

ARVICOLA DRUMMONDII.—AUD. and BACH

DRUMMOND'S MEADOW-MOUSE.

PLATE CXXXV. FIGURE WITH SHORT TAIL.—SUMMER PELAGE.

A. Corpore supra fusco, infra fusco-cinereo, ad latera rufo tincto, robustiore et paulo majore quam in *A. Pennsylvanicâ*; auriculis vellere fere occultis; cauda brevi, capitis dimidium subequante.

CHARACTERS.

Body, above, dark brown; beneath, dull brownish-gray tinged with red. Stouter and rather larger than Wilson's Meadow-Mouse (A. Pennsylvanica); ears, scarcely visible beyond the fur; tail, short, about half the length of the head.

SYNONYMES.

ARVICOLA NOVEBORACENSIS—SHARP-NOSED MEADOW-MOUSE. Rich., F. B. A., p. 126.

DESCRIPTION.

Body, thick; head, of moderate size, tapering from the ears to the nose; nose, slender and more acute than in many other *Arvicolæ*, projecting a little beyond the incisors, which are rather large.

Ears, rounded, scarcely visible beyond the fur; tail, covered with short hairs, scarcely concealing the scales, converging to a point at the tip; legs, very short; feet, rather small; claws, weak and compressed; a very minute nail occupies the place of the thumb; the fur is a little coarser than that of *A. Pennsylvanica*.

The whiskers, which are not numerous, reach the cheeks.

COLOUR.

Hair on the back, and upper part of the head, grayish-black from the roots to near the tips, which are reddish-brown terminated with black; the resulting colour is an intimate mixture of brown and black, appearing in some lights dark reddish-brown, in others yellowish-brown mixed with blackish; around the eyes, yellowish-red; there is a lightish space behind the ears and along the sides; under surface, yellowish-gray, mingling on

the sides with the colour of the back ; upper surface of the tail, dark brown ; under side, grayish-white ; feet, dark gray, tinged with rufous.

DIMENSIONS.

							Inches.	Lines.
Length of head and body,	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	3
" head,	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	4
" tail,	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	

HABITS.

The specimen from which our drawing was made is one of those obtained by Mr. DRUMMOND, and was deposited by that gentleman in the museum of the Zoological Society at London, as well as many others to which we have already referred in our work. It was examined and described by Sir JOHN RICHARDSON, who mistook the animal for a supposed species found in the state of New York, and loosely described by RAFFINESQUE under the name of *Lemmus noveboracensis*, and which we refer to *A. Pennsylvanica*, with which we have compared the description.

DRUMMOND in regard to the habits of the present animal merely states that they are similar to those of *Arvicola xanthognatha*.

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION.

Valleys of the Rocky Mountains.

GENERAL REMARKS.

As above mentioned, Sir JOHN RICHARDSON described this animal, quoting from DESMAREST (Mamm., p. 286), RAFFINESQUE's description of the so-called *Lemmus noveboracensis*, which appears to apply to one of the varieties of WILSON's Meadow-Mouse (*Arvicola Pennsylvanica*), of which we possess specimens.

From an examination of many species, we have arrived at the conclusion that no *Arvicolæ* found on the Rocky Mountains are identical with any in the Atlantic States, and on a comparison of RICHARDSON's species with those referred to by RAFFINESQUE, we determined without much hesitation that the present is a new species under an old name, and we have consequently attached to it the name of its discoverer—DRUMMOND.

By some oversight this species was not named on our plate as distinct from *A. Richardsonii*, but is easily distinguished by its short tail—the two being on the same engraving.



Drawn from Nature by J.W. Audubon

On stone by W.E. Hitchcock

Richardson's Meadow Mouse

Intd. Printed & Col'd by J.T. Bowen, Philad^a



Audubon, John James and Bachman, John. 1854. "Arvicola drummondii, Drummond's Meadow-Mouse [Pl. CXXXV, summer pelage]." *The quadrupeds of North America* 3, 166–167. <https://doi.org/10.5962/p.322362>.

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