

PROCEEDINGS  
OF THE  
BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON

## DESCRIPTIONS OF NEW NORTH AMERICAN RABBITS.

BY E. W. NELSON.

Study of the great series of North American rabbits in the National Museum (mainly in the Biological Survey Collection) reveals the existence of several previously unrecognized species and subspecies. As considerable time must elapse before publication of my monograph on the group I have thought it advisable to publish the new forms in advance. The present paper includes a new Jack Rabbit and several Cottontails.

In this connection I wish to acknowledge my indebtedness to Dr. C. Hart Merriam for the opportunity to monograph this interesting group after he had devoted considerable time to its study with the same object in view. I am under obligation also to Mr. N. H. Hollister, Assistant in the Biological Survey, for help in arranging and comparing the great mass of material in the National Museum Collections.

All measurements are in millimeters.

GENUS *LEPUS* LINN.***Lepus californicus magdalenæ*** subsp. nov.

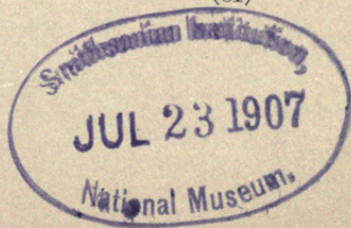
MAGDALENA ISLAND JACK RABBIT.

*Type* No. 146,168, adult male, U. S. National Museum (Biological Survey Collection), from Magdalena Island, Lower California, Mexico; collected by E. W. Nelson and E. A. Goldman, November 26, 1905.

*Geographic distribution*.—Magdalena and Margarita Islands, Lower California, Mexico.

*Subspecific characters*.—Upperparts brownish buffy, most like *L. c. xanti* but paler, with a lighter wash of black on back; front of ears grayer and back of ears, especially on basal half, much whiter; ears decidedly shorter.

*Measurements of type*.—Total length, 550; tail vertebrae, 92; hind foot, 117; length of ear from notch in dried skin, 94.





GENUS SYLVILAGUS GRAY.

***Sylvilagus cognatus* sp. nov.**

MANZANO MOUNTAIN COTTONTAIL.

*Type* No. 136,569, adult, U. S. National Museum (Biological Survey Collection), from 10,000 feet altitude, near the summit of Manzano Mountains, New Mexico; collected by A. Rea, February, 1905.

*Geographic distribution.*—Higher slopes of the mountains of central and eastern New Mexico.

*Specific characters.*—General color pale slightly buffy gray like *S. robustus* but smaller with smaller skull, much smaller bullæ and slenderer supraorbitals.

*Measurements of type.*—Total length, 390; hind foot, 100; length of ear from notch, 69 (all the foregoing measurements are from the dry skin).

***Sylvilagus floridanus similis* subsp. nov.**

NEBRASKA COTTONTAIL.

*Type* No. 69,517, adult male, U. S. National Museum (Biological Survey Collection), from Valentine, Nebraska; collected by C. P. Streater, November 10, 1894.

*Geographic distribution.*—Western border of Minnesota, eastern border of the Dakotas, Nebraska and the northeastern quarter of Colorado.

*Subspecific characters.*—A pale, gray form like *mearnsi* but smaller and distinctly paler.

*Measurements of type.*—Total length, 410; tail vertebræ, 61; hind foot, 100; length of ear from notch in dried skin, 51.

***Sylvilagus floridanus restrictus* subsp. nov.**

MICHOACAN COTTONTAIL.

*Type* No. 33,687, adult male, U. S. National Museum (Biological Survey Collection), from Zapotlan, Jalisco, Mexico; collected by E. W. Nelson, April 25, 1892.

*Geographic distribution.*—Mainly in the pine and oak forests of the Sierra Madre in the States of Michoacan, southern and western Jalisco and the southeastern part of the Territory of Tepic, Mexico.

*Subspecific characters.*—Similar in size to *S. f. subcinctus* but decidedly more rusty reddish (almost as in *aztecus*) with legs much brighter rufous than in any other form of *floridanus* on the Mexican tableland.

*Measurements of type.*—Total length, 425; tail vertebræ, 55; hind foot, 94; length of ear from notch in dried skin, 58.

***Sylvilagus auduboni vallicola* subsp. nov.**

SAN JOAQUIN COTTONTAIL.

*Type* No.  $\frac{31257}{43122}$ , adult female, U. S. National Museum (Biological Survey Collection), from San Emigdio Ranch, Kern County, California; collected by E. W. Nelson, October 22, 1891.

