

Natural Sciences as NMNS 17492 and 17493; they were collected 31 July and 15 August 1973. Both were mature females with developing eggs and measured 70.5 and 65.0 mm after preservation. Their large size agrees with similar measurements found for other northern Mink Frog populations by Schueler (1975).

The two adult female Water Shrews were found on shore within 2 m of the Kanaaupscow River. One specimen was taken in a Museum Special trap in sedge-willow scrub. The other shrew was found dead on a sandy beach and large canid tracks around the body along with injuries on the specimen indicated that it had probably been killed and discarded by a wolf (*Canis lupus*). The previous known occurrences of the Water Shrew were recorded on the opposite side of James Bay at Cape Henrietta Maria and further north in Ungava at Fort Chimo (Peterson 1966). Our records represent an extension of over 300 km for the shrew in northwestern Quebec. The specimens have been catalogued at the Carleton University Museum of Zoology as CUMZ 4876 and 4877; total length measured 168 mm and 166 mm, tail vertebrae 80 mm and 80 mm, and weight 10.6 and 9.9 g.

We thank Francis R. Cook of the National Museum of Natural Sciences for confirming identifi-

cation of the Mink Frogs, and C. G. van Zyll de Jong of the National Museum for providing distributional data on the Water Shrew. We especially thank M. B. Fenton of Carleton University for his help in all aspects of the work. This study was supported by a grant from the Indian and Inuit Association of Northern Quebec.

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Range of the Bushy-tailed Wood Rat (*Neotoma cinerea*) in Alberta

DAVID W. KRAUSE¹ and BRUCE G. NAYLOR²

¹Department of Zoology, University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta T6G 2E9

²Department of Geology, University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta T6G 2E3

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Soper (1961, p. 34) has stated that the Bushy-tailed Wood Rat (*Neotoma cinerea*) "is essentially a dweller in the Rocky Mountains, but stragglers infiltrate suitable Great Plains environment to a very limited extent." Elsewhere, Soper (1964, p. 199) noted an "unusual" record of this species from Ponoka, in central Alberta. Evidence presented here documents additional occurrences of the Bushy-tailed Wood Rat on the plains of Alberta.

A complete articulated skeleton (University of Alberta Museum of Zoology catalogue number 7769) of *N. cinerea drummondii* was discovered in September of 1973 along the Smoky River some 35 km east of Grande Prairie (NW 1/4, Sect. 16, Twp. 72, Rg. 2, W. 6). The unbleached state of the bone indicates a recent death and the articulated

condition makes transport by predator unlikely.

In July 1974 a nearly complete skeleton (UAMZ 7770) of *N. c. cinerea*, with skull and jaws intact, was recovered approximately 27 km south of Empress, Alberta at the Trans-Canada pipeline crossing of the South Saskatchewan River (NW 1/4, Sect. 18, Twp. 20, Rg. 1, W. 4). At the same time, the anterior part of a second skull (UAMZ 7771), with an associated left dentary, was found some 100 m southeast of the more complete find. These two specimens constitute a range extension of approximately 150 km north of previously known occurrences along the Milk River (Soper 1946; Rand 1948) and its tributaries (Nero 1956).

Another, although questionable, range extension is a record from the town of Strathmore, some 61 km

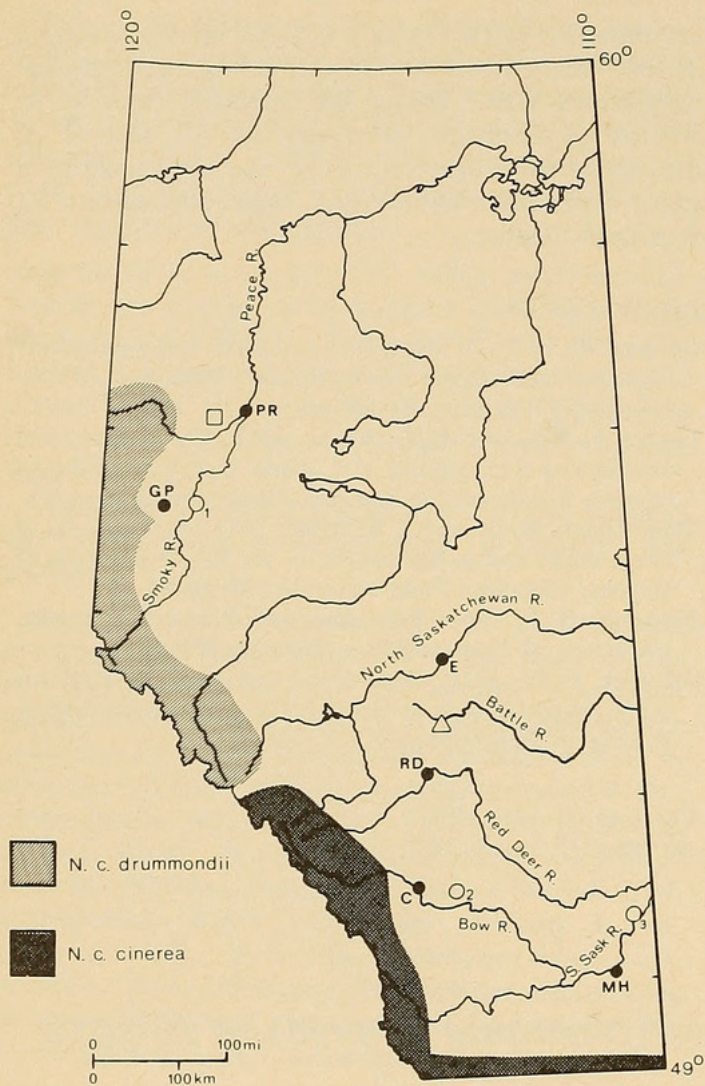


FIGURE 1. The range of the wood rat in Alberta. Hatching and cross-hatching indicate the well-established ranges of *Neotoma cinerea drummondii* and *N. c. cinerea*, respectively (after Soper 1964). Extralimital occurrences are depicted by the following symbols: □, Brownvale (Kelsall 1971); △, Ponoka (Soper 1964); O₁, Smoky River; O₂, Strathmore; O₃, Empress. Abbreviations designate major urban centers.

east of Calgary. This specimen was apparently collected by W. Sturm, a resident of Strathmore, in April 1970 and was subsequently donated to the Provincial Museum and Archives of Alberta, Edmonton (catalogue number Z72.102.26). More precise locality data are not available.

Previous extralimital extensions for the Bushy-tailed Wood Rat east of the Canadian Rocky

Mountains have been reported by Nero (1956) at Govenlock, Saskatchewan (in the extreme southwestern corner of the province), Soper (1964) at Ponoka, and Kelsall (1971) at Brownvale (near the town of Peace River, Alberta). The species appears to be established on the prairies in areas in, or adjacent to, major river valleys proximate to the Rockies. The records from Govenlock, Ponoka, Brownvale, Smoky River, Empress, and perhaps Strathmore document occurrences near the Milk, Battle, Peace, Smoky, South Saskatchewan, and Bow Rivers, respectively. The rocky exposures found along these rivers provide suitable habitat for the wood rat on the prairies. In those instances where the Bushy-tailed Wood Rat has been captured some distance from a river valley, it has been found inhabiting an occupied or abandoned human dwelling, a habit that is common for the wood rat (Rand 1948; Banfield 1974). It would be of considerable interest to establish the extent of the range of the wood rat on the prairie areas of Western Canada by a collection program along the major river valleys.

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