

Western USA Road Trip, May-June 2025

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Introduction

In the summer of 2025 I decided to spend about three weeks driving a big loop from my home in Colorado Springs throughout a big chunk of the Western US. Despite living in Colorado for several years now, I was still missing a number of target mammals in the Western part of the country, and hadn't had the chance to spend a large amount of time out there searching. So, I decided to hit a big number of points all in one fell swoop and visit targets in New Mexico, Arizona, and both Southern and Central California at once. This made for a lot of driving and a lot of moving around, but also produced a huge 80-ish species in a pretty short time frame.

I followed a pretty loose itinerary, purposefully finding places to stay as we went so as to have a little bit of leeway for nights staying at a given location in case we missed on a target or hit earlier than expected. This worked out well, and let us move between locations pretty easily as needed. I was traveling with my Dad for the first half of the trip, which also helped break up the driving and give myself a bit more ease in looking for and tracking down all of the different species I hoped to find. We left Colorado on the 20th of May, and I arrived back in Colorado on the 10th of June.

New Mexico

Mora



Gunnison's Prairie Dog (*Cynomys gunnisoni*); Mora, NM

I started the trip by driving from Colorado Springs down to stay with a friend of mine near Mora, New Mexico. Mora is a small town up in the highlands of Northern New Mexico, and offers some interesting habitat. We stayed two nights here, mostly to spend time with friends, but did see a few mammals. The first were several **Pronghorn** off of I-25, both in Colorado and across the border in New Mexico. These are typically fairly reliable off I-25 around the Wagon Mound area if you keep your eyes peeled. We saw a few more Pronghorn on the smaller roads into Mora, as well as a good-sized herd of **Elk** not too far away. After arriving at my friend's ranch I also briefly spotted a cottontail, which was likely a **Mountain Cottontail** based on the location/elevation.

The next day we mostly spent hanging out and walking around the ranch, which included some views of the often-present **Gunnison's Prairie Dogs** that live in this valley. Colloquially I have heard that

this group was introduced here by environmental activists in the '70s, and historically there haven't been any Prairie Dogs of any species here, but I'm not sure if that's true. Walking through some of the mountain trails we were also surprised to come across the first **Coyote** of the trip, which is a relatively uncommon sight up in this area. We headed out the next morning towards Carlsbad, with a quick detour to Sandia Crest along the way. There were some more **Gunnison's Prairie Dogs** and **Pronghorn** along the road as we drove out.

Sandia Crest



Rock Squirrel (*Otospermophilus variegatus*); Sandia Crest

We made a quick detour to try and track down some **Colorado Chipmunk** and **Fremont's Squirrel** to add to the trip list, and to get some concrete identifications to replace a few probable sightings in Colorado. We first stopped at Capulin Springs Picnic Site on the way up, which I thought would be a good spot to track them down, but didn't have too much luck. Walking along the trails did turn up a **Rock Squirrel** on the top of a tree (which briefly caused some excitement), and a few fleeting Chipmunk views that were largely unidentifiable. Back around the picnic tables I found one Chipmunk that gave good views, but it appeared to be a **Least Chipmunk**. We continued up to the Summit area, where I walked along the trail through the forest until I heard - and eventually saw - the **Fremont's Squirrel** I was looking for. A couple more Chipmunks ran by in the distance and across the road, but nothing I could solidly identify.



Least Chipmunk (*Neotamias minimus*); Sandia Crest

Carlsbad Caverns National Park



Carlsbad Caverns

We got into the Carlsbad area late in the afternoon, with just a bit of time to kill until sunset. We found a hotel just South of the town of Carlsbad to grab a room, and then headed into the park to watch the outflight of bats from inside the caverns. Along the entrance road we very quickly saw a canid dash across which looked like it was probably a small **Coyote**, but could have been a **Kit Fox** too. My Dad saw it better than I did, and he believed it looked a little more Coyote-like in shape. At the cavern entrance the rangers are all very strict about having a no-electronics policy to not disturb the bats as they fly, so we just sat and observed as several thousand **Brazilian Free-tailed Bats** flew over us. The outflight was a little lower this time of year than it is at others, but was still very impressive. All of the bats flying out around dusk should be the free-taileds, but rangers said they have recorded a few others (most commonly Cave Myotis) also roosting inside.

After watching the show my Dad and I spent some time driving up and down the entrance road, as well as through other parts of the reserve, to see what else we could track down. After reading in Jon Hall's report that he had been ticketed while spotlighting along this road I opted to stick primarily with my thermal, and only turned the light on when I found something that looked interesting. This worked to avoid getting a ticket, but didn't work in tracking down many mammals. It may have also been exacerbated by the very dry year up to that point, but we weren't able to see much wildlife at all as we drove the road.

One of the rangers mentioned that Rattlesnake Springs, which is just a little further South from the main park entrance, is a spot where researchers often mist-nested for bats due to the high volume flying around, so we opted to head there next. We found our first Black-tailed Jackrabbit along the entrance road, and then kept driving until we hit a gate around the picnic area. Walking up to the historic ranch and the springs I found that there was indeed plenty of bat activity. They were flying all over the grounds, and were especially prominent coming down to drink from the main water source. I didn't have enough of a via to reliably identify any species in flight, but I was able to utilize my bat detector effectively, which recorded a number of species. These included **California Myotis**, **Brazilian Free-tailed Bat**, **Silver-haired Bat**, **Pallid Bat**, **Big Brown Bat**, **Cave Myotis**, and **Hoary Bat**. I'm not sure about the reliability of each of these identifications, nor if I actually saw each of these individuals in flight, but they all seem possible in this location. Afterwards my Dad felt very tired with all of the driving all day, and considering we hadn't seen much at all we decided to turn in.



Rio Grande Ground Squirrel (*Ictidomys parvidens*); Carlsbad, NM

The next morning we woke up early and stopped by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Park in downtown Carlsbad to see the colony of **Rio Grande Ground Squirrels** that live there. Sure enough, there is a big group that seems to occupy the entire park, and I could see the first ones before even getting out of the car. They were a little skittish towards people, so it was tricky to try and approach them, but never difficult to find another one if the one you were watching went back into its burrow. Afterwards my Dad wanted to see the caverns themselves, so we signed up to walk through and see the whole of the undergrounds. It was quite impressive, and I have to admit it was worth the crowded lines and a few hours without hope of finding any mammals.

Cloudcroft



Fremont's Squirrel (*Tamiasciurus fremonti*); near Sunspot, NM

After seeing the caverns, our next stop was to go back through the mountains to Cloudcroft, NM, and track down a **Gray-footed Chipmunk**. I had originally scheduled this to be on the way to Carlsbad, but we ran out of time that day and had to move things around. So, instead this day was when we made it to town, and we started by driving through the residential area South of the main highway to look for any Chipmunks, and were able to find our first Mule Deer of the trip. We continued up the road towards Sunspot and briefly looked around Deerhead Campground for any activity, but only saw a **Rock Squirrel** there. We continued up to the Cathey Canyon Trailhead and spent a while walking these trails, but with no luck other than a **Fremont's Squirrel** and some **Mule Deer** near the Sunspot observatory. At this point it was getting to be late in the day, and we had missed a few more species than I was hoping, so we decided to change our plans and spend the night in Cloudcroft to try again the next morning. We found a room at the Lodge at Cloudcroft, which turned out to be surprisingly nice and quaint - plus the restaurant was pretty good as well.

