

9-6-2013

Mammalogy Class 2013 Field Notes

Lori Dibble

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalrepository.unm.edu/msb_mammals_field_notes

Recommended Citation

Dibble, Lori. "Mammalogy Class 2013 Field Notes." (2013). https://digitalrepository.unm.edu/msb_mammals_field_notes/263

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Museum of Southwestern Biology at UNM Digital Repository. It has been accepted for inclusion in Division of Mammals - Field Notes and Catalogs by an authorized administrator of UNM Digital Repository. For questions or technical help with UNM's Digital Repository, please contact disc@unm.edu.

1. Road Log: We set out in 2 vans on Fri. Sept. 6th 2013 at approximately 12:15 pm. We drove S. on University Blvd and then went W. onto Gibson. From here we merged S. onto I-25. We continued in this direction passing through Los Lunas and Belen before stopping approximately 80 miles out in Socorro at about 1:25 pm. After eating lunch we continued S. on I-25 for ~85 miles where we exited at exit 63 for NM-152 N. We took the second left onto NM-187 N for ~1.6 miles before turning left into Ladder Ranch, (~165 miles) at 52 Hwy 52, Caballo, NM 87931. We followed the road until we reached the ranch headquarters where we checked in. We then continued down a winding dirt road until we came to the stone house where we setup camp. The ranch is about 1500m above sea level.

2. Participants:

April M. Chavez

Briana Upton

Cait Starek

Catalina Tomé

Courtney L. Montoya

Fernando Salazar-Morales

Julie ~~Rannou~~
Rannou

Lori Dibble

Mitch Lowery

Robert Scott

Tara Templeton

Ursula Osterr

Bryan McLean

Amanda Jones

~~Star~~ Schuyler Liphardt

Ernie Valdez

Marie Westover

Robert Nofchissey

Marjorie McConnell

David Schmidly

Kayce Bell

Jocie Colella

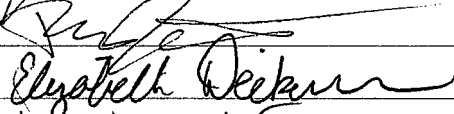
Baby the Sassy Dog

Signatures:

Catalina Tene

Brianna Upton

Julie Kanner



W. Montoya

Byron

Michael Gray

Tara Tupper

April M. O.

Courtney L. Montoya



Lori Hill

Specimen List:

NK 216765 *Myotis yumanensis* (1st field)

NK 216783 *Perognathus flavus* (trip)

NK 232898 *Callospermophilus lateralis*
(prepared in museum)

3. General Site Description: Ladder Ranch was composed of varying habitats including Chihuahuan Desert Scrub, Juniper Savannah, Piñon-Juniper woodland, Ponderosa pine forest, Transition Zones, mixed coniferous forest, subalpine meadow and Riparian Gallery forest. Our camp was located in a transitional zone which was a patchy meadow surrounded by light forrestation. It was adjacent to a moderate stream in a Riparian Gallery forest. There were many Junipers, Piñons, Cottonwoods, and scruboaks in addition to a variety of grasses.

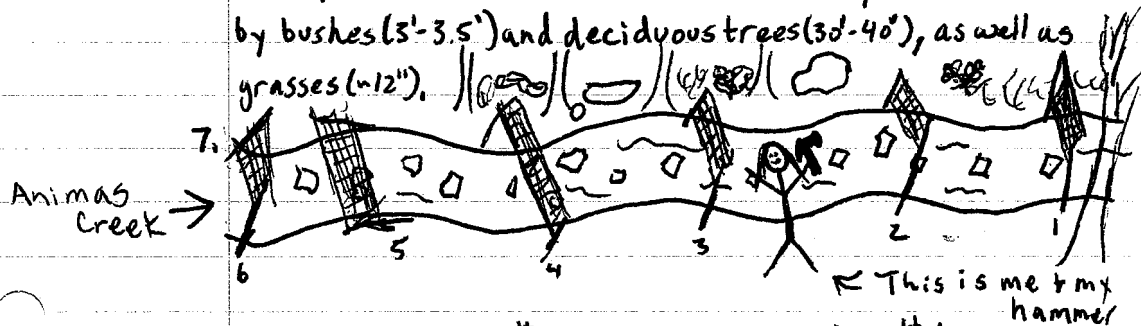
4. Locale: USA, NM, Sierra Co. 7.5 km N. of Animas Peak.
N 33.03479, W -107.51086, elev. ~1500m.

