

ARCTOMYS FLAVIVENTER.—BACH.

YELLOW-BELLIED MARMOT.

PLATE CXXXIV.—MALE.

A. Supra flavido-albo nigroque griseus, capitis vertice nigro, subtus saturate flavus, nasi extremitate labiis, mentoque albis, pedibus fuscescente flavis, cauda subnigra.

CHARACTERS.

Upper parts, grizzled yellowish-white and black; crown of the head, chiefly black; under parts, deep yellow; point of nose, lips, and chin, white; feet, brownish-yellow; tail, blackish-brown.

SYNONYMES.

ARCTOMYS FLAVIVENTER. Bachman, Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci. Phila., October 5, 1841.
 " " Catal. Zool. Soc. 1839, Specimen No. 459, Bachman's MSS

DESCRIPTION.

In form this animal resembles the figures and descriptions of what was formerly considered the Canada Marmot (*Arctomys empetra*), which has since been ascertained to be the young of the Maryland Marmot (*A. monax*).

Head, rather small; ears, small and narrow; nails, short; tail, rounded, and rather long; the whole animal is thickly clothed with fur, somewhat softer than that of the Maryland Marmot.

The upper incisors have several indistinct longitudinal grooves.

COLOUR.

Fur on the back, grayish-black at base; on each hair a considerable space is occupied by dirty yellowish-white, which is gradually shaded towards the tips through brown into black, but the tips are yellowish-white.

Hairs on the under surface, grayish-black at base; hairs of the feet, chiefly black at base; cheeks, grizzled with white and dark brown, the latter colour prevailing; a rusty brown patch on the throat borders the



Drawn from Nature by J. W. Audubon.

On stone by W. E. Hitchcock.

Yellow-bellied Marmot

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white hairs on the chin; whiskers, mostly black; palms, entirely naked through their whole extent. There is an indistinct yellow elongated spot behind the nose, and also one behind or above the eye.

DIMENSIONS.

	Inches.	Lines.
From point of nose to root of tail, - - -	16	
Tail, to end of fur, - - - - -	6	10
Heel, to point of nail, - - - - -	2	6½
Height of ear posteriorly, - - - - -		6½
From point of nose to ear, - - - - -	3	

HABITS.

The specimen from which our description of this Marmot was drawn up, was found by us among the skins sent to England by DRUMMOND and DOUGLAS, procured by those gentlemen in our northwestern territories, and placed in the museum of the Zoological Society of London. Since we described it, the skin has been stuffed and set up.

Not a line was written in regard to its habits or the place where it was killed; its form and claws, however, indicate that like the other species of Marmot found in America, it is a burrowing animal, and feeds on seeds, roots, and grasses. We may also presume it has four or five young at a birth.

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION.

As just stated, the exact locality in which this animal was captured has not been given, but judging from the route travelled over by DOUGLAS, we presume it was obtained in the mountainous districts that extend north and south between Western Texas and California, where it probably exists, but if seen has been supposed by the hunters and miners to be the common Marmot or woodchuck of the Atlantic States (*A. monax*).

GENERAL REMARKS.

This species differs from the young of *Arctomys monax*, by some naturalists named *A. empetra*, as we ascertained by comparing it with several specimens of that so-called species, in the museum of the Zoological Society, its feet being yellow instead of black, as in those specimens, and the belly yellow, not deep rusty red. Besides, the hairs

on the back are yellowish-white and black, in place of rusty brown, black, and white.

The head is narrower, the toes smaller, and the claws only half as long, as in the above specimens. The ears are also considerably smaller, narrower and more ovate than the ears of *A. monax*, which are round.



Audubon, John James and Bachman, John. 1854. "Arctomys flaviventer, Yellow-bellied Marmot [Pl. CXXXIV, male]." *The quadrupeds of North America* 3, 160–162. <https://doi.org/10.5962/p.322350>.

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