

9-7-2012

Mammalogy Class 2012 Field Notes

Amanda Jones

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Road Log
Field Trip #1, 7th 8th 9th Sept. 2012

- Departed from UNM campus at 12:34 pm on 7 Sept. 2012, odometer 20115 mi. Drove north on I-25 and exited onto 550 west (odometer 20147 mi., u-turn at Algodones). Continued on 550 west until NM126, turned east (2:17 pm, odometer 20212 mi.). Then turned left on Forest Rd. 70 (2:38 pm, odometer 20222 mi.). We arrived at the site at 2:42 pm, final odometer was 20224 mi.

- Site description is alpine forest / mixed conifer. Ponderosa pine, aspen, blue spruce are present. There are lots of grasses and shrubs, such as clovers, thistles, and snowball bush. Overstory is about 30-40% coverage, understory is about 60-70% coverage, ground cover is about 90%. Tallest trees are about 50 feet tall.

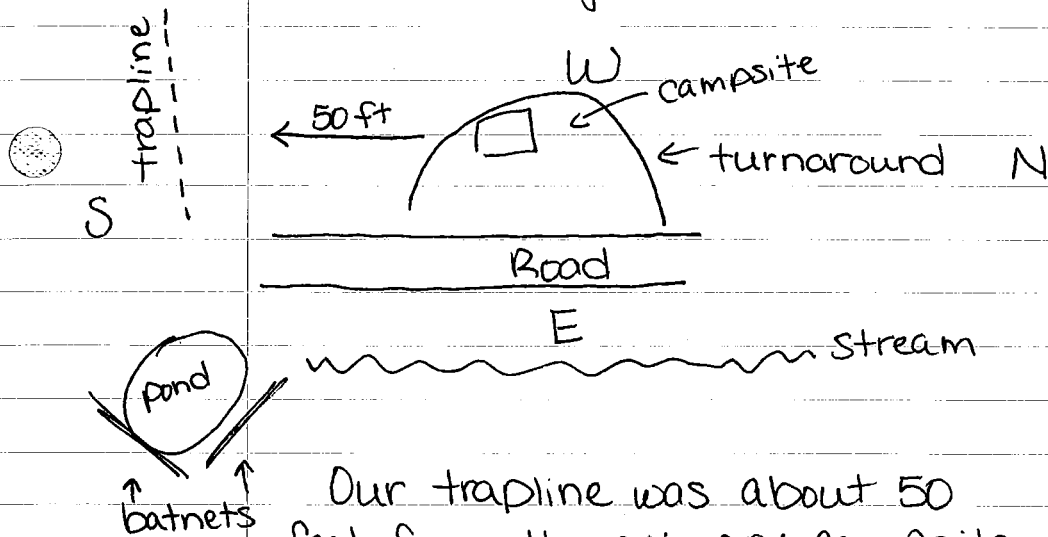
Upon arrival on 7 Sept, weather was about 70°F and light sprinkling.

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The temperature dropped significantly during the night and on 8 sept. 2012, to about 50° F for a high.

The site was near a stream where we set up bat nets.

There was a lot of evidence of cattle, including tracks, droppings, and sightings.



Our trapline was about 50 feet from the primary campsite. The trapline was AKJ/NRH I. Nichole Herrera was also working on this trapline with me. We set 30 shermans and 26 snaptraps, with 1 of each at each site, except 3 shermans at the last site. Our trapline went up a hill so that we increased in elevation ~ 50 feet from the first to the

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last site. There was significant dead and down along the trapline so there were many logs and sticks. The trapline GPS coordinates were N36.01937°, W 106.84586°, the elevation was 2790 meters.

We caught 5 Peromyscus and 1 Sorex, all in Sherman traps except 1 Peromyscus in a snap-trap. This is about 8% success, which is much lower than what most traplines experienced.

Coyotes were heard at night. There was also a great deal of trash around the site. It appeared to be heavily used by recreational campers. Many were nearby at the time we were collecting.

