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Mammalogy Class 2000 Field Notes

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1 Sept. 2000

Arrive in the Jemez Mountains of New Mexico in the late afternoon. The weather is warm and clear. We set up camp at ~~out~~ our campsite. After setting up camp we head west up the mountain. A demonstration of how to bait and set snap traps and where to place the traps to be effective was given. Once we reached the top we headed down the backside of the mountain, still heading west, and were shown how to set gopher traps in the meadow. A pitfall trap demonstration was given at a small creek south of the meadow running west. We then returned to camp and were shown how to set Sherman box traps. I then teamed up with Shirley Libed and acquired 40 Sherman traps to share. Shirley and I set out west of camp across a small meadow/bog near camp and up the slope of the nearest hill/mountain. We set seven Shermans up this slope in ascending order. These traps were baited with an oats/grain mix. We then set traps 8-18 around the flat area at the top of the slope in a relatively open pine forest area. The last of the traps,

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19-40, were set on the backside of the mountain on the down slope in ascending order. All traps were baited with the oatmeal/grain mix and were set in areas with many fallen logs and woody or shrubby debris and plants. This was the typical vegetation surrounding the area, consisting of majority of pine trees and green/woody undergrowth. After setting the Shermans we returned to camp and ate dinner. Once we had finished eating we set out to check our trapline. We found that all traps were empty, we had caught nothing. We then returned to camp and went to sleep.

2 Sept. 2000

Wake up at 6:45 am. Eat breakfast then head out to check our traps at 7:30 am. Check all forty traps and find that all of them are empty. Traps 1, 4, 6, 9, 16, 25, and 31 are missing bait. We rebait these traps and readjust the trigger on the traps. We then return to camp and grab some pit fall buckets. We then head west over the mountain to the meadow West of camp and join Elizabeth Cafell,

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Paul Cryan, Melissa Edgar, and Aubany Burns who are already setting gopher traps. Shirley and I locate freshly dug gopher mounds and dig down to find the entrance to the tunnel and set a pair of gopher traps. We set a total of 4 pairs of gopher traps in this meadow. A total of ? gopher traps were set between Shirley and I, Melissa and Aubany, and Paul and Elizabeth. After setting the gopher traps, Shirley and I headed southwest of the meadow to a small creek flowing west. We set 5 pit fall traps along the bank ~~off~~ of the creek in ascending order heading west. After setting the pitfall traps we returned to camp. At camp, we picked up an additional seven Sherman traps and nine snap traps. We then headed west and began checking our Sherman trap line. We checked traps 1-8 to the top of the hill. All were empty. Once we reached the top, we turned south and walked ca 50 m south across a road and set the 9 snap traps. The snap traps were baited with oatmeal balls and set ca 10 meters apart in a heavily wooded area with

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many fallen tree trunks. We then headed north back to our trap line of Shermans and checked traps 9-41. Traps 15 and 18 were missing bait and contained small droppings. These traps were rebaited and reset. All other traps were empty. We continued west to the meadow and checked the gopher traps. We find four gophers in the traps. Two are not dead and I have to kill them by pressing down on their chests with my ~~feet~~ shoe. We then store the dead gophers in plastic sacks in our empty Sherman traps box. We then continue onto the creek south of the meadow to check our pitfall traps. The first pitfall is full of water due to unnoticed holes in the pitfall bucket, this is also found in the third pitfall. The fourth has popped out of the ground due to the water pressure below it. The second and fifth pitfalls are also empty but are not full of water or popped out of the ground. Once we reach the fifth pitfall, we continue to head west for ca 20m and then head south ca 20m and set an additional 5 sherman traps in a well.

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wooded area (shermans 42-46). We then turned around and headed back to the meadow where we found Paul checking the gopher traps. He had found one more dead gopher and offered to carry back the four that we had found. We walk east of the meadow and set two more shermans near a tree stump and many fallen logs (Shermans 47+48). We continue east until we reach the end of our 40 sherman trap line and begin checking these in reverse order. All traps were empty (40-19) then we turn south and check our nine snap traps. All snap traps were empty. We return to our sherman trap line and check traps 18-1, all are empty. Once back at camp, I begin to prep the gopher we caught in our gopher traps. It is a male Thomomys talpoides with measurements 224-70-30-5 = 124. I skin the gopher, prepare the skeleton and place the skin in the cooler to freeze until I can prep/stuff the skin at a later time. Heart, kidney, spleen, lung, and liver tissues are also collected. We then leave camp, our class, at ca 6:30 pm.

