

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON

A NEW RACE OF PINE SQUIRREL FROM THE COAST
REGION OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA.

BY OUTRAM BANGS.

Mr. C. A. Allen, of Nicasio, California, has sent me fourteen pine squirrels that were shot at Philo, Mendocino County, California, by a friend of his, who sent them to him in the meat, Mr. Allen measuring, sexing, and skinning them. This series shows the pine squirrel of the coast region of northern California, west of the mountains, to be a well-marked race. The region north of its range is occupied by *S. hudsonicus douglasi*, and in the mountains to the east is found *S. hudsonicus californicus*. The present form differs considerably from either of these squirrels, though undoubtedly it intergrades with one or both of them.

The pine squirrel of the coast region of northern California may be known as follows:

***Sciurus hudsonicus orarius* subsp. nov.**

Type from Philo, Mendocino County, California, ♀ old adult, No. 4978. Coll. E. A. and O. Bangs. Collected Dec. 9, 1895. Skinned, sexed, and measured by C. A. Allen.

General characters.—Size and proportions of *S. hudsonicus douglasi*; ear small and low as in that form; colors above very dark with but little rusty; colors below varying from ochraceous to ochraceous-buff; tail dark colored with but little rusty in it and conspicuously bordered by a deep fringe of white.

Color.—Effect of upper parts, owing to the banding of the hairs, deep olive varied with a fine sprinkling of yellowish olive, a little rust color intermixed at base of tail, extending in some specimens onto rump; more olive gray on cheeks and top of nose; feet, hands, and underparts vary-

ing from pale ochraceous-buff to (in a few specimens) ochraceous; a broad black band separating colors of upper and under parts, usually present (in one or two specimens nearly obsolete); orbital ring pale ochraceous-buff; tail: hairs of upper surface tawny at base, then black and white tipped; of lower surface dull tawny olive at base, then black and white tipped; whiskers, black.

Measurements.

No.	Sex.	Date.	Total length.	Tail vertebrae.	Hind foot.	Ear.
4978 type.....	♀ old ad.	Dec. 9, 1895	320.	134.8	50.8	22.4
4987 topotype..	ad.	Dec. 9, 1895	302.2	131.	50.8	22.4
4979 " ..	♀ old ad.	Dec. 9, 1895	323.8	136.4	50.8	22.4
4984 " ..	♀ ad.	Dec. 9, 1895	317.6	133.6	50.8	22.4
4980 " ..	ad.	Dec. 9, 1895	317.6	133.6	50.8	22.4
4989 " ..	♂ old ad.	Dec. 9, 1895	327.2	139.8	50.8	22.4
4983 " ..	♀ ad.	Dec. 9, 1895	316.	134.8	50.8	22.4
4982 " ..	♀ ad.	Dec. 9, 1895	319.4	147.6	50.8	22.4
4986 " ..	♀ ad. ...	Dec. 9, 1895	319.4	131.	50.8	22.4
4985 " ..	♀ yg.	Dec. 9, 1895	306.4	141.6	50.8	22.4
4981 " ..	♀ ad.	Dec. 9, 1895	327.2	139.8	50.8	22.4
5462 " ..	♀ old ad.	Dec. 16, 1895	320.4	131.	50.8	20.6
4832 " ..	♀ ad.	July 24, 1895	317.6	127.	50.8
4988 " ..	♀ yg.	Dec. 9, 1895	314.2	136.4	50.8	20.6

Remarks.—Compared with *S. h. douglasi*, *S. h. orarius* has the same small ear, but differs very much in color, the dark olive shades of the upper parts of *orarius*, with but little rusty anywhere, being in marked contrast to the ferruginous dorsal region of *douglasi*. The white fringed tail of *orarius*, with a broad black subapical band, can always be told from the rusty yellow fringed tail of *douglasi*. The under parts are, as a rule, much paler, more ochraceous-buff, less ochraceous-rufous than in *douglasi*.

With *S. hudsonicus californicus*, *S. hudsonicus orarius* scarcely needs comparison, the large ear, white or creamy white under parts, and bright ochraceous-rufous dorsal stripe of *californicus* at once distinguishing it.

Most of my specimens were taken on December 9, one only being taken in midsummer. The specimens taken December 9 show all the stages from probably the summer to full winter coat, it appearing to be the time at which that change takes place. There seems to be but a slight difference in color between the winter and summer pelages, though the black side stripes probably nearly disappear when the full winter coat has been acquired, and the ears are more tufted and the under parts more vermiculated with blackish.



Bangs, Outram. 1897. "A new race of pine squirrel from the coast region of northern California." *Proceedings of the Biological Society of Washington* 11, 281–282.

View This Item Online: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/19431>

Permalink: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/partpdf/211448>

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>.