

14 hours at Carrizo Plain NM- 6:00 pm June to 8:00 am June 12th 2019

When I first arrived at the southern entrance I had no trouble seeing S.J. antelope squirrels, Black Tailed Jackrabbits, California Ground Squirrels, and Tule Elk.



After cruising and keeping an eye open for various things I made it to the visitor center and Sunset and waited for it to get dark. Within 20 minutes of darkness, there were Giant K-rats everywhere. At one point located near the gate to the petroglyphs, I stood in a field, turned all the way around and must have saw ten. There was a S.J. Kit fox around too but difficult to photograph. The Giant K-rats were difficult to get close enough to at first but they slowly started getting used to me(although maybe not the one that tried to stuff itself into a tiny burrow). I should note there were also several cottontails near the visitor center too.



After seeing quite a few Giant K-rats and struggling to keep up with the foxes I headed out to walk around near the Soda Lake Boardwalk. On the way there I ran across this mouse, which I am guessing is a San Joaquin Pocket Mouse, although I am not good at identifying and I am color blind.



I also saw a cool tarantula near where the mouse was and walking along the edge of the lake I saw another kit fox. After this I drove to 7 mile road and found several K-rats including this one.



After that I decided to drive on Elkhorn road for a little while and it ended up being pretty productive for pocket mice and K-rats. I saw this little mouse, which I am guessing is a Little Pocket Mouse.



I came across several K-rats including this one which I am guessing is a Heermans.



I came across another mouse(still on elkhorn rd. about 10 miles from 7 mile road





It was a pretty and active little mouse. After seeing this little guy and one more mouse I couldn't get a picture of, I headed back down Elkhorn to 7 miles back to Soda lake road and took it back to the KCL campground. On the way I saw some baby Tule Elk crossing the road and several Giant K-rats. I checked the old historical building for Bats but couldn't find any. There were lots of Giant K-rats around the campground and I kept seeing them until about 20 minutes after first light. Also present at the campground were desert cottontail, a red tailed hawk, a great horned owl, and a young gopher snake in the bathroom. After dusk I started heading towards the southern entrance slowly looking for anything promising. I found several jackrabbits and Antelope Squirrels.



Once I was getting close to the Southern entrance (maybe about 10 miles away) I saw a pair of young kit foxes waiting outside there burrow in full daylight. I stayed behind the fence and snapped away and they were very not worried about me.



When I was about 5 miles from the southern entrance I saw one more kit fox resting outside its burrow. I always wanted to see them like this, very cool!



Overall it seems like a good year for K-rats, pocket mice, and Foxes. I was hoping to maybe spot a Badger with all the abundant prey but it was a good trip for me. I hope this will be useful for some of you.