

ANIMALS OF THE OLYMPIC PENINSULA, WASHINGTON.¹

 BY ALBERT B. REAGAN.

For the past three years I have been making observations on the animals of the Olympic Peninsula as time would permit. These I give below:

Sciurus douglasi Bach.

This is a very common squirrel. It is colored grizzly rufus to rusty; but in color its tail is very variable. It lives in the coniferous forest and feeds upon the cones.

Tamias townsendi Bach. Washington Chipmunk.

A very pretty chipmunk found everywhere to an elevation of 2,000 to 4,000 feet. I saw one specimen at snow line at the head of the Soleduck River.

From the shore line to the snow-capped mountains these squirrels were observed to bark when suddenly disturbed; but when calling each other they uttered a querulous chirp. This squirrel is very shy till it gets "acquainted." Then it becomes quite a pest and a little thief. At the Soleduck springs I have seen them crawl over a person while lying still, and have known them to steal bread off of a table in the same tent where cooking was going on.

Tamias caurinus Merr.

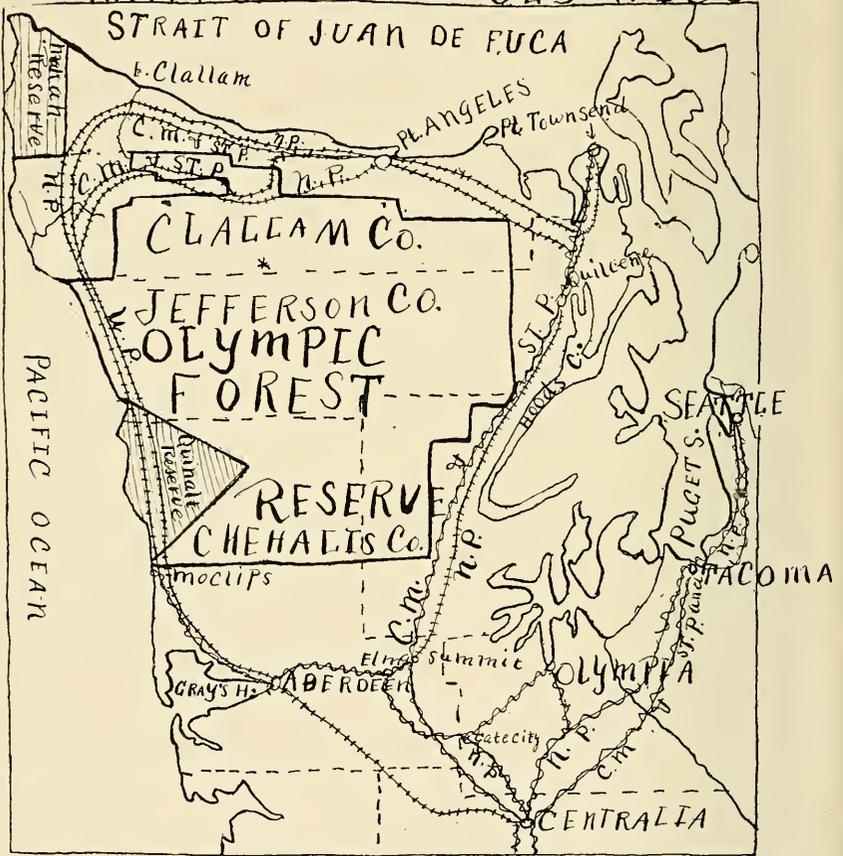
Only one individual of this species was seen at timber line in the Happy Lake country.

Arctomys olympicus Merr. Olympic Marmot.

I saw only one pair of these animals on a ridge between the Soleduck River and East Fork. Their color was ochraceous yellow. In actions they imitate a prairie dog very much; but in size they are considerably larger. Some are said to weigh as much as twenty-five pounds.

1. In identifying the species here given I have used the "Catalogue of Mammals from the Olympic Mountains, Washington," by D. G. Elliot ("Field Columbian Museum Publication 32"), and Jordan's "Manual of Vertebrates," as reference books.

RAILROADS OF THE OLYMPICS



— LINES IN OPERATION. - - - - RAILROAD EXTENSIONS TO BE MADE IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

Sciuropterus alpinus olympicus Elliot. Olympic Flying Squirrel.

One individual of this species was caught in a trap at La Push by one John Salto last winter while trapping for mink. This is the only one seen in the region so far as the writer knows. The animal is supposed to be nocturnal in its habits.

