ARVICOLA OREGONI.—BACH.

OREGON MEADOW-MOUSE.

PLATE CXLVII. FIG. 3.—MALE.

A. M. musculus magnitudine, gracilior, auribus brevibus vellere absconditis ; colore supra cinereo fusco, subtus cinereo.

CHARACTERS.

Size of the house mouse ; slender form ; ears, short, nearly naked, and concealed by the fur ; colour, ashy brown on the back, cinereous beneath.

SYNONYME.

ARVICOLA OREGONI—OREGON MEADOW-MOUSE. Bachman, Jour. Acad. Nat. Sci., vol. viii., part i., p. 60.

DESCRIPTION.

Head, of moderate size ; body, slender, eyes, small ; ears, concealed by the fur and nearly naked, being clothed with but a few short and scattered hairs ; feet, small ; whiskers, as long as the head ; a very minute blunt nail on the fore-foot ; tail, and feet, clothed with short hairs.

COLOUR.

The fur, on the upper surface, is bluish from the roots to near the tips, where most of the points of the hairs are black, a shade of brownish appearing beneath ; under surface, ashy white ; above the eye, and immediately in front of the shoulders there is a line of light brown ; whiskers, white and black, the latter predominating ; feet, flesh coloured ; incisors, yellow ; tail, dark brown above, yellowish-white beneath, with the extreme end black. In TOWNSEND'S Notes it is stated that the specimen we have described above, was an old male, captured on the 2d of November, 1836.

DIMENSIONS.

	Inches.	Lines.
Length of head and body, - - - - -	3	0
“ of tail, - - - - -	1	2

Fig 1

Fig 2

Fig 3

On Stone by W. E. Mendenhall

Fig 1 American Towhee. Fig 2 Oregon Meadow-Mouse. Fig 3 Texas Meadow-Mouse.

Drawn from Nature by J. W. Audubon

Lith. Printed & Col'd by J. T. Bowen, Phil

HABITS.

We are unacquainted with the habits of this species, but should judge from its form resembling that of LE CONTE's pine mouse (*A. pinetorum*) that instead of having galleries on the surface of the earth, as is the general habit of the Meadow-Mice, this species lives principally under ground, and only comes to the surface at night, to seek its food ; it evidently feeds more on roots than on seeds.

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION.

This *Arvicola* was captured in Oregon, near the Columbia river.

GENERAL REMARKS.

Although its head is rather smaller in proportion than that of LE CONTE's pine mouse (*Arvicola pinetorum*), and its body differing from that animal in colour, this species is nevertheless very similar to it in form, more especially in the almost naked lobe of the ear ; and seems to be the representative of that Atlantic species in Oregon.

Audubon, John James and Bachman, John. 1854. "Arvicola oregoni, Oregon Meadow-Mouse [Pl. CXLVII, male]." *The quadrupeds of North America* 3, 232–233. <https://doi.org/10.5962/p.322367>.

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