

Arizona 2018

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This spring Lindsay and I worked for Arizona Game and Fish as nestwatchers for the Bald Eagle recovery program. This involved camping for 10 days at a time and monitoring a Bald Eagle nest. Due to having two nests fail, we spent 20 days at Horseshoe Reservoir in Maricopa County, 20 days outside of Cottonwood in Yavapai County, and 30 days at Woods Canyon Lake in Coconino County. During our four days off between work weeks, we visited other parts of Arizona, including the Colorado River, Page area, and Tucson area. During our work times, we were encouraged to small mammal trap for a statewide small mammal inventory. People without Sherman traps were provided them. I did learn that in Arizona, you need a hunting license to use small mammal traps, and trapping is not allowed in the White Mountains due to New Mexico Jumping Mouse or where you could catch a Black-footed Ferret. I was unable to trap most of the time, due to low night time temperatures, but I did manage to get a few good species when I could.

In total, we saw/trapped/netted 46 species of mammals, of which only four were new for me.

Horseshoe Reservoir - Although we were here for quite a while, night time temperatures never were high enough to trap. In our first five minutes of work, we saw a family of four **North American River Otters**, which we ended up seeing regularly. **Rock Squirrels** and **Harris's Antelope Squirrel** were observed on the dam. A few **Desert Cottontails** and one **Black-tailed Jackrabbit** were seen along the road at night. We had a **Striped Skunk** visit our camp regularly. I saw **Mule Deer** from an observation point a bit down stream a few times. The largest **Javelina** I have ever seen crossed the road in front of us one afternoon.

Tapco – We camped on NF land a few miles from Cottonwood. Our observation point overlooked the Verde River. We did manage to trap around camp a few times and had very high success rates, 80-90%. The most common capture was **Cactus Mouse**, followed by **Piñon Mouse** and **Ord's Kangaroo Rat**.



Each species seemed rather predictable with Cactus Mouse being captured near prickly pear or brush in the grassland, Piñon Mouse being captured under Piñon trees, and K-rats being captured on bare ground(road). Our observation point provided us with sightings of **Rock Squirrel**, **Coyote**, **Mule Deer**, **North American River Otter** (mating/raping for about 25 minutes), and a **Bobcat** stalking a rodent, making the kill, and eating its prey. **Northern Raccoon**, **Gray Fox**, **Black-tailed Jackrabbit**, **Striped Skunk**, **Javalina**, and **Desert Cottontail** were all seen at night along the road. We saw **Pronghorn** twice in the grasslands, and a **Cliff Chipmunk** at nearby Sycamore Canyon. The oddest thing I saw was an **American Beaver** that showed up to my OP, which is over 100 M above the river, and hang out all morning. I don't think it was doing well.



Woods Canyon Lake – We moved here at the end of March, and it was cold! I did manage to get in a couple trap nights, and caught two **North American Deermice** and a **Mexican Vole**, which was certainly the trapping highlight of the spring. I target trapped the vole by looking for an area with a lot of runways, and then set every trap I had there.



The most numerous mammal in the area is **Elk**. If you drive to Bear Canyon Lake at dusk, you should see dozens along with a few **Mule Deer**. We also saw a cottontail along this section of road, which by range and elevation, must have been an **Eastern Cottontail**. **Coyotes** and **Gray Foxes** are also seen along these roads at night, and I accidentally hit a bat with my truck, which turned out to be *Myotis volans*.



At the lake, there are four diurnal rodents which were all quite common by the time we left, **Abert's Squirrel**, **Red Squirrel**, **Golden-mantled Ground Squirrel**, and **Gray-collared Chipmunk**.



The Chipmunk and GMGS were not out of hibernation when we arrived. The best place to look for all of these is the small inlet just west of the store. I had a brief glimpse of a **Long-tailed Weasel** at the lake.

I set a few traps on BLM land near Cibola NWR and caught **Arizona Woodrat**, **Merriam's Kangaroo Rat**, and **Desert Pocket Mouse**. I caught a **Bailey's Pocket Mouse** in Saguaro habitat on the drive back.

Tucson area – We saw a few **Round-tailed Ground Squirrels** at Sweetwater Wetlands while we birding. **Black-tailed Prairie Dogs** were easy to see at the reintroduction sites. The trapping and netting we did in this area was all at study sites of my friends, so I'm not going to say where we were beyond Pima County and they had all proper permits.

Species caught: **Arizona Cotton Rat**, **Western Harvest Mouse**, **White-footed Deermouse**, **North American Deermouse**, **Ord's Kangaroo Rat**, **Big Brown Bat**, **Mexican Free-tailed Bat**, **Cave Myotis**, **Pallid Bat**, **Western Red Bat**.



Species

Abert's Squirrel
Arizona Gray Squirrel
Red Squirrel
Harris's Antelope Squirrel
White-tailed Antelope Squirrel
Gunnison's Prairie Dog
Black-tailed Prairie Dog
Golden-mantled Ground Squirrel
Round-tailed Ground Squirrel
Rock Squirrel
Gray-collared Chipmunk
Cliff Chipmunk
American Beaver
Merriam's Kangaroo Rat
Ord's Kangaroo Rat
Bailey's Pocket Mouse
Desert Pocket Mouse

Botta's Pocket Gopher
Mexican Vole
Arizona Woodrat
Cactus Mouse
White-footed Deermouse
North American Deermouse
Piñon mouse
Western Harvest Mouse
Arizona Cotton Rat
Black-tailed Jackrabbit
Desert Cottontail
Eastern Cottontail
Mexican Free-tailed Bat
Big Brown Bat
Western Red Bat
Pallid Bat
Cave Myotis
Bobcat
Coyote
Gray Fox
North American River Otter
Long-tailed Weasel
Striped Skunk
Northern Raccoon
Javelina
Mule Deer
White-tailed Deer
Elk
Pronghorn