We were joined by biologist Jim Findley who was researching shrews. He was hoping to catch a species of shrew that has not been described in this area before.

This site had great species diversity. These included:

- Sylvilagus nuttallii
- Tamias minimus

- Sorex monticolus
- Tamias quadrivittatus
- Neotoma cinerea
- Thomomys talpoides
- Sorex cinereus
- Tamiasciurus hudsonicus
- Spermophilus lateralis
- Peromyscus leucopus
- Eptesicus fuscus
- Peromyscus maniculatis

The site locality is:

USA: New Mexico; Sandoval Co.,
Santa Fe National Forest, Jemez
Mountains, Clear Creek, 2 km
South of San Gregorio reservoir

We departed on the morning
of ~~Sept~~ 9 Sept 2012 around
9:30am and returned to
the UNM campus.

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Participant List Field Trip #1

Marjorie McConnell

Robert Nofchissey

Jim Findley

Mariel Campbell

Jason Malaney

Jon Dunnum

Joe Cook

Kayce Bell Kayce Bell KCB

Rosemary Seering (RKS)

Marie Westover Marie Westover MLW

Amber L West Amber L West ALW

Michael J Smith Michael J Smith MJS

Nichole Herrera Nichole Herrera NRH

Kristin Wright Kristin Wright KW

Vanessa Casias Vanessa Casias VRC

Julie Hawk Julie Hawk JNH

Andrea Johnson Andrea Johnson ACS

Valerie Harda Valerie Harda VRH

Bethany L. Abrahamson Bethany L. Abrahamson BLA

S. Dayles S. Dayles SWL

Leonardo R. Gomez Leonardo R. Gomez LRG

Kerri McCormick Kerri McCormick (SKM)

EVAN FAHY Evan Fahy EFF

Amber Howard Amber Howard ARH

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Road Log

Field Trip #2, 11, 12, 13 Oct. 2012

- We left UNM campus at 8:20am (odometer 48770 mi). We headed south on I-25. A coyote was spotted at mile 48921. We stopped at the San Mateo mountains to meet the rest of our group (exit 100, mileage 49004). This was Chihuahuan desert, with characteristic creosote, mezquite, and ephedra. We observed a woodrat nest at this stop.

We then continued on I-25 south to Truth or Consequences, where we stopped at McDonald's (mileage 49007). We continued at 11:11am and exited at Exit 63 (mileage 49042) towards Hillsboro. We passed through the Black Range and increased in elevation, and ~~to~~ from pinion/juniper to Ponderosa pine.

We passed through Kingston (mileage 49068) and entered the Gila National Forest. Douglas fir were spotted, as well as juncos, jays, grackles, and crows.

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We stopped at the Copper mines (mileage 49102) at 12:54 pm. We then took Road 152 and Road 180 at Santa Clara (mileage 49108) heading west. We saw ash, agave, beargrass, and yucca. We stopped in Silver City (mileage 49114) at Albertson's for lunch. We then continued. We entered the National Forest itself (mileage 49141) and stopped at "Hippie Hollow" to meet up with scientist Stephen McDonald. We then continued on a dirt road. We arrived at the site at 4:05 pm (mileage 49159).

The site was very close to the Gila River. In the immediate area were riparian, talous, p/j, and desert grassland habitats. There were cottonwoods, willows, and sycamore in the riparian area, as well as alligator juniper and one seed juniper. The talous area had lots of mesquite and junipers.

All along the site was observed

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bear scat, coyote scat, horse droppings, and deer/jerk droppings. Javelina were spotted by several crew members. We joined up with UNM's Land Arts program folks at this site. They were in the field for several weeks at a time working on self-directed art projects for their class. They were a very eclectic group. There was also a natural hot spring nearby.