The next morning I got up early and went on my own back towards Cathey Canyon to look for the Chipmunks. On the way out I saw some **Elk**, more **Mule Deer**, and a **Fremont's Squirrel** in town. Once I pulled into the parking for the trailhead I immediately found the **Gray-footed Chipmunks** I was hoping for, and tracked down 3-4 individuals in the 15 or so minutes I was there. They once again were a little skittish, but definitely much more common at this time of day. I had another run across the road as I drove back down towards the lodge, as well as a **Rock Squirrel** that did the same.



Gray-footed Chipmunk (*Neotamias canipes*); near Sunspot, NM

White Sands National Park



White Sands

Once he realized that we would pass right by White Sands National Park on the way to our next stop my Dad insisted we stop and explore it for a bit. I didn't have any mammal targets here, and as such we did not see any mammals as we walked around, but it was nonetheless a very cool place to check out. I did notice that many of the dunes just off the road had a number of small mammal tracks around them,

and it made me wish I was spending more time there to explore. Considering the openness of the habitat I think this would likely make for a great place to do some spotlighting and get good views of a few species of interesting small desert mammals.

Texas

Franklin Mountains State Park



Rock Squirrel (*Otospermophilus variegatus*); Franklin Mountains SP

Our next stop was a brief trip into Texas to visit Franklin Mountains State Park just outside of El Paso to look for **Texas Antelope Squirrels**. The detour into White Sands made it so we got to the park a little later than I had planned, and as such lined us up with the heat of the early afternoon sun shining down. The best place for the Antelope Squirrels is at the bird blind along the park's 'Nature Walk Trail', where they are frequent visitors to the feeders. I sat there for a while and saw several **Rock Squirrels** come and go, as well as lots of Quails and a horde of other birds too. We ended up walking the loop of the trail to see what would be there, and found our first **Desert Cottontail** of the trip. Eventually as I was sitting a ranger came by to restock the feeders, and mentioned that she typically sees the Antelope Squirrels only in the mornings during summer before it gets too hot. In the winters they seemed to be active at all times of day and are pretty regular, but we had already missed our window for this morning and decided to move on.

Arizona

Cave Creek Canyon (Portal)



White-nosed Coati (*Nasua narica*); Cave Creek Canyon

After getting some groceries in El Paso, we next planned on spending three nights camping up Cave Creek Canyon in Arizona and seeing what we might find. We drove the Southern route from El Paso, following along the border the whole way, which was a pretty interesting drive (albeit somewhat barren of mammals). By the time we got into the portal area dusk was fast approaching, so we hurried to our campground to try and avoid having to set up camp after dark. The drive through the Canyon did produce a **White-tailed Deer** of the local Coue's subspecies, as well as a cottontail just into the forest border that may have been either a **Desert** or a **Holzner's Cottontail**. Later that evening after setting up camp and making dinner I went on a night drive up and down the Canyon to see what I might find. I went as far as the Portal store and back, as it had already been a long day, and unfortunately only managed to find one **Gray Fox** for the trouble.

The entire area of the Desert Scrub and into the forest zones was incredibly dry this year, as the winter season had brought almost no rain and it didn't seem to have been a very productive year. As I talked to a few locals during our time here they said it was the driest year they could remember in at least

the last 20, and that proved to be a bit of an issue for finding some of our targets during our stay. Rodent activity in general was extremely low, and I saw much less than I was hoping for while we camped.

We stayed at Herb Martyr campground which is well up the road from the entrance to the canyon, and allows for a long stretch of road to drive and spot other potential species when coming in and out. It is also a first-come first-served location that is not typically very crowded thanks to its location, which makes camping there a breeze and very flexible. Even staying over memorial day weekend we had the entire campground to ourselves on our last night, and it never reached capacity.



Cliff Chipmunk (*Neotamias dorsalis*); Cave Creek Canyon

The next day was our first full day in Cave Creek Canyon, and we spent it exploring several of the typical places around the canyon. This was my third consecutive year where I had visited the area in May, but the first time I had my own vehicle and wasn't with a group alongside me, which helped a lot. So, my Dad and I first explored around the Southwestern Research Station which is run by the AMNH in New York, and were able to add the first **Cliff Chipmunks** of the trip there. As we drove up and down through the canyon we were also able to see plenty more **White-tailed Deer**, which are very common. We continued to drive down into Portal, where we walked through town past the post office to a backyard that I knew was often set up to attract birds. Sure enough there were plenty of birds there, as well as a **Rock Squirrel** lazily lounging in some shade. After waiting for a while, we also saw the **White-nosed Coati** that often shows up which I was hoping for. While we sat on the bench, the Coati came by right

next to us and started snacking on the jar of jam that the owners had left out, slurping it down no more than five feet from us. Afterwards we went back to camp and prepared ourselves for a long night headed to the Animas Valley in New Mexico.



Bobcat (*Lynx rufus*); Southwestern Research Station

Hidalgo County (New Mexico)



White-sided Jackrabbits (*Lepus callotis*); Hidalgo County NM

Admittedly this section should be included above under the New Mexico umbrella, but for the sake of keeping things in chronological order I'm going to leave it here. The drive out to the Animas valley is a long one, taking just under an hour when leaving from Herb Martyr Campground. We arrived at the start of the road just before dusk, and began down it with the light starting to fade. It was very dry in the valley as well, and as such we didn't see the levels of mammal activity that we were hoping for. Not far down the road we found our first **Black-tailed Jackrabbit**, which would become more and more common as we continued down the first section of road. As the light started to fade we spotted what looked to be a skunk disappearing off the side of the road, but we weren't able to get a definitive look at it to determine which species it might be before it vanished into the scrub. A ways farther down we also saw

a few **Mule Deer** that were walking by the road, at this point well after dark. We continued driving well down the road until, around 11pm and just before the large bend in the road on the way to Cloverdale, we found our first pair of **White-sided Jackrabbits**. It was really amazing to find such a great target, and this pair couldn't be more obvious or relaxed as they stood nearby and grazed. We continued along and found several more Jackrabbits within another 15+ minutes of driving - of the 3-4 others I saw, at least a couple of these were also White-sided. After a couple sightings, we decided to turn around and head back in the direction of Arizona, seeing what else we might find on the way back. We saw a **Desert Cottontail** along the road up, as well as a few Kangaroo Rats crossing the road. Stopping to inspect and count the toes on a couple of roadkills revealed that at least some of these were **Merriam's Kangaroo Rats**. There were several roadkills of cottontails and k-rats along the central and Northern parts of the road, undoubtedly due to the ever-present immigration vehicles roaming this area. We must've seen somewhere between 10 and 15 different cars pass us, and were stopped and questioned twice during our ordeal. The general numbers of rodents were lower than we hoped thanks to the dry weather, and the fact that my Dad was started to get tired of driving and stopping all the time, so we had to leave without spotting any of the Banner-tailed K-rats or the many other interesting rodent species that have a chance of popping up here.

