

GENUS PTEROMYS.—ILLIGER.

DENTAL FORMULA.

$$\text{Incisive } \frac{2}{2}; \quad \text{Molar } \frac{5-5}{4-4} = 22.$$

Dentition similar to that of the genus *SCIURUS*. Head, round; ears, round; upper lip, divided; eyes, large; fore-feet, with four elongated toes, furnished with compressed, sharp, talons, with the rudiment of a thumb having an obtuse nail; hind-feet, with five long toes, much divided, and fitted for seizing or climbing; tail, long, villose; skin of the sides, extending from the anterior to the posterior extremities, forming a thin membrane, by the aid of which, when extended, the animal sails through the air in a descending curve from a tree or any elevated point, occasionally for some distance.

The generic name, *pteromys*, is derived from two Greek words, πτερον, (*pteron*,) a wing, and μυς, (*mus*,) a mouse.

There are thirteen well-determined species belonging to this genus. One is found in the north of Europe, four in North America, and the remainder in Asia and other parts of the old world.

 PTEROMYS OREGONENSIS.—BACHMAN.

OREGON FLYING SQUIRREL.

PLATE XV.—MALE AND FEMALE.

P. magnitudine inter P. volucellam et P. sabrinum medius, supra fuscus, subtus luteo-albus; auribus P. sabrini auriculis longioribus; vellere densiore, membrana volatica largiore, pedibus grandioribus.

CHARACTERS.

Intermediate in size between P. volucella, and the Northern species, P. sabrinus; ears, longer than in the latter, and far more compact; lobe of the flying membrane joining the fore-feet, much longer in proportion, making that membrane broader. Foot larger; general colour above, brown; beneath, yellowish-white.



Audubon, John James and Bachman, John. 1851. "Genus Pteromys." *The quadrupeds of North America* 1, 132–132. <https://doi.org/10.5962/p.322444>.

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