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and head North west to the east fork of the Jemez River. At the river we set up 5 bat nets. At 8:15 pm the first bat is caught in net 4. It is a female Big Brown Bat, Eptesicus fuscus, young of year. The second bat is caught at 8:25pm in net 5. It is a male E. fuscus, young of year. At 8:33 pm the third bat is caught in net 4. Again, it is a female E. fuscus, however, this one is an adult. At 8:55 pm a splash in the water nearby alerts us to a muskrat swimming along the bank. At 9:00 pm the fourth bat is caught in net 1. It is male Lasionycteris noctivagans, young of year. At 9:10 pm bat number five is caught. It is a male Myotis volans, adult. The last bat, the sixth is caught at 9:40 pm. It is a male L. noctivagans, adult. At 10:00 pm we take the nets down and head back up to camp. Shirley and I check our Sherman trap line. All are empty. We then check our snap traps and find that the second trap is missing. We search every where for it, but it is nowhere to be found. Our fifth snap trap has caught a small deer mouse by the hind leg. We let it go and place the trap in a plastic bag. Having checked the first half of our Sherman line and our snap traps,

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we continue on down our Sherman line. Sherman number 30 is closed. We finally caught something. It is a female woodrat, species Nectoma mexicana. We place the trap in a plastic bag and continue on to ~~trap~~ check our pitfall traps and sherman traps near the creek. All of these traps are empty. We then return to camp. Eat dinner an go to bed at 1:30 am.

3 Sept 2000

Wake up at 6:45 am. Eat breakfast. At 7:30 am head out to check traps and collect our traps along the way. We begin collecting and checking our traps in reverse order. Starting with our creek Shermans. These are empty as well as the pitfalls. Collect empty gopher traps and notice fresh gopher mounds in the meadow. We collect our Shermans which are all empty and then check our snap traps. Snap traps one and three have two dead deer mice, Peromyscus maniculatus and snaptrap four has a dead shrew, species Sorex monticulus. We then return to camp. I then finish prepping the gopher I started on the day before. I stuff the skin and pin it to dry. Everyone packs up camp and we head back to Albuquerque at ca 2:00 pm.

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15 Sept. 2000

~5:15pm Arrived in Mills Canyon. Located in Harding County in the state of New Mexico. Our campsite was located in the Canadian River Canyon. I was accompanied by eleven classmates, and 2 professors (Dr. Mike Bogan and Dr. Jorge Salazar-Bravo), the collection manager of the Museum of Southwest Biology, Division of Mammals Cindy Ramotek, our TA Gabor Racz, and Wildlife Biologist Ernie Valdez. The surrounding area, habitat, consisted of mainly grassland, shrubs, oak, juniper, and pine. The air was dry, as well as the soil and the temp was approximately 25°C. Myself and Kari Torres, a classmate, began setting traps in the surrounding area around 6:00 pm. We headed southeast on the road leading to our camp and then turned north about 50 yards meters away from camp. We set our first trap, of a 40 trap line, 15 meters North of the road. Our first sixteen traps in a fairly straight line heading north. At trap 16 we began heading west and set traps 17 through 30 in a straight line heading west. At trap 30 we turned south and set traps

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31 through 40 heading South. All traps were Sherman box traps and were set approximately 10m apart from each other. Each trap was baited with a mixed corn/oat grain. After setting our first trap (line of 40 traps), we headed back to camp and picked up another 40 sherman traps. Again, we headed SE down the road approximately 80 m from camp then headed South off the road and set trap #1 approximately 20 m off the road. Traps 1 through 6 were set in a straight line heading south. Traps 7 through 26 then were set in a straight line heading west. After trap 26 we turned south and set traps 27 - 34 in a straight line heading north. Five of the traps were broken and 1 trap was used to catch a *Tarantula* (approximately 10 mm long without stretching the legs and the diameter of the body was approximately 25 mm in diameter), black legs with dr brown body and head). After setting the 34 traps 10m apart and baiting each with the same corn/oat grain as before, we headed back to camp. We then set up our tents, ate dinner,

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and then got ready to check our trap lines. We checked our first trapline of 40 traps and found that we had caught nothing. Unfortunately, our second trap line was empty also. We then returned to camp. Jorge and several of our classmates had left to set up bat nets approximately 1-1/2 miles NE of camp at a small pond. Mike and Cindy also left camp to go shoot rabbits. I then went to bed.