Hoplodontia olympica Merr. Olympic Mountain Beaver or "Gehalis Farmer."

I have seen several hides of these animals which the Indians had procured to sell to the fur companies; also some captured young. But I have never visited their farms. The natives tell me that these little animals cut down a grass or low lily near where they make their burrows, spread out the hay and dry it in the sun and then take it into their holes to serve as food or bed. These beavers are much smaller than the beavers of the Mogollon Mountains, the only other beavers I have seen.

Peromyscus akeleyi Elliot.

This long-tailed, large-eared mouse is a common pest and is to be found everywhere. It rivals the domestic mouse of the Eastern States in its efforts to live in the same house with the master of creation when a cabin is pitched in the forest. But it is more easily caught than its brother mouse; 54 were drowned in a waterpail in a house on the edge of a new clearing near here in one night. In color it is rather dark with an almost black dorsal area. And in size it is a little under that of the domestic mouse. Its tail is as long or longer than the head and body.

Neotoma occidentalis Baird. Wood Rat.

A colony of these rats was found at the mouth of the Hoh River. I went to stay all night in a house where a bachelor was staying. The owner said the house was haunted, that the former owner was a sea captain, and that, wrecking his ship on the reefs at the mouth of the river adjacent, his troubled spirit came back at night and thumped and knocked about the floors and house walls. I said nothing but set a "figure four" trap; and the next morning it was not the sailor's spirit that was in it, but instead there was a huge wood rat.

In color this rat resembles *Neotoma cinerea columbiana* very much but is darker, especially along the dorsal area. It has a conspicuous bushy tail. The animal has some very peculiar habits. It carries large sticks of wood around, and when on a floor or anything which will produce a sound it thumps the wood up and down on the sounder for no other purpose, it seems, than that of hearing the noise. It makes its nest of

sticks. Another peculiar characteristic it has is that of "trading;" it never takes anything without leaving something in its place. For this reason it is called the "trade rat" by the settlers. In size it is about as large as a common gray squirrel.

Erotomys nivarius Bailey.

This alpine species of mouse was seen only near the Happy Lake country. It lives in colonies. In color its dorsal surface is strongly marked with chestnut, sides of body gray and buff, under parts white, tail bi-color. The tail is half as long as the body.

Microtus macrurus Merr.

I found a dead specimen on the trail, from Crescent Lake to the Sole-duck Hot Springs. It seems to be rare.

Microtus morosus Elliot.

A common species.

Microtus oregoni Bach. Meadow Vole.

Not many individuals of this species were seen by the writer.

Thomomys melanops Merr. Gopher.

This animal is a common pest in hay fields. In color it is pale brown to reddish, with considerable black about the head and face.

Zapus imperator Elliot. Kangaroo Mouse.

This is an abundant species, but hard to catch. In color its sides are buff, back dark, under parts white.

Sorex vagrans Baird. Shrew.

Only three individuals of this species were seen.

Lepus washingtoni Baird. Washington Rabbit.

Description: Male—Brown from head to tail on back and sides. Chin and lower jaw white to light brown, neck brown beneath, rest of under parts white, legs brown without, front legs white on outside, front of hind legs white, hair reddish brown on flanks just in front of each hind leg, tip of toes of each foot white. Tail short, ending in a tuft of dark hair, color of hair above dark brown, light brown beneath. Anal tuft nearly white. Hind legs from knee to foot on back dark to dark brown. Each front leg has a small linear white spot on front of knee.

Length of head 3.125 in., thickness of head at base of skull 2.625 in., width of base of lower jaw 1.875 in., width of ear at widest part 1.375 in., length of middle front toe 1 in., length of hind leg 11.125 in., length of hind foot and leg beneath the knee 4.875 in., length of hind foot 1.875 in., length

of middle toe of hind foot 1.375 in., length of claw of middle toe of hind foot .5 in., length of neck 2 in., length of body 11 in., length of tail 1.125 in.

Female—The sides of the female are a lighter brown than those of the male and the white of the lower parts have longer hairs of brown scattered through them in numbers enough to make those parts appear light brown. The female is considerably larger than the male.

Both the male and female rabbits walk more on the hind leg from the knee down to the foot than the "cotton tail" does. These rabbits are quite numerous.

Cervus canadensis occidentalis H. Smith (*C. roosevelti* Merr.) Roosevelt Elk.

Description: Head, neck, legs, rump black to brown.