Cave Creek Canyon (Portal) - Continued



Coue's White-tailed Deer (*Odocoileus virginianus couesi*); Cave Creek Canyon

We got back from Animas after 2am, which made it so we were both more than a little tired. The entrance road into Portal had a few more **Black-tailed Jackrabbits** along it, as well as a **Coyote** that looked as though it had just caught a meal. We also had good views of another **Gray Fox** walking along the rocky hillside next to the road as we drove towards Herb Martyr. We didn't see anything else on the way back, and quickly got to bed and slept in a bit considering how spent we were.



Gray Fox (*Urocyon cinereoargenteus*); Cave Creek Canyon

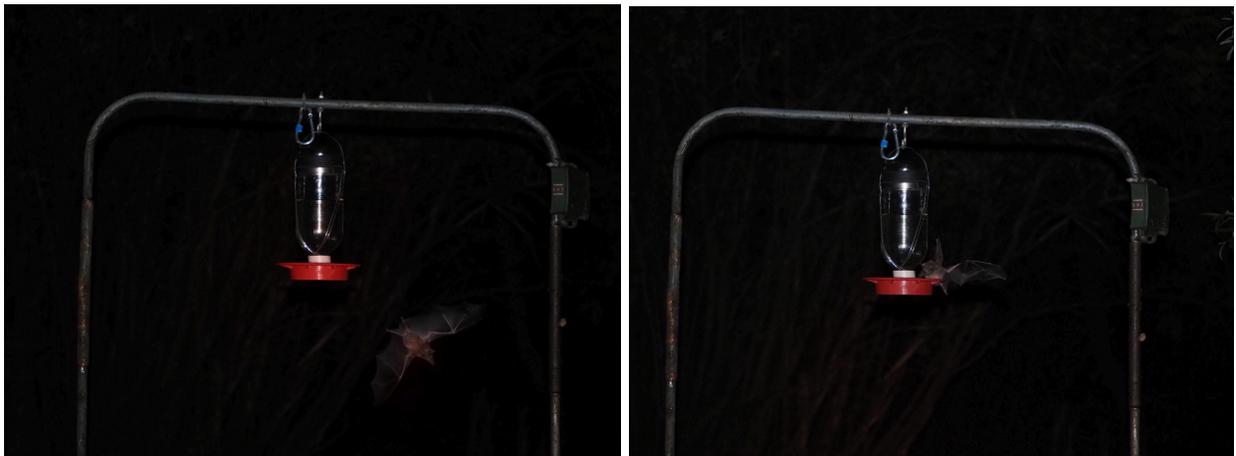
The next day was also spent exploring the Cave Creek area, and didn't end up producing that many new species. We visited the research station area to look for the local population of **Fulvous Pocket Gophers** (a recent split from Botta's) that I have seen here a few times in the past, but didn't see any gophers above ground. My Dad was itching to do some hiking after the long drive spotlighting the day before, so we walked up a trail to a viewpoint near Stewart Campground. We saw some **Cliff Chipmunks** along this trail, and I added some more walking along the road towards Sunny Flats Campground. Walking the road also produced some **White-tailed Deer** and a few **Rock Squirrels**, but not much else.

Still in the mood to hike some more, my Dad and I drove up to Rustler Park and spent the afternoon hiking a longer loop up there. We saw a few more **Rock Squirrels** in the campground area just as we were heading out, but not much else on the walk itself. There were several pocket gopher mounds at different points along the trail, but we weren't stopped long enough for me to try opening them up and getting some activity. It is possible that these mounds belong to a **Southern Pocket Gopher** colony, as they are at high elevation in the right type of habitat, but someone would need to go back to confirm.



Striped Skunk (*Mephitis mephitis*); Southwestern Research Station

That night, which was our last night in the area, I spent the period right before and leading into dusk at the Southwestern Research Stations looking for Bat activity both in the open field and around the hummingbird feeders. Starting a little while before darkness there were a number of individuals flying around over our heads, and I started running my bat detector to see what I could get recorded. This turned up **Big Brown Bats**, **Silver-haired Bats**, **Canyon Bats**, **Brazilian Free-tailed Bats**, and **California Myotis**. Big Brown and Canyon Bats were both especially commonly recorded, and after looking at their flights and talking to some bat researchers who were also out recording calls I feel confident in recording both of these two at least as legitimate occurrences. After darkness began to set in I moved over to the hummingbird feeders where activity was starting to pick up. A number of bats were visiting the feeders, and the images I got of most of them confirmed that these were **Mexican Long-tongued Bats**. After a little while of waiting, I was able to get a few images of at least one individual that I could confirm as a **Lesser Long-nosed Bat** as well. Some activity from behind the feeders after dark turned out to be a **Striped Skunk** that was following along the creekbed. After watching the bats a little longer I dropped my Dad off back at the campground and drove back down towards Portal and back. I saw a few more **Gray Foxes** on the way, as well as a **Javelina/Collared Peccary**, but not much else.



Mexican Long-tongued Bat (*Choeronycteris mexicana*)(Left) and Lesser Long-nosed Bat (*Leptonycteris yerbabuenae*)(Right); Southwestern Research Station

The next morning we broke down camp and went to a couple more locations around the canyon on our way out. A walk in the forest behind the research station produced some **White-tailed Deer**, a few **Cliff Chipmunks**, and good views of a **Bobcat** that ran by us along one of the trails. We then went on to South Fork to try for **Mexican Fox Squirrel** which we had missed up to that point, and thankfully found one right next to the parking area. I also heard what I recognized as the call of an Elegant Trogon out in the forest, so we made a quick detour to get good views of a decent bird. From there, we left for our next destination, seeing a few more **Rock Squirrels** along the road.



Bobcat (*Lynx rufus*); Southwestern Research Station

Colossal Caves

Along the way to Madera Canyon, we made a quick detour to tour Colossal Caves and try to spot some **Townsend's Big-eared Bat** and **Cave Myotis** for our lists. The cave tour was interesting enough, and provided some interesting stories and cool views inside, but we ended up dipping on both species. Talking to our tour guide he said that he had seen lower numbers of bats all season, and apparently that a lot of the Townsend's that normally occupy the cave had travelled further than normal to Colorado this year to find cooler temperatures. I'm not sure how accurate this is, but at any rate he had not seen them all week, and we certainly did not see any bats on our visit.

Madera Canyon



Northern Raccoon (*Procyon lotor*); Madera Canyon

We got to Madera Canyon in the late afternoon, and quickly saw some more **White-tailed Deer** at the entrance to the canyon. We spent a while debating whether we wanted to stay at the local Santa Rita Lodge that has lots of feeders set out or stick to our plan to set up at the campground, but ended up choosing to camp after not being able to get in touch with the lodge anyway. We did see a **Rock Squirrel** coming up to drink at the water pool at the lodge while we waited. After we got camp set up and dinner made darkness was soon approaching, so I set out on a night drive to see what I might find. I first drove to the top of the canyon where **Pallid Bats** can sometimes be found roosting on the walls of the bathroom. I didn't see any up there, but I did find a **Black Bear** coming up from the drainage below the bridge when I drove back down. There was also a **Northern Raccoon** running around along the road near the campground.