16 Sept. 2000

6:45 a.m.: I wake up, eat breakfast, and prepare myself with a newspaper bag, extra shermans, and extra bait. Katrin and I then head out to check our two trap lines. We start with our second trap line and find that traps 12 and 22 are missing bait. We then rebait and reset both traps. We had no success with trap line 2, each trap was empty. We then checked our first trap line and found that trap 13 was missing bait. We rebaited and reset this trap. We then continued checking the rest of the traps, all were empty. We headed back to camp. At camp,

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Mike had set out the bats that had been caught the night before. There were 8 bats in total consisting of 4 different species. There was 1 Myotis ciliolabrum, 1 E. fuscus, 5 Antrozous pallidus, and 1 Corynorhinus townsendii. Mike and Cindy had also shot 2 jackrabbits the night before. They were Lepus californicus. I then skinned a Myotis ciliolabrum and added it to my specimen collection. It was a ♀ measurements 87-45-7 #
= 5, NK 102543. Kari and I then walked around the surrounding area then returned to camp. After returning to camp, Jorge and Gabor took Kari and I ca 1 1/2 mi NE of camp to a small pond where E. Jorge and I set 3 pitfall traps. We then headed West down a dry creek bed setting one more pitfall and another line of 40 shermans. The sherman's followed the creek bed west set ca 1cm apart and baited with a corn oat grain. After setting this line we returned to camp. Kari and I checked our two traplines near camp and found we had caught nothing. At camp we I prepared

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2 alcohol specimens. I prepped 2 Peromyscus boylii that had been caught by fellow classmates near camp. These were prepared in alcohol. They were both females with measurements of 150-87-20-17 = 12 and 171-91-23-19 = 19 and NK numbers 102571 and 102566 respectively. After ~~settling~~ preparing the alcohol we and fellow classmates went down to a section of the Canadian River, which was west of our camp, and set up bat nets. We set up a total of 4 bat nets, at 7:38 pm. At 7:54 pm^{in net 4} the first bat was caught. It was an adult female Nyctinomops macrotis. We caught our second bat at 8:05 pm in net 4. It was an adult female Tadarida brasiliensis. Our third bat was caught at 8:08 pm^{in net 3} in net 3. It was an adult male ~~female~~ Myotis yumanensis. The fourth bat caught was an adult female Myotis yumanensis in net 3 at 8:49 pm. The fifth, and final bat was caught at 8:56 pm in net 4. It was an adult female Tadarida brasiliensis. We then left, Kari and I, back up to camp and then went to check our trap lines with Jorge and Gabor. Jorge and I checked our line and found

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that we had caught two chipmunks, *Tamias minimus*. After checking our traps we all returned to camp and Kari and I checked out 1st + 2nd trap lines. We found all traps empty. We then returned to camp and went to bed.

Sept. 17, 2000

I woke up at 6:45. Kari and I checked trap lines 1 and 2. We had caught nothing. We collected all the traps and returned to camp. At camp, we met up with Jorge and Gabor and left to check our third trap line. Jorge and I checked our trap line and found that we had caught three *Peromyscus hoylii*. We released these and collected our traps. We all returned to camp. I then prepped the *Tamias minimus* as a skin, skeleton, and tissue. After prepping the chipmunk, I picked up my tent and began helping everyone else pick up camp. We left camp at ca 1:00 pm.

13 Oct. 2000

At ca 6:30 pm Melissa Edgar, Aubony Burns, and I arrived ~~in~~ at ~~Fort~~ Davis Mountains Nature Preserve where we met all of our classmates and professors. We then left to a bat netting site SW

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of camp ca 2.5 mi away from camp. I set out 40 Sherman box traps at this site. After setting the traps I went to the bat pond and met my classmates. It was already dark when I arrived back at the bat netting site (pond) and I could not see the layout of the nets. Two bats total were caught. The first bat was a male, non-scrotal Tadarida brasiliensis, caught at 7:53 pm. The second bat was a male, scrotal Antrozous pallidus which was caught at 8:55 pm. We then took the nets down at 9:45 pm. I then checked my Sherman line, all traps were empty. We then headed back to camp. Once at camp, I ate dinner and went to bed.

13 Oct 2000 Woke up at 7:00 AM. Ate breakfast, then headed out to check my Sherman traps. Once we reached the site where everyone had set out trap lines near the bat netting pond of the previous night, we all checked and collected our traps. All of my traps were empty with the exception of a black widow spider. After everyone had checked and collected their traps, we returned to camp.

