

Fort Collins, Colorado, USA – April 2018

I was in Fort Collins for 2.5 days in April 2018 for a conference. The lack of personal transportation and the conference schedule limited my mammal-watching opportunities, but I did what I could. I was based at the Hilton just south of Colorado State University basically in the geographical center of the city, but luckily there is a good system of urban parks and greenways connected by trails. On my early morning walks along Spring Creek Trail I saw **Eastern Cottontail** (*Sylvilagus floridanus*), **North American Beaver** (*Castor canadensis*), **Eastern Fox Squirrel** (*Sciurus niger*), and **Red Fox** (*Vulpes vulpes*). I also did bat detecting at night using an Echometer Touch along Spring Creek upstream to a small pond on the creek. Over two nights I detected **Big Brown Bat** (*Eptesicus fuscus*), **Silver-haired Bat** (*Lasionycteris noctivagans*), and **Western Small-footed Myotis** (*Myotis ciliolabrum*) along with what the bat detector called Hoary Bat, but was a better match with **Brazilian Free-tailed Bat** (*Tadarida brasiliensis*). The conference ended in the early afternoon the last day, which enabled me to catch a bus out to the parks in the foothills on the western edge of town. In the grasslands in Maxwell Natural Area and Pineridge Natural Area were **Black-tailed Prairie Dog** (*Cynomys ludovicianus*) colonies. In with the prairie dogs were several **Desert Cottontail** (*Sylvilagus audubonii*). My last sighting of the evening was a herd of **Mule Deer** (*Odocoileus hemionus*) in a small valley near the top of the ridge in Maxwell Natural Area. I was likely too early for ground squirrels and chipmunks, if any are present in the localities I visited. Eleven species total, with five new for me.