Black Bear (*Ursus americanus*); Madera Canyon

I continued from there out of the canyon and into the scrub habitat to look for one of my main targets here, **Antelope Jackrabbit**. I decided to drive down Box Canyon road (a right out of the canyon) after seeing a number of records from iNat out in this direction, and see if I could find one. After driving a ways down this road - I had passed the large bend in it - I finally got eyes on a large Hare that ran across the road and stopped, giving me good views of it as it looked on. Initially I believed this to be an Antelope, as the leading edge of the ears appeared to be white in the way I would expect, but after reviewing the images there appeared to be too much black coming over and the other identifying features were not quite right either. So, it turned out that this individual was a **Black-tailed Jackrabbit**, and I continued my search. I drove in the direction back towards the canyon, seeing a **Gray Fox** along the way, and then decided to head from the canyon road back out towards the town of Continental to see if I may find one that way. Sure enough, as I was driving back from Continental, I saw an **Antelope Jackrabbit** on the far side of the road. I had just enough time to get a surefire view of the ears and other identification features before another car - the only other one I saw the entire night - came by and scared it off, just before I could get my camera ready. I was happy with the sighting, though, so headed back towards camp from there. I spotted a cottontail in a drainage as I entered the canyon, which could have been either a **Desert** or **Robust Cottontail**, but didn't see it well enough to confirm.



Black-tailed Jackrabbit (*Lepus californicus*); Madera Canyon

The next morning we drove up to the end of the canyon road to look for **Arizona Gray Squirrel** in the forests. We saw a **Gray Fox** along the road as we were coming out of the campground, and continued on until we reached the trailhead where the road ends. Within the first 100 meters or so we had eyes on the **Arizona Gray Squirrel** I was looking for, with another one running around just past it. Since my Dad wanted to do some walking we continued along the trail, and saw probably 5 or 6 different squirrels along the trail as we went. On the way back down the canyon we stopped briefly at the lodge's feeders, where we saw yet another gray squirrel coming up to drink at the water bath there, alongside a **Rock Squirrel**. We went from there to make lunch at the campground, where we had a **White-nosed Coati** come up and see what we were making, clearly doing its best work to try and grab a meal. We debated for a while moving on to our next location in Seligman early to try and have another night to search for Ferrets in that area, but decided against it to focus on what we might turn up in Madera still.



Arizona Gray Squirrel (*Sciurus arizonensis*); Madera Canyon

That evening we started out by driving back down into the Desert Scrub before dusk to see if we might get the pictures of an **Antelope Jackrabbit** that I had missed the night before. We saw a **White-tailed Deer** on the way out of the canyon, but no luck with any other Jackrabbit sightings. There was a **Desert Cottontail** just before we reached Continental, but not much else to be found. As darkness approached we headed back into the canyon and saw a **Gray Fox** and **Common Raccoon** on the drive up. We checked the bathrooms at the end of the road again for bats, and this time as I came around the backside I found a small mouse running along the wall. It gave good views as it tried to hide behind a pipe before running down onto the ground, and turned out to be a **Brush Mouse**. I was pretty excited with that find already, but as I rounded the corner I found a pair of roosting **Pallid Bats** next to the bathroom doors as well. Perhaps the most productive bathroom visit for mammalwatching I've ever had!



Brush Mouse (*Peromyscus boylii*) and Pallid Bats (*Antrozous pallidus*); Madera Canyon

I went back down towards the feeders from there, where I spent a while attempting to photograph the visiting bats at the hummingbird feeder. All of the individuals I could confirm appeared to be **Mexican Long-tongued Bats**, and the activity was far less than what I had seen previously in Cave Creek Canyon. I continued to drive through the canyon for a few more hours, seeing several **Common Raccoons**, **Gray Foxes**, and a *Mephitis* skunk that I was unable to ID further as it ran through one of the picnic areas, but nothing else of note.

Tucson



Desert Cottontail (*Sylvilagus audubonii*); Sweetwater Wetlands

The next morning we left Madera and made a quick stop to Sweetwater Wetlands in Tucson to try and add **Arizona Cotton Rat** to our list. I've seen this species before, so it wasn't a huge priority, but since it was already on the way I figured we'd give it a go. We did have a late start to getting out of camp, and so arrived a little later in the day than I'd wanted to - and apparently too late for the Cotton Rats. In about an hour of walking around we saw zero rats, instead being graced by the 10 or 15 different **Desert Cottontails** that were constantly present throughout. I also saw a **Rock Squirrel** in the reserve, and there was a colony of **Round-tailed Ground Squirrels** in an empty lot just across the street from the parking lot.



Round-tailed Ground Squirrel (*Xerospermophilus tereticaudus*); Sweetwater Wetlands

Seligman



Barn Owl; Seligman, AZ

Our next stop was in Seligman, AZ, whose major claim to fame is that it sits along Old Route 66. The majority of the town seems to be built around this fact, and the little motel we stayed in was certainly a reminder as well. That wasn't why we were there, though - I had my eyes on spotlighting a **Black-footed Ferret** at a reintroduction zone just a few miles West of town. We started by driving up to this area and scoping it out, which produced several **Gunnison's Prairie Dogs** visible off the road in the large colonies up there. We came back to town for dinner at a local diner, and then I set out on my own to spotlight up and down for several hours in this area. I chose a tract of about 15-20 miles that looked like it had the best habitat for ferrets (and that had good turn-arounds available at either end), and just went back and forth spotlighting either direction for as long as I could. This turned up a few **Black-tailed Jackrabbits**, lots of **Desert Cottontails**, several **Mule Deer**, what might have been a **Coyote**, and a **Merriam's Kangaroo Rat** (which is the only species in range here). After several hours of hunting though, I eventually had to give up my Ferret hunt, and relegate myself to trying again another day.

Flagstaff



Abert's Squirrel (*Sciurus aberti*); Flagstaff Arboretum

The next morning we backtracked a bit towards Flagstaff to try at the arboretum there for **Gray-collared Chipmunks**. The Flagstaff Arboretum sits in a Ponderosa Pine forest at higher elevation than a lot of its surroundings, and included a nice network of trails through this habitat to go along with the typical arboretum exhibits as well. As we took the road up we found our first **Common**

Golden-mantled Ground Squirrels along the road, and ended up seeing several more along the arboretum trails as well. We walked the longer outer-loop trail here first, which in addition to ground squirrels produced a few **Abert's Squirrels** as well - at least 3 or 4 were seen in walking this loop once. I hadn't seen the Chipmunks we were trying for though, so I continued along the Inner Loop trail as well to see how I might fair. No luck there either, so we headed back towards the cars, where what should appear right next to the parking lot but a **Gray-collared Chipmunk!** We actually saw a pair appear here, and I got great views of one to help confirm the ID.



Gray-collared Chipmunk (*Neotamias cinereicollis*); Flagstaff Arboretum

Lake Havasu

Our next stop was in Lake Havasu, where we visited just to spend time with some family who live here most of the year. The only mammals that we saw were more **Desert Cottontails** in their yard (if you can call it a yard in this habitat), which were incredibly common all around. I had originally planned to drive south from here along the Arizona-California border to look for **California Leaf-nosed Bat** and some other local bat/rodent species, but considering I would need to drive down and back during my stay and that it had been so hot out recently I decided to abandon this plan and stay in Lake Havasu for both nights.