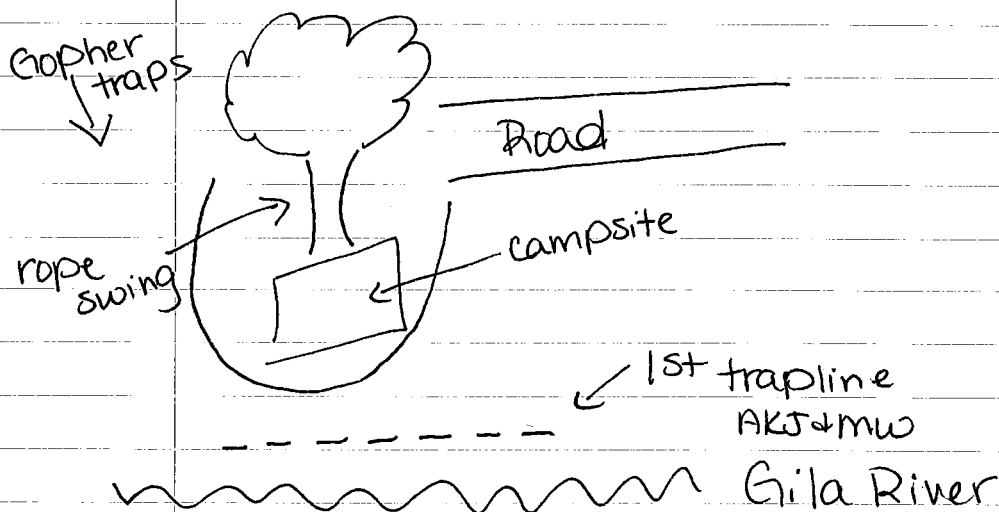
The weather was very mild. It was about 75-80°F in the day. It rained on the night of 11 Oct. The night of 12 Oct was much colder, though.

Overstory and understory coverage was about 50-60% but ground coverage was low, about 30-40%.

I set my trapline with Marie Westover. We set our traps on the first day (11 Oct) in the riparian zone near the campsite. We set 40 shermans and 12 snaps. Due to the denseness of the brush, we

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set each trap site with 4 traps, as we ~~one~~ could not make it far enough through the thick willows, and we were running into Kevin + Leo's trapline. We set 3 shermans and 1 snap at each site, and 4 Shermans at the last site. We observed lots of bugs but no vertebrates along our trapline. We also set 5 sets of 2 gopher traps near the campsite.



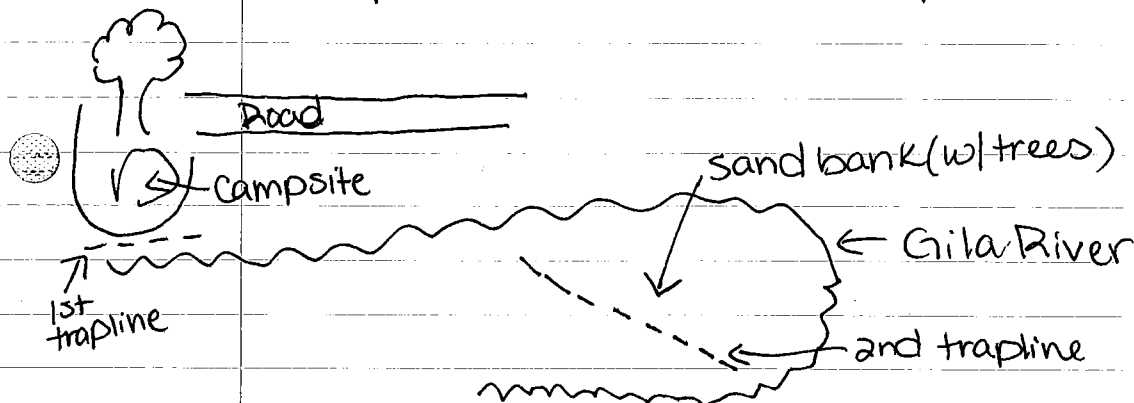
The following is an account of what (+ where) was caught when traps were checked on the morning of 12 Oct. 2012 :

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- Peromyscus ~~Sherman~~ ^{Sherman} GPS 006
N 33.06 W 108.5 elev. 1433 ~~m~~ m
- Peromyscus ~~GPS~~ ^{Sherman} GPS 007
" "
- Peromyscus sherman GPS 008
" "

Due to low catch, we then moved our trapline, and added traps, to total 41 Shermans and 20 snaps. In the case of both traplines, bait used was peanut butter mixed with oats in snaps and bird seed in Shermans.

