

Distribution of the 13-lined Ground Squirrel in Indiana

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The 13-lined ground squirrel (*Citellus tridecemlineatus*) was formerly restricted to the prairie portions of Indiana. Evermann and Butler (1) recorded it from seven counties, and Hahn (2) added reports from seven additional counties. Between 1909 and 1936, there was evidently an extension of range into east-central Indiana, but it is impossible to determine whether or not part of this apparent shift in distribution was because of insufficient knowledge resulting from limited field work. Lyon (3) listed observations from 34 counties, but knew of preserved specimens from only 6 of these.

We began collecting specimens of *Citellus* in 1958, after learning that the species was then found outside the known range of 1936, and tried to collect at least one specimen in each county where the animal occurs. As a result, it is now possible to map the current range with considerable accuracy. There are specimens of *Citellus tridecemlineatus* in museums from 42 counties and sight records from 8 more (Figure 1). In our attempt to chronicle what seems to us to be a recent and continuing range extension of this squirrel, we obtained pertinent information from interviews, field work, and examination of preserved specimens in various collections, as follows:

1. Franklin County. Dale Hood, conservation officer, observed this ground squirrel near Fairfield in 1956. As early as 1862, the species was present in Butler County, Ohio, 20 miles east of Franklin County, Indiana. It may be possible that some of the animals reached Indiana from this Ohio site.

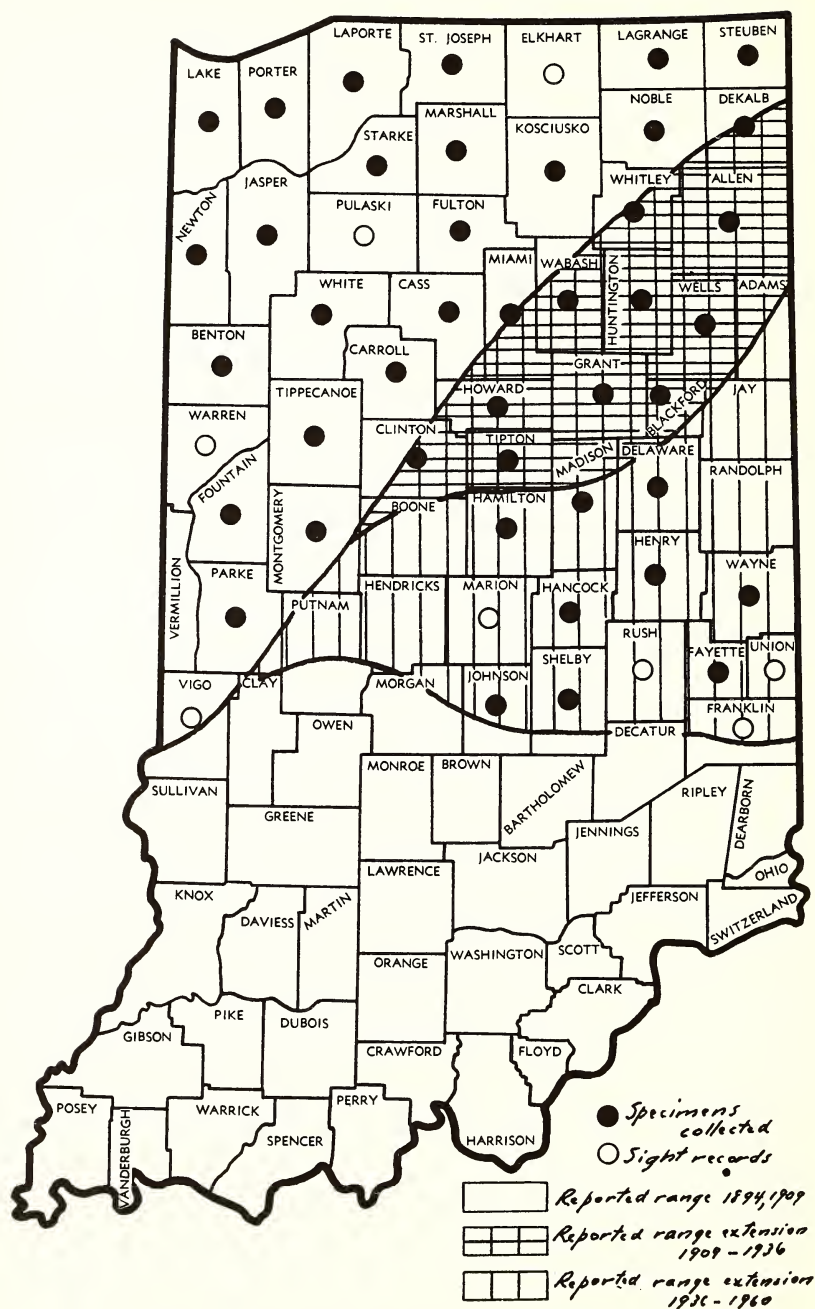
2. Johnson County. One of us (RDK) took a specimen at Mt. Pleasant Cemetery, 7 miles east of Franklin, May 7, 1959. On this date, the caretaker, who had worked at this cemetery since 1947, said he first saw ground squirrels there in 1954.

3. Shelby County. Aaron Nigh of the Indiana Department of Conservation, who has lived in the county 40 years, saw the first *Citellus* in 1948, when a farmer brought one in for identification. It had been killed 2 miles north of Morristown. Our specimen was taken in 1959 at Fountaintown.

4. Union County. Dale Hood saw a ground squirrel approximately 3 miles south of Liberty, between 1957 and 1959.

5. Wayne County. A specimen in the Joseph Moore Museum, Earlham College, was taken at Centerville in 1948.

The 13-lined ground squirrel is most frequently found in cemeteries and pastures, on golf courses, or along road shoulders and railroad embankments. It shuns the woods. Land usage patterns following logging and drainage no doubt enabled the species to take up new range in the farmlands of central and eastern Indiana. It may have dispersed into these new areas along railroads and other roadways. We hope to obtain speci-

Figure 1. Distribution of *Citellus tridecemlineatus* in Indiana.

mens from other counties where *Citellus* has been reported and to obtain data on any future distribution changes.

Literature Cited

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