5. Weather: Sept. 6th 2013: warm & dry, temps 70°F - 80°F
Sept. 7th 2013: Rain showers through the night
Sept. 8th 2013: Cool & cloudy in A.M., warm in afternoon

6. Trapline: 6 Sept 2013

Name: (LD) Teammates:

6 mist nets placed between 20-50yds apart across a rocky stream in a riparian zone. Sandy shore surrounded by bushes (3'-3.5') and deciduous trees (30'-40'), as well as grasses (~12").



8. Evening of Sept. 6th - Early morning Sept. 7th:

NK216764	1. <i>Myotis thysanodes</i>	5. <i>Tadarida brasiliensis</i>	NK216767
NK216766	2. <i>Tadarida brasiliensis</i>	6. <i>Myotis yumanensis</i>	NK216771
NK216768	3. <i>Tadarida brasiliensis</i>	7. <i>Myotis yumanensis</i>	NK216765
NK216770	4. <i>Tadarida brasiliensis</i>	8. <i>Tadarida brasiliensis</i>	NK216770

9. Species List (55 specimens)

Heteromyidae - 18 (5 spp): Cricetidae - 22 (4 spp):

- Chaetodipus intermedius (2)
- Dipodomys merriami (3)
- Dipodomys ordii (1)
- Dipodomys spectabilis (6)
- Perognathus flavus (1)
- Neotoma albigula (16)
- Peromyscus boylii (3)
- Peromyscus leucopus (1)
- Peromyscus maniculatus (2)

Vespertilionidae - 3 (2 spp)

- Molossidae - 5 (1 spp)
- Tadarida brasiliensis (1)
- Myotis thysanodes (1)
- Myotis yumanensis (2)

Geomysidae - 4 (1 spp)

- Thomomys bottae (4)
- Leporidae - 1
- Lepus californicus

Mephitidae - 1

- Conepatus leuconotus
- Sciuridae - 1
- Otospermophilus variegatus

• 5

10. Sept 6, 2013 - We arrived at camp in the late afternoon. Everyone scrambled to set up their tents before dispersing into groups to set traplines & mist nets. I chose to assist Dr. Schmidly in placing the mist nets. On the walk to the stream we spotted a pocket gopher mound. The underbrush was thick, tall and difficult to contend with, and the "noseeums" were dense and biting. The stream was rapidly rushing and it was clear it had been much higher not too long ago. We spotted a single bear track in the mud and examined it before beginning our set up. It was a mild evening and at dusk we saw bats fluttering through the darkening sky.

After midnight a group broke away from the fire to check the mist nets. They returned with two bats. We were allowed to examine their anatomy. The patagia were delicate and semi-transparent in the firelight. I found it ~~so~~ cruel how callously everyone stood by as the bat screamed, biting and struggling for its life.

Sept 7, 2013 - We began skinning specimens this afternoon. The flies were thick and unavoidable.

I skinned a small *Myotis yumanensis* (NK 216765). I was glad to see it had finally been put out of its misery. Late in the evening, after the sun had fully set, Dr. Schmidly drove a van full of us around the ranch. Skylar & Bryan took it upon themselves to kill/capture every living mammal they could. Skylar first shot a large jack rabbit, ^{then} we encountered a kangaroo rat scrambling across the road. The boys jumped out and caught it with their bare hands. I took on the responsibility of holding it for the remainder of the drive. It sat trustingly in my hands neither struggling or biting. Lastly we came across a skunk waddling in the road. Skylar shot it twice & stunk up the van with its carcass. I opted to keep the K-rat and it spent the night with me in my tent.

Sept 8, 2013 - In the morning my colleagues set out to check their trap lines. I sat by the long extinguished fire and contemplated my rat. She sat happily in my lap with out a trace of fear, ~~considering~~ ^{considering} me with her shiny black eyes, whiskers vibrating with curiosity. She occasionally would nuzzle her face into my belly. I decided the car trip back to Albuquerque wouldn't be fair for her to endure so with a heavy heart

I released her into the meadow and back into the circle of life. She remained near me, sniffing the grass before hopping away. Before leaving we were told we had to help skin prior ~~to~~ to returning home. Anxious for the ~~trip~~ trip to be over, I skinned the *Dipodomys merriami* that was given to me (NK 216783). It made me sick to see it's eyes dead and glistening in ~~it's~~ it's raw, stripped face. I had my partner remove them. The long drive home was welcomed.