Glaucomys volans saturatus* (A. H. Howell). The local rarity of the flying squirrel (Glass & Halloran, 1961) prompts us to record Gaut's notes on this species.

"Through Prof. James Mooney of the Bureau of Ethnology I was able to secure a record of the occurrence of this animal in the vicinity of Mt. Scott. He informed me that in the year 1891 an Indian came to his camp and aroused considerable excitement by stating he had just seen a little fur animal about the size of a rat run up an oak tree to the top and then sail off to another tree. None of the other Indians had ever seen an animal of this kind in that vicinity and he states the Kiowa Indians have no generic name for the race."

*Geomys bursarius major* Davis. No pocket gophers are now known to be within the boundaries of the refuge, where alluvial soil is scarce. It is of interest therefore that Gaut took a specimen near Mount Scott Post Office. He also described a location apparently within the present refuge on the southwestern slopes of Mt. Scott, where he found pocket gopher signs:

"Gopher hills were discovered at various places in the small flats around the base of the mountain (Mt. Scott) on the north side. The ground at such places was unusually hard and rather dry. No gopher mounds were seen on the steep slopes or the small flats above the base of the mountain with the exception of one place. This was a small flat about 25 yards wide and 50 yards long on the southwest slope of Mt. Scott at an altitude of 1700 feet. The hills on this flat had been made many months before and the tunnels leading from these hills had long since been deserted."

*Castor canadensis* Kuhl. Beaver cuttings were first found at Rush Lake in the refuge on August 31, 1962. On February 5, 1963, fresh beaver cuttings were observed on French Lake within the refuge by Arthur F. Halloran, Jr. The origin of these beaver, the first of record, is not known. However, a small beaver colony is known to exist adjacent to the eastern boundary of the refuge on Medicine Creek in the town of Medicine Park. We have been unable to trace the history of this colony but suspect that it derives from stock released in 1946 by the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation. Gaut's beaver notes are of interest:

"Beaver at one time inhabited the regions along Medicine Creek near Mt. Scott. Their old signs were occasionally seen . . . Prof. James Mooney of the Bureau of Ethnology informed me that about two or three years ago a man came to him at Mt. Scott and wanted to know if he wished any beaver hides, which he could easily catch on Cache Creek near Ft. Sill (Comanche Co.). That colony has since been reported to have been exterminated."

The native beaver of the entire Red River drainage is *C. c. texensis* (Bailey, 1905, Glass, 1960).

*Erethizon dorsatum bruneri* Swenk. Glass and Halloran (1961) reviewed the local yellow-haired porcupine record. Charles Picek, a rancher who lives just west of the southwestern corner of the refuge in Section 28, T3N, R15W reports that on three occasions in 1963 he has noted a porcupine on or adjacent to his place. This is the same locality reported upon by McMurry (1944). It is possible that a small local population exists in this area.

*Mustela nigripes* (Audubon & Bachman). The scarcity of black-footed ferret records in Oklahoma leads us to include the following from Gaut's notes:

"A skull was secured which came from a prairie dog town near Mountain View (35 miles North of Mt. Scott)."

Mountain View is located in northeastern Kiowa County. Richard H. Manville, Director, Bird and Mammal Laboratories, U.S. National Museum, states in a personal communication that with the exception of the above citation, no data on this skull can be found in the National collections.

*Lutra canadensis texensis* Goldman. No recent records of the river otter have been found for the Wichita Mountains region. Mr. Gaut's notes on this species follow:

"Prof. James Mooney of the Bureau of Ethnology showed me the tanned skin of an otter which had been killed by an Indian on Medicine Creek near Mt. Scott in 1902. . . I also saw the skin of an otter which had recently been caught in a fish net at Mountain View. . . ."

In a letter dated July 29, 1963, Frank H. H. Roberts, Jr., Director, Bureau of American Ethnology, states:

"In a letter dated November 1, 1904, addressed to W. W. Holmes of the Bureau of American Ethnology, Mooney lists materials collected in Oklahoma which had been placed in a box (Box #5 labeled "Collections by James Mooney—raw materials") and sent to the bureau. Among these materials was an otter skin. This skin, if it was kept, should now be in the collection of the U.S. National Museum, Division of Mammals. Unfortunately, the Museum Registrar has no record of receiving an otter skin collected by Mooney."

*Antilocapra a. americana* (Ord). Gaut's short note on the pronghorn is of historical interest:

"As late as 1890 antelope were numerous in Greer County southwest of Mt. Scott and a few remaining are still reported from there."

Before statehood Greer County comprised those parts of present-day Oklahoma west and south of the North Fork of the Red River.

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