California

Joshua Tree National Park



Chuckwalla; Joshua Tree NP

The next day was the first of June, and as such I had to buy a new National Parks pass since my last one expired with the last day of May. I found this out as we pulled into Joshua Tree NP that morning, where I had hopes for finding **California Chipmunk**, the only Chipmunk species in the park. The best place to look for them seemed to be along the Barker Dam nature trail towards the north end of the park, so we drove straight there to give them a search. As soon as we had walked up to the rocks I found our first **California Ground Squirrel** of the trip, which was poking its head up from a burrow. Another was just above me, peering down from some rocks. My Dad said he had another squirrel of some kind a little farther down, but I largely ignored him to stick with taking photos of the one I already had. That was until he mentioned that his had a stripe along the side. I assumed he had found an Antelope Squirrel, so I went over to get a closer look. As I followed it into the bushes, though, I saw what was very clearly a Chipmunk - and therefore a **California Chipmunk** - that quickly! I was overjoyed, even as it ran off before I could get a picture of it. We ended up hiking the entire loop trail to see if we could get eyes on another, but no such luck. After walking the trail, as we headed out of the park, we quickly pulled into nearby Hidden Valley Campground where we had good views of multiple **White-tailed Antelope Squirrels** sitting on top of the rocks.



White-tailed Antelope Squirrel (*Ammospermophilus leucurus*); Joshua Tree NP

San Diego Pelagic



Humpback Whale (*Megaptera novaeangliae*); Pacific Ocean off San Diego

Our next stop was in San Diego, where I had a pelagic trip lined up the next day. Upon arrival we saw a few **Desert Cottontails** outside the hotel, but didn't do anything else that night. We had an early morning the next day as I had signed up for the all-day extended Blue Whale tour with Gone Whale Watching, which seems to have the best reputation and reliability in the area for finding **Blue Whales**, our main target here. Early June is a good time of year to be looking for this species, as they tend to come in towards the California coast from late May to mid July each year. This year was not quite as reliable as past ones have been, unfortunately, and the guides told us they had seen the lowest levels of Blues in any

year since they had started their focused operations in the mid 2010s. They had seen the same mother and young pair the past few days though, so we were still optimistic as we headed out.



California Sea Lion (*Zalophus californianus*); San Diego Harbor

The first mammals we saw were many **California Sea Lions** lounging on the harbor walls and swimming nearby as we pulled out towards the open ocean. From there, it took awhile to get out into waters where some more species might be, but once we did we found huge pods of **Eastern Pacific Long-beaked Common Dolphins**. We likely saw over 1,000 individuals in a few separate pods, and they were very easy to come across in the open waters. We also saw a number of **Humpback Whales** and some more **California Sea Lions** interspersed with the dolphins. At some point in between the large Common Dolphin pods we came across a smaller dolphin pod that turned out to be **Common Bottlenose Dolphins**, which are a little less common to see in these waters. Later on in the day, as we were nearing the end of the trip, we were able to get great views of a **Fin Whale** as well, which was a welcome addition. We headed back without the Blue Whales we hoped for, but were pretty happy with all that we were able to come across. Gone Whale Watching also has a system where if you book one of their extended Blue Whale searches and do not see a Blue Whale, you get to return on another boat free up until you do successfully see one, which is a pretty nice deal. So I will absolutely intend to return and track one down!



Eastern Pacific Long-beaked Common Dolphin (*Delphinus (delphis) bairdii*); Pacific Ocean off San Diego

As we returned to the harbor I saw a number more **California Sea Lions**, as well as a **California Ground Squirrel** in a neighboring park - probably the first time I've seen this species from a boat. Later that evening we saw more **Desert Cottontails** at the airport hotel where we were staying, and a **Black Rat** as we walked along the water back from dinner. I had originally planned to spend this night driving out to the Anzo-Borrogo area to look for some interesting rodent species and other targets, but it seemed like too much to do after the long day on the boat, so we scrapped this idea. The next morning my Dad flew back home early, and I was left to my own devices for the remainder of the trip.



Fin Whale (*Balaenoptera physalus*); Pacific Ocean off San Diego

LA County (Angeles National Forest)



Merriam's Chipmunk (*Neotamias merriami*); Chilao Visitor Center

My first stop the next day was at Chilao Visitor Center in the mountains of Angeles National Forest above LA, where I had a couple of sciurid targets to search for. The first was **Merriam's Chipmunk**, which I ended up finding pretty quickly around the visitor's center itself. I probably saw 4 or 5 individuals in one lap around the building, as well as a few **California Ground Squirrels** near the deck. Back over at the parking area, there were a pair of **Western Gray Squirrels** - my other target here - that were engaging in some indecent behaviour while running up and down a tree. Having hit on both targets, I drove a quick lap through the campground area (where I saw a few more Chipmunks), and then continued along my way.



Western Gray Squirrel (*Sciurus griseus*); Chilao Visitor Center

Carrizo Plains National Monument

The next stop was Carrizo Plains National Monument, where I arrived in the mid-afternoon. I drove around a bit just to get acquainted with the area, but since all of my targets were largely nocturnal, this didn't amount to much. I decided to set up camp at KCL campground since it was centrally located right next to the main road, and ended up being the only one spending the night there, which was peaceful. My plan was to drive from my campground on the main Soda Lake Rd across the hills that run through the park via Panorama Rd, and then drive south along Elkhorn Rd through the washes on this side where **San Joaquin Kangaroo Rat** can be found. As soon as I began the drive I quickly came across several **Giant Kangaroo Rats** along the Soda Lake Rd between KCL Campground and the Panorama Rd turnoff. This species lives in large colonies called 'precincts', which can make up a number of individuals. As I found, they also give off a very strong eyeshine, and are pretty easy to identify due to their much larger size and different head shape compared to other Kangaroo Rats. Through the course of the night I probably spotted close to 100 individuals of this species, most commonly on Panorama Rd on the Salt Lake side, but also along Elkhorn at times. They were often far from the road and skittish in light, which made them difficult to photograph, but easy to get eyes on.



Giant Kangaroo Rat (*Dipodomys ingens*); Carrizo Plains NM - Notice the amount of eyeshine in one precinct!

Near the top of the hill on Panorama Rd I saw a smaller Kangaroo Rat run across the road and into the grass on the side of the road. Based on the location of this smaller species up on the hill, I believe that it should be a **Heermann's Kangaroo Rat**. I saw a few other individuals of this species in the same area, which were clearly different from the Giant K-rats at a glance. I also found a few **Black-tailed Jackrabbits** in this area. As I neared the Elkhorn Rd intersection, I noticed a car behind me, which turned out to be a Fish and Wildlife Trooper. He pulled me over and checked all my information, and apparently was checking that I wasn't poaching for any snakes or other herpetofauna in the area, which seems to be a big issue in the park. After running my driver's license, getting my car for snake traps, and giving me a strange look when I told him I was actually looking for Kangaroo Rats, he seemed to decide I wasn't a threat and sent me on my way.



Black-tailed Jackrabbit (*Lepus californicus*); Carrizo Plains NM

Upon arriving at Elkhorn Rd I drove South and quickly found myself passing through several washes, where the San Joaquin K-rats are said to frequent. After a little bit of driving, I started to spot some smaller Kangaroo Rats in these areas, and after getting good looks at a few individuals, confirmed that these were in fact the **San Joaquin Kangaroo Rats** I was looking for. There were several coming in and out of burrows along the road, as well as a few a little farther along the washes that I was able to get good views of. They posed well for pictures too, which helped. I drove for probably about half an hour down the road, and after I was satisfied with the views I'd gotten, decided to turn back and head towards the campground. I probably recorded between 10-15 of the San Joaquin K-rats, all along Elkhorn Rd, in total.



