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Title: A New Subspecies of Pocket Mouse from Kansas

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Release Date: January 19, 2010 [EBook #31020]

Language: English

Credits: Produced by Chris Curnow, Joseph Cooper, Diane Monico, and the Online Distributed Proofreading Team at <http://www.pgdp.net>

*** START OF THE PROJECT GUTENBERG EBOOK A NEW SUBSPECIES OF POCKET MOUSE
FROM KANSAS ***

UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS PUBLICATIONS
MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

Volume 7, No. 11, pp. 587-590
November 15, 1954

**A New Subspecies of Pocket Mouse
from Kansas**

BY
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UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS
LAWRENCE
1954

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Editors: E. Raymond Hall, Chairman, A. Byron Leonard, Robert W. Wilson

Volume 7, No. 11, pp. 587-590
Published November 15, 1954

UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS
Lawrence, Kansas

PRINTED BY
FERD VOILAND, JR., STATE PRINTER
TOPEKA, KANSAS
1954

A New Subspecies of Pocket Mouse from Kansas

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When preparing distribution maps for a revised list of the Mammals of Kansas it became apparent to me that pocket mice of the species *Perognathus flavescens* from south-central Kansas and adjoining parts of Oklahoma were without a subspecific name. The new subspecies is named and described below.

Perognathus flavescens cockrumi new subspecies

Holotype.—Female, subadult (P4 moderately worn), skin with skull, No. 13045, Univ. Kansas Mus. Nat. Hist.; 4-1/2 mi. NE Danville, Harper Co., Kansas; December 1, 1939; obtained by Sam Tihen; original No. 99 of J. A. Tihen.

Range.—South-central Kansas south at least into Dewey County, Oklahoma.

Diagnosis.—Size small; upper parts Ochraceous-Buff (capitalized color terms after Ridgway, Color Standards and Color Nomenclature, Washington, D. C., 1912) heavily suffused with black; postauricular patches and a band 8 mm wide on each side Ochraceous-Buff; subauricular spot, underparts, and forefeet white; hind feet slightly dusky; tail brownish above and white below. Skull small; tympanic bullae small; rostrum wide; skull indistinguishable from that of *P. f. flavescens* from the same latitude in western Kansas.

Comparisons.—*Perognathus flavescens cockrumi* averages approximately 12 per cent smaller in linear measurements than the more northern *Perognathus flavescens perniger* Osgood (from Knox, Stanton and Cumming counties, Nebraska) but color of upper parts is essentially the same. From the more western *Perognathus flavescens flavescens* Merriam (from Seward, Hamilton and Morton counties, Kansas), *cockrumi* differs in being darker in all parts of the pelage except on the underparts which are white in both subspecies; the parts of the hairs that are Ochraceous-Buff in *cockrumi* are Light Ochraceous-Buff in *flavescens*; the back of *cockrumi* is blackish instead of yellowish. From the more southern *Perognathus flavescens copei* Rhoads (topotypes examined but not at hand as I write), *cockrumi* differs in duller more blackish (less bright and less reddish) upper parts. From *Perognathus merriami gilvus*, of more southern distribution, the new subspecies differs in much smaller tympanic bullae and wider rostrum.

Measurements.—The type, a male (35331/47596 U.S.B.S., from Cairo, Kansas, showing some wear on P4), and another male (60165 K. U., from Barber Co., Kansas, showing much wear on P4) measure, respectively: Total length, 114, 120, 124; tail, 51, 55, 58; hind foot, 17, 17, 18; occipitonasal length,—, 21.0, 21.6; condylobasal length (condyles to anterior end of premaxillae), 18.5, 18.6, 19.3; frontonasal length,—, 14.1, 14.3; mastoidal breadth, 10.5, 11.2, 11.2; length of bulla, 6.8, 7.1, 6.8; interorbital breadth, 4.7, 4.8, 5.1; alveolar length of upper molariform tooth-row, 3.1, 3.1, 3.0; interparietal breadth, 4.3, 4.6, 4.7.

[Pg 590]

Remarks.—The subspecific name *cockrumi* is proposed in recognition of Dr. E. Lendell Cockrum's important contribution to our knowledge of the mammals of Kansas. Dr. W. Frank Blair recently suggested to me that the two specimens examined by him from Kansas (the one from Ellsworth County and the one here designated as holotype) should not be referred to *Perognathus flavescens copei* Rhoads, as Cockrum (Univ. Kansas Publ., Mus. Nat. Hist., 7:146, August 25, 1952) had done, because *copei* is paler, instead of darker, than *P. f. flavescens*. It was Dr. Blair's suggestion which lead me to realize that the subspecies in south-central Kansas lacked a name.

Through the courtesy of Miss Viola S. Schantz I have examined three of the four specimens from Cairo, Kansas, that Osgood (N. Amer. Fauna, 18:21, September 20, 1900) referred to *Perognathus flavescens* before any subspecies of that species had been recognized. The specimens from Cairo are intermediate in color, as they are also in geographic position, between *P. f. flavescens* from western Kansas and *P. f. cockrumi* from south-central Kansas but show more resemblance to the latter and therefore are referred to *P. f. cockrumi*. The specimens, excepting the three from Cairo, are in the Museum of Natural History at the University of Kansas.

Specimens examined.—Total, 10 distributed as follows:

Kansas: ELLSWORTH CO.: 1-1/2 mi. S Wilson, 1. PRATT CO.: Cairo, 3 (U.S. B.S.). BARBER CO.: Plum Thicket Farm [= 1 mi. E and 3 mi. N Sharon], 4. HARPER CO.: 4-1/2 mi. N Danville, 1.

Transmitted August 23, 1954.

25-5678

*** END OF THE PROJECT GUTENBERG EBOOK A NEW SUBSPECIES OF POCKET MOUSE
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