We moved our trapline to the opposite side of the river, therefore having to cross it each time. It was cold but not too bad, considering the weather was mild. Below is a depiction of our 2nd trapline.



This site had a mixture of bare sand and some willows / trees. We set the trapline so as to sample from the sandy area and the willow / tree areas. Below is an account of what was caught when traps were checked on 13 Oct :

- *Neotoma sherman* GPS 021
N 33.06121, W 108.50206 elev 1441 m
- *Peromyscus sherman* GPS 022
N 33.06113, W 108.50199 elev 1440 m
- *Peromyscus snap* GPS 023
N 33.06079, W 108.50140 elev 1442 m
- *Peromyscus snap* GPS 024
N 33.06079, W 108.50127 elev 1441 m

No gophers were caught on either day. All the teams experienced low catches, relative to the Jemez trip.

The overall species list for this field trip was :

- *Chaetoclippus intermedius*
- *Dipodomys merriami*
- *Dipodomys ordii*

- Lasionycterus noctivagans
- Lasiurus cinereus
- Myotis auriculus
- Myotis ciliolabrum
- Myotis volans
- Neotoma abigula
- Neotoma stephensi
- Onychomys leucogaster
- Perognathus flavus
- Peromyscus boylii
- Peromyscus eremicus
- Peromyscus leucopus
- Peromyscus truei

The site locality was:
USA: new Mexico; Grant Co,
Gila National Forest, Mogollon
mountains, Gila River, N 10 Km,
E 10 Km, cliffs

We departed on 13 Oct around
2:05pm and returned to the
UNM campus.

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Participant List Field Trip #2

Marjorie McConnell

Robert Nofchissey

Maril Campbell

Jason Malaney

Bryan McClean

Joe Cook

Kayce Bell

Popse Mary Steenberg (RKS) DJ

Maril Westover (MLW) MMLW

~~Amber West~~ Amber West ALW

Tenyn Jensen Tenyn Jensen (TJ)

Nichole Hesterz ~~Nichole Jensen~~ NRH

Kristin Wright ~~Kristin Wright~~ KKW

Vanessa Casias Vanessa Casias VRC

Julie Hawk Julie Hawk JNH

Andrea Jensen ~~Andrea Jensen~~ AJ

Zalerie Horcla ~~Zalerie Horcla~~ VRH

Bethany L. Abrahamson ~~Bethany L. Abrahamson~~ BLA

Kayce Bell ~~Kayce Bell~~ KCB

Kevin McCormick ~~Kevin McCormick~~ (SKM)