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Once we were back at camp, we began prepping specimens that had been caught. It was ca 10:00 am. I began by prepping a woodrat, species Neotoma micropus. It was a male with measurements of $310 - 123 - 35 - 26 = 180$, NK 102630. It had been caught that morning. Tissues were pulled, I prepared the skeleton, and stuffed the skin and pinned it to dry. It was now ca 12:30pm. I then ate lunch. At ca 1:15 pm I began prepping my second specimen that day. It was a cotton rat, species Sigmodon hispidus. It was a female with measurements of $265 - 113 - 28 - 18 = 105$, NK 102645. This cotton rat had also been caught that morning by one of my fellow classmates. Tissues were also pulled on this specimen and I prepped the skeleton and skin. It was now ca 3:00pm. We, my classmates, professors, and I, then left camp heading Northwest along a road (dirt road). We began dropping off students along the road to set sherman traps. I was dropped off ca 2 mi NW of camp along with my classmate Sita. Once we were dropped off, we began setting two lines of 40 sherman traps on either side of a rocky creek bed (dry).

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After setting ~~at~~ and baiting each trap with an oat/grain mix, we returned to the road and began walking West to meet up with our classmates. We continued to walk west for ca 1/2 mile where we met up with some classmates at an old windmill with a nearby water tank. Some stayed here and set up bat nets at this tank and nearby, just south of the tank ca 30m away by a small creek. I continued west on the road for another 150m to a small section of the creek with small pools of water. Here we began to set up bat nets. We set up 3 nets. A group of people were assigned to watch each net. I was assigned to the easterly most net with Krista Weise and Kari Torres. At this net, only two bats were caught. The first was an Antrozous pallidus and the second was a hoary bat, species Lasiurus cinereus. The sky was very cloudy and it began to lightning and rain so we quickly packed up the netting equipment, got in our vehicles and headed back to camp at ca 9:45pm. We did not get to check our new trap lines because of the rain so we went directly to camp.

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Once at camp, I ate dinner and then went to bed.

14 Oct. 2000

Wake up at 7:30 am. Eat breakfast, then everyone heads out to check the trap line from the previous afternoon. Sita and I are dropped off at our trap lines and we begin checking each trap and collecting them as we go. Only one of my traps is closed. It contains a Peromyscus boylii. When checking my last trap, I see a snake next to it. As I stand watching the snake, it heads straight toward my trap and slithers right inside causing the trap door to shut. This snake is commonly known as a ratsnake. Sita and I then wait for our classmates to return and pick us up to return to camp after collecting all our traps. We return to camp at ca 10:00 am. Everyone begins prepping specimens. I start with a female Peromyscus boylii, measurements 196-101-21-18=19, NK 102664. Tissues are pulled, I prep the skeleton, and stuff the skin. My second specimen is also a female Peromyscus boylii, measurements 199-110-22-20=21, NK 102671. Tissues are pulled, and I prep the skeleton and stuff

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the skin. My third and fourth specimens for that day are also Peromyscus boylii. One is a female, measurements 198-109-19-17-20, NK 102688 and the other is a male, measurements 206-118-20.19=25, NK 102689. Tissues are pulled from each and I prep them in fluid (alcohol). By now it is already 3:00 pm and I eat lunch. At around 4:00 pm I team up with Sita Sanchez, Kari Torres, Aubany Burns, and Melissa Edgar. We each have a set of 40 Sherman traps. We head NW of camp ca 100m and begin by setting 40 traps in and around an old tin shed. We then continue NW and, Kari, Melissa, and myself begin setting a trap line of 80 Sherman traps in a small, dried wash between two small hills. We also set some in a fenced off corral that is overgrown with small brush, weeds, and shrubs. Sita and Aubany set 80 Sherman traps NW from the corral, following a dirt road in an open dry area. After setting these 200 traps, we return to camp. One thing we decided to do differently without traps ~~is bait~~ was to bait them with a powerbait consisting of oatmeal peanut butter pellets. I then

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ate dinner and later went to bed.

15 Oct. 2000

Wake up at 7:30 am. Eat breakfast and head out with Melissa, Aubony, and Sita to check and collect all of our traps. The traps in and around the tinshed were all empty. Melissa, Kari, and I then proceeded to our trap line and checked each one and collected all of our 80 traps. We had only caught one mammal. It was a small cotton rat, Sigmodon hispidus. We then returned to camp and began packing and cleaning everything around our camp. Paul Kryan, a fellow classmate, had caught ~~at~~ a ringtailed cat, species Bassaris cusatus. We then watched him release it into a nearby tree. After everything was packed up we all ~~at~~ began our trip back to Albuquerque at ca 12:30 pm. After a bit of van trouble on the trip back, we finally arrived in Albuquerque at 9:00 pm.