San Joaquin Kangaroo Rat (*Dipodomys nitratoides*); Carrizo Plains NM

As I started to make the cross back over Panorama Rd, I began to see a few other species towards the top of the hill. In addition to some more **Black-tailed Jackrabbits** and **Heermann's Kangaroo Rats**, I also spotted my first **Desert Cottontail** of the night and my lifer **Kit Fox** - another key target here - which was a little ways off the road. I continued from there to the campground, seeing plenty more **Giant Kangaroo Rats**, and another **Kit Fox** along Soda Lake Rd that gave even better views. By this point it was very late into the night, and I was more than happy with the species I had already found, so I decided it was time to get back to camp and turn in.



Kit Fox (*Vulpes macrotis*); Carrizo Plains NM

The next morning I took my time in getting up - at least as long as the heat of the sun on my tent let me - and packed up to head further out to the desert. I spent a little more time around the Carrizo Plains area first though, seeing a few **Nelson's Antelope Squirrels** on the drive from KCL to the visitor's center. I walked the boardwalk that runs along the actual Soda Lake as well, which was very cool, and

saw a couple of **California Ground Squirrels** in this area. That was my last stop, and last species, in this area, so I continued along towards California City. I saw a couple more Antelope Squirrels along the roads there, which looked to be Nelson's based on the range I saw them at.



Nelson's Antelope Squirrel (*Ammospermophilus nelsoni*); Carrizo Plains NM

California City Area



White-tailed Antelope Squirrel (*Ammospermophilus leucurus*); Red Rock Canyon SP

I arrived in the desert around California City around midday and started exploring the local area. I had talked to Venkat about an area near here to look for **Mojave Ground Squirrel**, which was my main target, alongside a few other species that I was planning to spotlight for that night. I started by driving around the Ground Squirrel area, more scoping out routes than actually looking considering the time of day, but I did see some **White-tailed Antelope Squirrels** here. After looking through the area I needed to find a place to camp for the night, and found Ricardo Campground that was a part of Red Rock Canyon State Park, and had loads of space. In setting up camp I saw some more **White-tailed Antelope Squirrels** and a **Desert Cottontail**, and then relaxed until it was nearing dark.

My first area I went to spotlight was along Cameron Canyon Rd, a little ways back along the highway toward Tehuachapi. There are a few rodent targets here that I was hoping to find, and so I drove the road down to where it dead ends, and then back up. Right as darkness was setting in I saw a brief view of a **Bobcat** which ran up the hill right where the Pacific Crest Trail meets the road. Unfortunately though, nothing more showed up on my drive, and so I decided to walk along the PCT a bit to see if anything would turn up that way. This only produced a **Desert Cottontail**, and so I turned back after nearing the top of the hill. Upon reaching the bottom I found a PCT hiker who claimed she had run into a Bear a little ways up the road, and wanted a ride from me past it to be safe. We drove along a bit, but once we got to the point where she saw the bear, found that she had instead seen a group of Cows that were wandering along the road. I dropped her off on the other side, and decided to move on to my next destination.



Desert Cottontail (*Sylvilagus audubonii*); Red Rock Canyon SP

Next up I went to spotlight along Neuralia Rd north of California City. This proved more productive, as I saw several Kangaroo Rats between California City and the Rt-14 junction. Unfortunately, all of these K-rats proved to be very skittish, and so I wasn't able to get a good enough view of any of them to confirm whether they were Panamint or Merriam's Kangaroo Rats. I did also see a

Black-tailed Jackrabbit here, but nothing much else. Once I reached the top of the road I headed back to my campground and turned in for the night.



Mojave Ground Squirrel (*Xerospermophilus mohavensis*); near California City

The next morning I slept in a bit later than intended after a late night, and missed what had been my best window to search for the ground squirrels. Still determined though, I quickly got myself together and headed out for the Ground Squirrel spot to try my luck. Within about 10 minutes of driving through the area I saw a squirrel run across the road - an Antelope Squirrel I thought, but hold on, why wasn't there a stripe on its side? I stopped and got a better look and a few pictures, and it turned out to be the **Mojave Ground Squirrel** that I had been hoping for! That quick! Reinvigorated by the great sighting I drove a little more to see if I might turn any others up for some better pictures, but all I found were some **White-tailed Antelope Squirrels** and a daytime **Black-tailed Jackrabbit** on a far hillside. Happy with my sightings, I packed up and headed out for Yosemite National Park.



Black-tailed Jackrabbit (*Lepus californicus*); near California City

Yosemite National Park & Surroundings



Mule Deer (*Odocoileus hemionus*); Sagehen Meadows

I showed up near Yosemite, welcomed by rainstorms in the mid-afternoon. During a break in the downpour I came to where I was planning on camping, at Sagehen Meadows Campground up in the hills East of the park. I saw **Mule Deer** along the entrance road, and as I stopped at the campground, I walked along one of the trails for a bit and saw many **Least Chipmunks** and some very vibrantly colored **Golden-mantled Ground Squirrels**. I had seen a few other Chipmunks along Rt-120 coming in from Benton, which could have been a number of other species as well, but I couldn't tell. In the end, considering the amount of rain coming down, I chose to bail on the campground and found a hotel in Lee Vining to stay at for my time at the park. The rain also put an end to my spotlighting plans locally that night, so I stayed in instead.



Golden-mantled Ground Squirrel (*Callospermophilus lateralis*); Sagehen Meadows

The next morning I woke up early to try Venkat's **Pygmy Rabbit** spot at daybreak, and see what I could spot there. Unfortunately I timed my drive there a little incorrectly, and so I arrived a bit after sunrise, and didn't find success with the rabbits even after a while of waiting. I continued a little farther East along Benton Crossing Rd to see if I could find **Panamint Chipmunk** out where Venkat had reported them in the past, and was able to quickly find several Chipmunks along a small pull off road. In situ I believed that these were at least a few Panamints, but upon review it turned out that there were simply some variable **Least Chipmunks** all around. I also found some **Golden-mantled Ground Squirrels** and **California Ground Squirrels** here, but unfortunately turned around too fast after believing I had hit on my target species.



View of Yosemite from near Lake Crowley

I headed on to Crestview Rest Area, which is absolutely teeming with sciurids of so many species. The most obvious ones were Chipmunks, and I saw at least three species here. **Lodgepole Chipmunk** seemed to be the most common, and I saw likely 10-15 individuals while standing just in the picnic area immediately next to the parking lot. **Yellow-pine Chipmunks** were also common here, and I saw somewhere in the neighborhood of 5-10 while I looked around. A few of the individuals I saw were also, I believe, some more **Least Chipmunks**, but the first two species were by far the most common of the group. There were also a number of **Golden-mantled Ground Squirrels** here, and my first **Douglas's Squirrel** that was running up and down one of the trees. After getting this nice group of species I headed towards the National Park, making a quick stop along the way in June Lake where I got good views of **Belding's Ground Squirrel** in a park right by the shore of Gull Lake, and in Lee Vining where there were **California Ground Squirrels** in town.