*Geographic distribution.*—Mainly in the southern two-thirds of the San Joaquin and adjacent connected valleys, central California.



*Subspecific characters*.—Size about as in true *auduboni* but ears much larger and color of upperparts paler and more yellowish buffy brownish; bullæ larger, jugals slenderer.

*Measurements of type*.—Total length, 375; tail vertebræ, 73; hind foot, 88; length of ear from notch in dried skin, 68.

***Sylvilagus auduboni cedrophilus* subsp. nov.**

CEDAR BELT COTTONTAIL.

*Type* No. 148,287, adult female, U. S. National Museum (Biological Survey Collection), from Cactus Flat, twenty miles north of Cliff, New Mexico; collected by Vernon Bailey, November 6, 1906.

*Geographic distribution*.—Mainly in the cedar and pinyon pine belt of the southern two-thirds of New Mexico and eastern border of Arizona.

*Subspecific characters*.—Larger and much richer and darker buffy than *S. a. minor*; underside of neck usually rich ochraceous buffy.

*Measurements of type*.—Total length, 385; tail vertebræ, 35; hind foot, 92; length of ears from notch in dried skin, 66.

***Sylvilagus auduboni neomexicanus* subsp. nov.**

NEW MEXICO COTTONTAIL.

*Type* No. 118,477, adult male, U. S. National Museum (Biological Survey Collection), from Fort Sumner, New Mexico; collected by J. H. Gaut, September 23, 1902.

*Geographic distribution*.—The Pecos Valley, New Mexico, and thence into the adjacent parts of western Texas and north through western Oklahoma to the central southern border of Kansas.

*Subspecific characters*.—Size about as in *S. a. minor* but ears shorter, bullæ smaller and color much more rusty buffy, or rusty reddish.

*Measurements of type*.—Total length, 385; tail vertebræ, 59; hind foot, 91; length of ears from notch in dried skin, 58.

***Sylvilagus auduboni warreni* subsp. nov.**

COLORADO COTTONTAIL.

*Type* No. 148,632, adult female, U. S. National Museum (Biological Survey Collection); from Coventry, Colorado; collected by C. H. Smith, January 4, 1907.

*Geographic distribution*.—Southwestern Colorado and adjacent parts of Utah, New Mexico and Arizona.

*Subspecific characters*.—Similar to *baileyi* in size, length of ears and abundant pelage but darker colored with more distinct gray rump patch and darker rufous on nape and legs.

*Measurements of type*.—Total length, 375; tail vertebræ, 51; hind foot, 102; length of ears from notch in dried skin, 70.

***Sylvilagus mansuetus* sp. nov.**

SAN JOSÉ ISLAND BRUSH RABBIT.

*Type* No. 79,041, adult male, U. S. National Museum (Biological Survey



Collection), from San José Island, Gulf of California, Mexico; collected by J. E. McLellan, August 2, 1895.

*Geographic distribution.*—San José Island, Gulf of California, Mexico.

*Specific characters.*—Size of *Sylvilagus bachmani cinerascens*; ears larger and color much paler.

*Measurements of type.*—Total length, 339; tail vertebræ, 44; hind foot, 73; length of ears from notch, in dried skin, 63.

***Sylvilagus bachmani exiguus* subsp. nov.**

LOWER CALIFORNIA BRUSH RABBIT.

*Type* No. 139,607, adult male, U. S. National Museum (Biological Survey Collection), from Yubay, central Lower California, Mexico; collected by E. W. Nelson and E. A. Goldman, September 19, 1905.

*Geographic distribution.*—The arid middle part of the Peninsula of Lower California, Mexico.

*Subspecific characters.*—Similar in size to *cinerascens* but differs from that form in its much longer ears, larger bullæ and well marked gray rump patch.

*Measurements of type.*—Total length, 315; tail vertebræ, 32; hind foot, 68; length of ears from notch in dried skin, 64.





Nelson, Edward William. 1907. "Descriptions of new North American rabbits." *Proceedings of the Biological Society of Washington* 20, 81–84.

**View This Item Online:** <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/19616>

**Permalink:** <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/partpdf/92382>

**Holding Institution**

Smithsonian Libraries and Archives

**Sponsored by**

Internet Archive

**Copyright & Reuse**

Copyright Status: NOT\_IN\_COPYRIGHT

This document was created from content at the **Biodiversity Heritage Library**, the world's largest open access digital library for biodiversity literature and archives. Visit BHL at <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org>.