Erin Fahy ~~Erin Fahy~~ EFF

Amber Howard ~~Amber Howard~~ ARH

~~Michael Smith~~ ~~Michael Smith~~ MJS

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Road Log

Field Trip #3, 26, 27, 28 Oct. 2012

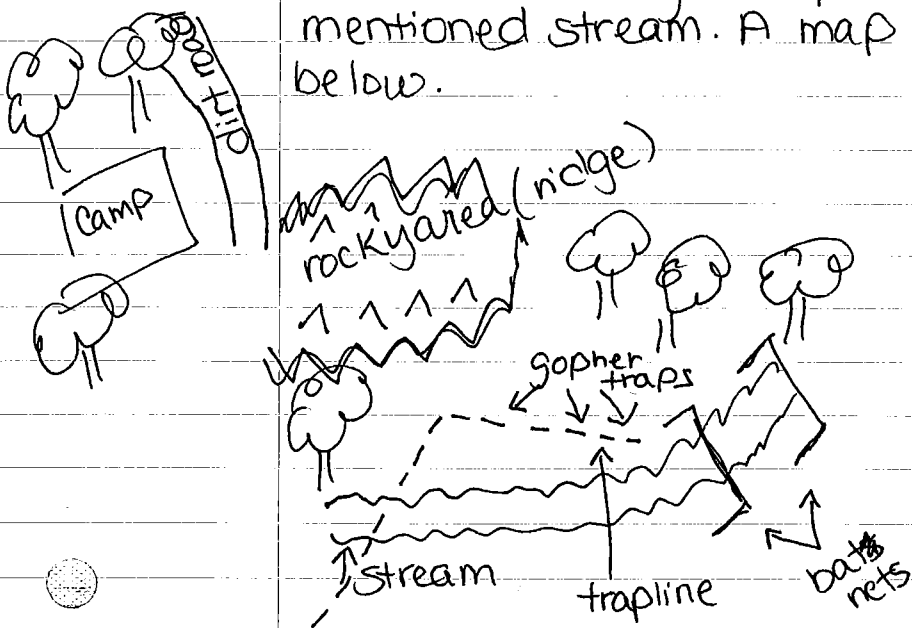
- We departed the UNM campus at 12:05 on 26 October and headed south on I-25. After 77 miles, we reached Socorro (@ 1:15 pm) and stopped briefly for supplies. We then continued to the town of San Antonio where we had lunch at the Owl Cafe. We left from there at 2:30 pm and continued south on I-25. We arrived at the entrance to the Ladder Ranch at 3:42 pm (172.3 miles from start). We drove in on a dirt road. We went into a valley past a cattleguard (176.4 mi), turned right into a forested area (177.7 mi), crossed a stream (178.5 mi) and then made a right into our campsite (178.9 mi). We arrived at 4:00 pm.
- The site was near a stream with about 80-90% ground coverage, mostly with grasses. Trees present were cottonwoods, willows, sycamore, and oak. There were numerous large

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bird feathers found around camp, which later determined to be turkey feathers.

There was a talous area nearby which one crossed to get to the stream to set bat nets. Overstory coverage was about 40-50%.

- I set traps with Heather Toman and Donovan Jackson. Bryan McClean was also with us to setup bat nets. We set our traps in a wooded area adjacent to and crossing the previously mentioned stream. A map is below.



On 26 Oct we set 40 shermans, 19 snaps (1 broke) and 9 victor

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gopher traps. When we set these it was almost dark.

The weather on ~~all~~ all 3 days was mild during the day, about 60°F, and colder at night. There was a little sprinkling the night of 26 Oct.

- Since Ladder Ranch is home to endangered wildlife, Ted Turner's employees, Chris Wiese and Scott Hillard, came to speak to us about their projects the evening of 26 Oct. They spoke about the challenges of Mexican wolf reintroduction and their current issue of rebuilding their captive wolf facility on the ranch. These pens were built over 15 years ago and were built with anticipation that they would not be needed this long. Therefore erosion has caused them to be unsafe and requiring rocks to be placed over eroded areas and the fence height to be extended. They also described the trials and tribulations of raising Bolson tortoises, and brought one to

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Show us. They said that Bolsons are not recently native to NM, but they are working on an experimental population on the ranch. They are native to Mexico but no population survey has been conducted for over 10 years, due to danger and difficulty obtaining permits.

The camp had evidence of bears, wild turkeys, owls, elk, and deer.

On the morning of 27 Oct. we checked our trapline. Below is an account of that catch:

- Thomomys victor gopher GPS001
N 33.00688 W 107.46575 elev 1433m
- Peromyscus sherman GPS002
N 33.00722 W 107.46582 elev 1435m
- Peromyscus snap GPS003
N 33.00738 W 107.46616 elev 1448m
- Peromyscus snap GPS004
N 33.00729 W 107.46651 elev. 1448m
- Peromyscus snap GPS005
N 33.00753 W 107.46662 elev 1447m
- Thomomys victor gopher GPS006
N 33.00760 W 107.46669 elev 1446

→

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- Peromyscus sherman GPS 007
N 33.00769 W. 107.46674 elev. 1444m

- Later on 27 Oct, Chris and Scott returned. Kevin McCormick and I volunteered to help them and 2 NMSU students work on the wolf pens.