Lodgepole Chipmunk (*Neotamias speciosus*)(Left) and Yellow-pine Chipmunk (*Neotamias amoenus*)(Right); Crestview Rest Area

Inside the park my plan was to hike around Saddlebag Lake to look for **Alpine Chipmunk**, **American Pika**, and a few other species. On the drive up, right after turning onto Saddlebag Lake Rd, I saw a soaking wet **Yellow-bellied Marmot** run up out of Lee Vining Creek and across the road. Unclear what made the marmot choose to go for a swim, but it was cool to see! Upon arriving at the trailhead I discovered that much of the lake area was still covered with snow. Not a surprise, as Venkat told me that I was likely a little too early for the Alpine Chipmunks, but I decided it would be a nice walk anyway. This, as it turns out, was decidedly the wrong decision. Without snowshoes or skis this walk turned out to be extremely difficult, as it quickly turned from rocky steppe to deep snow that I had to trudge through for several miles. I saw several more **Belding's Ground Squirrels** while walking, including along the dam right at the start of the trail, and more **Yellow-bellied Marmots** on the opposite end of the lake where the creeks feed into it. When I reached about this point was when the rain started up again, and my already soaked clothes from the snow began to get worse and worse. I hurried along the trail through the forest, which gave me a brief respite from the snow and rain before it opened back to snow fields again, and eventually after many hours managed to complete the loop and return to my car. Exhausted, soaking wet, and lacking on my major targets here, I elected to head back to my hotel and relax the rest of the day.



Soaking wet Yellow-bellied Marmot (*Marmota flaviventris*); Saddlebag Lake

The next morning was my last in Yosemite, and I drove through to the West side of the park. This morning I was looking primarily for **Long-eared Chipmunk** at Crane Flat Lookout, a stop along the way of my drive towards the Bay Area. The first mammal of the day was a **Mule Deer** along the park road. I kept my eyes peeled for anything else along this route, but didn't see any other species show up - though I think I heard a **Douglas's Squirrel** calling at some point in the trees. Once I got to Crane Flat, I spent my time walking from the parking area to the fire lookout - which has amazing views of the park - and keeping my eyes out for chipmunks. I saw a couple along the trail just before the top, but only very fleeting glimpses. Although Long-eared are the most likely species up here, I was unable to rule out any of the others. I spent a while continuing to search, eventually spotting a **California Ground Squirrel** in the parking area, but no better views of the chipmunks. Driving back down the road, though, I finally got onto a pair of Chipmunks running between logs that turned out to be the **Long-eared Chipmunks** that I had been hunting for. I saw another **California Ground Squirrel** here too, and was more than happy with my sightings.



Long-eared Chipmunk (*Neotamias quadrimaculatus*); Yosemite NP

Farallon Islands



Harbor Seals (*Phoca vitulina*); near San Francisco Harbor

I stayed that night with family in Redwood City, which gave me a nice break from mammalwatching for a change and set me up for my pelagic trip to the Farallon Islands out of San Francisco harbor with the Oceanic Society the next morning. On the way there I saw an introduced **Eastern Gray Squirrel** in Redwood City, and then waited for the group at the harbor. The Oceanic Society ran a very quality (if a little pricey) outing, which included some very knowledgeable naturalists and a well put-together boat. Sightings were very good too, and we saw a number of the mammals I was hoping for (alongside some cool birds). Our first spot was some **Harbor Porpoises** as we went under the Golden Gate Bridge, which were much easier to see than they were to photograph. I saw a few other Harbor Porpoises farther out as we went to the islands, but still wasn't able to get pictures. Next, the ship stopped by a spot along the shore where **Harbor Seals** like to haul out. There were likely north of 20 individuals sitting here on the rocks, the only ones we would see that day. Soon after we saw our first **Humpback Whale** close to the shoreline towards Point Reyes, and saw 3 or 4 along our way to the islands. We also stopped at a buoy along the way that had several **California Sea Lions** hanging out on it.



Humpback Whale (*Megaptera novaeangliae*); Pacific Ocean off San Francisco

Once we got to the islands it was absolutely teeming with wildlife, especially the huge amounts of birds roosting there. We spent a while identifying them for all of the birders on board, as well as seeing the loads of **California Sea Lions** all over. We saw a few **Grey Whales** here too, which are resident off the islands year-round. Next up were some **Steller Sea Lions**, both in the water and hauled out on the rocks, as well as two groups of **Northern Elephant Seals** on sandy beaches. Finally, after a little more bird searching, we reached the one large rock that the colony of **Northern Fur Seals** roosts on and got to see good looks at them. They were mostly mixed in with **California Sea Lions** - as most species were - but still clear to see. Up to five pinnipeds on the day, we left the islands headed for the deeper waters where the shelf drops off.



Steller Sea Lion (*Eumetopias jubatus*)(Bottom-right) with California Sea Lions (*Zalophus californianus*); Farallon Islands

Out on the shelf we were greeted by several more **Humpback Whales** - consistently seeing them blow off in the distance - as well as several Albatross that got the birders quite excited. We also got to see a small group of **Dall's Porpoise** right along the shelf, with great views as they were bow-riding the ship for a few minutes. While following along with the whales and birds we also eventually came across a pod of about 200 **Pacific White-sided Dolphin**, which served to be our last new mammals of the day. Five cetaceans and five pinnipeds on a pelagic - not too shabby!



Northern Fur Seals (*Callorhinus ursinus*) and California Sea Lions (*Zalophus californianus*); Farallon Islands

Point Reyes National Seashore



Mule Deer (*Odocoileus hemionus*); Point Reyes NSS

After getting back from the boat I headed up to Point Reyes where I planned to stay the night and see what else I might track down. I drove through the main part of the park along Sir Frances Drake Blvd all the way down to Chimney Rock trailhead, where I saw some **Mule Deer** in the fields. I also went down to the Elephant Seal overlook where I saw, would you believe, **Northern Elephant Seals**. I waited around on the point until dark and then drove through more of the roads to see what might turn up, but didn't find much else. I ended up sleeping in a spot I found near the park, and got ready for my last couple targets the next morning. My first stop was to return to Chimney Rock, where I saw the **Northern Elephant Seals** again, more **Mule Deer**, and a **Harbor Seal** out in the water. As I drove back I saw something small run across the road far in front of me which I didn't get a good look at, but could have been a weasel of some kind. I also saw a **Brush Rabbit** on the side of the road in the early morning, and another one later on the way back. I was surprised to not see any Coyotes or Bobcats during my time in the park, but also wasn't spending much time looking for them.



Northern Elephant Seals (*Mirounga angustirostris*); Point Reyes NSS

By now it was nearing mid-morning, and headed towards Five Brooks to try for **Sonoma Chipmunks**. Upon arrival I walked the trail around the pond and through the ranch, but managed to miss on to target Chipmunks during this walk. They are supposedly pretty common here, and are around throughout the park, but I managed to miss this time around. There was still a long drive ahead for me, so I ended up leaving without getting a view of anything.

UC Davis



Douglas' Ground Squirrel (*Otospermophilus variegatus*); UC Davis Arboretum

As I began my long drive back towards Colorado I had one last stop along my route, at UC Davis's campus near Sacramento. I stopped here to walk through their arboretum on the Southern part of campus, which was a nice walk. It also gave me pretty easy views of **Douglas's Ground Squirrel**, which were on many of the lawns and gardens (and along the paths) within the arboretum. In many of the trees, I also saw introduced **Eastern Fox Squirrels**, nearly rounding out all of the North American tree squirrels for my trip!