This animal is now found principally above three thousand feet elevation. They are not plentiful. I saw seventeen near the Soleduck Hot Springs in August, 1906.

Odocoileus (Cervus) herminous Rafin. Black-tailed Deer.

This deer is found principally in the "Frozen Lake" country up near the Olympics proper. It is not plentiful.

Felis rufa fasciata Elliot (Raf.).

This animal is large and savage. It is due to the ravages of this animal that the deer and elk have been so reduced in numbers. In color it is a rich chestnut to a mahogany red.

Canis latrans Say. Coyote.

Two of these animals were killed by one of the forest rangers last year. They evidently were strays.

Canis nubilus Say. Gray Wolf.

These animals are now practically extinct; the settlers killed them by wholesale with poison to keep them from making raids on their sheep ranches.

Ursus americanus Pall. Black Bear.

This is a very common animal. It lives principally on berries in the fall of the year. The principal berries it eats are salal, salmon, red elder, thimble, huckleberries and blueberries. It gets fat on berries and is then good eating. In the spring it lives principally on skunk cabbage. It digs it up and eats it root and all. But when the salmon begin to "run" the bear leaves his cabbage garden and his berry patch and turns fisher-

man. And he catches the fish, too. He goes to a ripple and wades out into the water and waits for a fifty pounder to come along, and then he seizes it with his front paws and teeth and drags it ashore. At other times he gets on a log over the stream or on the bank and when the vanguard of the salmon army comes along on its march to the upper tributaries he springs into the water and seizes one of their number; and he seldom misses his aim.

Mustela pennanti pacifica Rhoads. The Fisher.

This animal is about the same size as the eastern fisher. Its fur is long, thick and glossy, varying from a jet black to a grizzly gray, especially on the head and neck. The tail is long and bushy. This animal is rare.

Mustela americana Kerr. Pine Marten.

In color this animal is brown and not darker below than above, with tawny throat patch. The ears are high and sub-triangular. I have seen but a few of these animals. They seem to be rare.

Putorius vison euerguminius Bangs. Mink.

This animal is large and the usual mink color. Some specimens, however, have chin, center of throat and anal regions white, with a few scattering white hairs upon the breast.

Putorius washingtoni Merr.

Only two individuals of this species were seen at the head of the Soleduck River.

Putorius streator Merr.

This is a very common weasel. It has a somewhat variable color, with a black spot thrown in now and then.

Lutra canadensis Schreber. American Otter.

These animals are frequently trapped by the Indians. Their skins sell for \$25 or more each.

Mephitis foetulenta Elliot.

This is a very common skunk. It is met with principally along the beach, where it feeds on seaweed and shellfish. A dozen of them have been seen on the beach in an hour's walk. They come out usually just before dusk, though an occasional one may be seen at any hour of the day. They are not the least bit shy, as a rule, and are not troublesome unless attacked.

Spilogale olympica Elliot.

This is a very common striped skunk. The Indians catch them for their skins; also for the skunk oil, which they use as medicine.

Scapanus townsendi Bach. Mole.

In color this animal is black with a silvery gloss; its feet are human skin color.

A stuffed specimen is now in the museum of the Kansas Academy of Science.

Myotis yumanensis saturatus Miller. Yellowish-Brown Bat.

This species is quite numerous.

Procyon lotor L. Raccoon.

This animal is very common.

Enhydra (lutris?) marina. Sea Otter.¹

This animal is not common; but it is occasionally captured or found dead on the beach.

A starving aged squaw found one on the beach near here some four years ago while looking for barnacles to eat. She put it in her basket and brought it home, skinned it and sold the pelt for more than \$200; then gave a "potlatch" with the money and starved to death herself the next summer.

Eumetopias atleri. Sea Lion.¹

These animals inhabit the jagged island group between Ozette and La Push. I have visited the islands twice, and each time have had the luck to see hundreds of these animals basking in the sun on the rocks, hear their bellowing and see their playing. It is quite amusing to see a sea lion "scratch" himself with his flippers. The Indians kill the sea lion for its flesh, which they relish very much.

Phoca vitulina. Hair Seal.¹

These seals inhabit the rocky islands of the whole coast. The Indians kill them for their flesh and also for their hides. The skins are removed as near whole as possible, turned hair side in, tied up so as to be airtight, then inflated. They are then used as buoys in catching whale. No other wild animal is so useful to the Quillentes.

The last three species are sea animals and are classed here only for convenience