This was a good opportunity to see more of the ranch. The pens are intentionally far from the residences of the ranch and an ATV is needed to access them. We moved lots of rocks to the pens to compensate for erosion that weather and pacing wolves has caused.

We also saw "blinds" which are small wooden sheds about 500 yards from the pens that are used to periodically observe the wolves with binoculars to assess health.

On the way back to the ranch base, we observed mule deer, elk, and javelina grazing amongst wild turkey.

Upon return to the camp that evening we were assaulted by

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smell of skunk, as several crew members had elected to prep skunks.

The night of 27 Oct. we ~~enjoyed~~ enjoyed "critter Stew" which is stew cooked with several rodent carcasses from the day's catch which were cooked in olive oil.

I tried Dipodomys, which was pretty good. You could eat most of the bones as well as the meat. Many people stated that pocket gopher (Thomomys) was not good in comparison with Dipodomys and Chaetodipus, likely the two latter are seed-eaters.

The morning of 28 Oct we checked our traps. Below is an account of the catch:

- Peromyscus snap GPS 044
N 33.00691 W 107.46574 elev. 1438m
- Peromyscus snap GPS 045
N 33.00739 W 107.46621 1440m
- Peromyscus sherman GPS 046
N 33.00739 W 107.46621 1440m
- Tamias sherman GPS 047
N 33.00730 W 107.46646 1440m

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- *Thomomys victorgopher* GPS 048
N 33.00758 W 107.46661 1441 m
- *Neotoma sherman* GPS 049
N 33.00749 W 107.46720 1441 m

On both days, traps were set with 1 sherman a 1 snap until we ran out of snaps (19), then 2 shermans at each site. We placed gopher traps as we came upon gopher mounds and could locate a "Y" tunnel to place them in.

A catch of note was a sub-adult ringtail, caught in a tomahawk by Bryan McClean near the bat nets. We did not catch any bats, likely due to the time of year.

- Below is a list of all species caught by all groups:
- *Bassariscus astutus*
- *Chaetodipus intermedius*
- *Dipodomys merriami*
- *Eutamias dorsalis*
- *Neotoma abigula*

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- Onychomys leucogaster
- Perognathus flavus
- Peromyscus boylii
- Peromyscus leucopus
- Peromyscus maniculatis
- Thomomys bottae

The locality is:

USA: New Mexico; Sierra Co.,
Ladder Ranch, N 1 Km, W 10 Km,
Caballo

- we departed on 28 Oct. at
10:50 am and returned to the
UNM campus.

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Participant List Field Trip #3

Marjorie McConnell

Robert Nof Chissey

Jon Dunnum

Jason Malaney

Bryan McClean

Joe Cook

Kayce Bett ~~Kayce Bett~~ KCB

Donovan Jackson

Rosemary Steinberg (RKS) Ji

Marie Westover (MLW) MWW

Amber West ~~Amber West~~ AW

Teryn Jensen (TJJ) Teryn Jensen

Michael Smith MJS ~~Michael Smith~~

Nichele Herrera (NRH) Nichele Herrera

Vanessa Casias ~~Vanessa Casias~~ VRC

Julie Hawk (JNH) Julie Hawk

Andrea Jacuzzi ~~Andrea Jacuzzi~~ ACJ

Valerie Hovda ~~Valerie Hovda~~ VRH

Schuyler Ziphardt ~~Schuyler Ziphardt~~ SWL

Heather Toman ~~Heather Toman~~ HTMT

Evon JAHF EFF ~~Evon JAHF~~

Kerina McCormick ~~Kerina McCormick~~ (K.M.)