Eastern Fox Squirrel (*Sciurus niger*); UC Davis Arboretum

Conclusion

After finishing off with my target locations I made a bee-line back to Colorado, driving from Sacramento through to Salt Lake City and then back to Colorado Springs via Wyoming. Along this route I saw **Pronghorn** and **White-tailed Prairie Dog** on the side of the road in Wyoming, and **Black-tailed Prairie Dog** in Colorado. All in all, I was pretty happy with my trip and the long list of species I put together by visiting so many sites. Even still, there were lots of species I looked for and missed, or had the potential to see but didn't. With the amount of sites I went to I fear the list of things I missed may be too long to write, but anything that I specifically targeted and didn't track down should be listed somewhere above in the specific site notes.

Acknowledgements

There were so many people who helped me have a successful trip and contribute to the success I found, and who I have to thank. First of all I have to thank my Dad, who drove me for so much of it and helped organize lots of the logistics. I also have to thank Venkat Sankar for giving me advice on specific targets, and for writing so many incredibly useful reports (including his mega California big-year and his Cave Creek Canyon ones) that gave me loads of information. I also have to thank Jose Gabriel Martinez and Jon Swenson for their very useful Southern Arizona report, and Jon Hall for his many accounts of so many of the places I decided to go to. Additionally, thanks to all those who have put their mammal records up on iNaturalist, which has been so very useful for helping to find reliable locations to look for many of these species!

Species List

* = Bat detector only (included on trip list for reporting purposes but not on life list)

** = Introduced species (not included on life list)

79 species, 34 lifers in bold

1. **Antelope Jackrabbit (*Lepus alleni*)**
2. Black-tailed Jackrabbit (*Lepus californicus*)
3. **White-sided Jackrabbit (*Lepus callotis*) - VU**
4. Desert Cottontail (*Sylvilagus audubonii*)
5. Brush Rabbit (*Sylvilagus bachmani*)
6. Mountain Cottontail (*Sylvilagus nuttallii*)
7. Abert's Squirrel (*Sciurus aberti*)
8. **Arizona Gray Squirrel (*Sciurus arizonensis*) - DD**
9. **Eastern Fox Squirrel (*Sciurus bryanti*) - IN
10. **Eastern Gray Squirrel (*Sciurus carolinensis*) - IN
11. **Western Gray Squirrel (*Sciurus griseus*)**
12. Mexican Fox Squirrel (*Sciurus nayaritensis*)
13. **Douglas's Squirrel (*Tamiasciurus douglasii*)**
14. **Fremont's Squirrel (*Tamiasciurus fremonti*) - NE**
15. **White-tailed Antelope Squirrel (*Ammospermophilus leucurus*)**
16. Nelson's Antelope Squirrel (*Ammospermophilus nelsoni*) - EN
17. Common Golden-mantled Ground Squirrel (*Callospermophilus lateralis*)
18. Gunnison's Prairie Dog (*Cynomys gunnisoni*)
19. White-tailed Prairie Dog (*Cynomys leucurus*)
20. Black-tailed Prairie Dog (*Cynomys ludovicianus*)
21. **Rio Grande Ground Squirrel (*Ictidomys parvidens*) - NE**
22. Yellow-bellied Marmot (*Marmota flaviventris*)
23. California Ground Squirrel (*Otospermophilus beecheyi*)
24. **Douglas's Ground Squirrel (*Otospermophilus douglasii*) - NE**
25. Common Rock Squirrel (*Otospermophilus variegatus*)
26. **Belding's Ground Squirrel (*Urocitellus beldingi*)**
27. **Mohave Ground Squirrel (*Xerospermophilus mohavensis*)**
28. Round-tailed Ground Squirrel (*Xerospermophilus tereticaudus*)
29. **Yellow-pine Chipmunk (*Neotamias amoenus*)**
30. **Gray-footed Chipmunk (*Neotamias canipes*)**
31. **Gray-collared Chipmunk (*Neotamias cinereicollis*)**
32. Cliff Chipmunk (*Neotamias dorsalis*)
33. **Merriam's Chipmunk (*Neotamias merriami*)**
34. Least Chipmunk (*Neotamias minimus*)
35. **California Chipmunk (*Neotamias obscurus*)**
36. **Long-eared Chipmunk (*Neotamias quadrimaculatus*)**
37. **Lodgepole Chipmunk (*Neotamias speciosus*)**

38. **Heermann's Kangaroo Rat (*Dipodomys heermanni*)**
39. **Giant Kangaroo Rat (*Dipodomys ingens*) - EN**
40. **Merriam's Kangaroo Rat (*Dipodomys merriami*)**
41. **San Joaquin Kangaroo Rat (*Dipodomys nitratoides*) - VU**
42. **Brush Deer mouse (*Peromyscus boylii*)**
43. ****Black Rat (*Rattus rattus*) - IN**
44. **Mexican Long-tongued Bat (*Choeronycteris mexicana*)**
45. **Lesser Long-nosed Bat (*Leptonycteris yerbabuenae*)**
46. Brazilian Free-tailed Bat (*Tadarida brasiliensis*)
47. *California Myotis (*Myotis californicus*)
48. *Cave Myotis (*Myotis velifer*)
49. **Pallid Bat (*Antrozous pallidus*)**
50. *Northern Hoary Bat (*Lasiurus cinereus*)
51. **Big Brown Bat (*Eptesicus fuscus*)**
52. **Canyon Bat (*Parastrellus hesperus*)**
53. *Silver-haired Bat (*Lasionycteris noctivagans*)
54. Striped Skunk (*Mephitis mephitis*)
55. White-nosed Coati (*Nasua narica*)
56. Northern Raccoon (*Procyon lotor*)
57. **Northern Fur Seal (*Callorhinus ursinus*) - VU**
58. Steller Sea Lion (*Eumetopias jubatus*)
59. California Sea Lion (*Zalophus californianus*)
60. Northern Elephant Seal (*Mirounga angustirostris*)
61. Harbor Seal (*Phoca vitulina*)
62. American Black Bear (*Ursus americanus*)
63. Coyote (*Canis latrans*)
64. **Northern Gray Fox (*Urocyon cinereoargenteus*)**
65. **Kit Fox (*Vulpes macrotis*)**
66. Bobcat (*Lynx rufus*)
67. Pronghorn (*Antilocapra americana*)
68. Mule Deer (*Odocoileus hemionus*)
69. White-tailed Deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*)
70. Wapiti (*Cervus canadensis*)
71. Collared Peccary (*Dicotyles tajacu*)
72. **Fin Whale (*Balaenoptera physalus*) - VU**
73. Gray Whale (*Eschrichtius robustus*)
74. Humpback Whale (*Megaptera novaeangliae*)
75. **Eastern Pacific Long-beaked Common Dolphin (*Delphinus bairdii*) - NE**
76. Common Bottlenose Dolphin (*Tursiops truncatus*)
77. Pacific White-sided Dolphin (*Sagmatias obliquidens*)
78. **Harbor Porpoise (*Phocoena phocoena*)**
79. Dall's Porpoise (*Phocoenoides dalli*)