SCIURUS DOUGLASSII.—BACH.

DOUGLASS' SQUIRREL.

PLATE XLVIII.—Male and Female.

S. Hudsonio quarta parte major ; cauda corpore curtior ; supra subniger, infra flavus.

CHARACTERS.

About one-fourth larger than the chickaree (S. Hudsonius) ; tail, shorter than the body ; colour, dark-brown above, and bright-buff beneath.

SYNONYMES.

SCIURUS DOUGLASSII, Gray, Proceedings Zool. Society, London, 1836, p. 88, named, but apparently not described.
 “ “ Bachman, monograph of the Genus Sciurus, Proceedings Zool. Soc., London, 1838.

DESCRIPTION.

Incisors, a little smaller than those of *Sciurus Hudsonius* ; in the upper jaw the anterior molar, which is the smallest, has a single rounded eminence on the inner side ; on the outer edge of the tooth there are two acute points, and there is one in front ; the next two grinders, which are of equal size, have each a similar eminence on the inner side, with a pair of points externally ; the posterior grinder, although larger, is not unlike the anterior one. In the lower jaw the bounding ridge of enamel in each tooth forms an anterior and posterior pair of points. The molars increase gradually in size from the first, which is the smallest, to the posterior one, which is the largest.

This species, in the form of its body, is not very unlike *Sciurus Hudsonius* ; its ears and tail, however, are much shorter in proportion, and in other respects, as well as in size, it differs widely from *Hudsonius*.

Head, considerably broader ; and nose, less elongated and blunter than in the latter ; body, long and slender ; ears, rather small, nearly rounded, slightly tufted posteriorly. As usual in this genus, the third inner toe is the longest, and not the second, as in the spermophiles.

On Stone by W^m H. Hitchcock.

Douglass Squirrel.

Drawn from Nature by J.J. Audubon, F.R.S.F.L.S.

Lith. Printed & Col^d by J.T. Bowen, Phil^a.

COLOUR.

The whiskers, which are longer than the head, are black; hair from the roots to near the points, plumbeous, tipped with brownish-gray, a few lighter-coloured hairs interspersed, giving it a dark-brown appearance. When closely examined it has the appearance of being thickly sprinkled with minute points of rust-colour on a black ground. The tail, which is distichous but not broad, is for three-fourths of its length the colour of the back; in the middle the fur is plumbeous at the roots, then irregularly marked with brown and black, and is tipped with dull white, giving it a hoary appearance; on the extremity of the tail the hairs are black from the roots and are tipped with light brown; the belly, the inner sides of the extremities and the outer surfaces of the feet, together with the throat and mouth and a line above and under the eyes, are bright-buff. The colours on the upper and under parts are separated by a line of black, commencing at the shoulders, and running along the flanks to the thighs; this line is broadest in the middle of the body and is there about three lines wide, narrowing from thence to a point. The hairs, which project beyond the outer margins of the ears and form a slight tuft, are dark-brown, and in some specimens black.

DIMENSIONS.

								Inches.	Lines.
Length from point of nose to insertion of tail	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	4
Tail (vertebræ)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	6
Tail, including fur	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	4
Height of ear posteriorly	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	6
Palm to end of middle fore-claw	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	4
Heel and middle hind-claw	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	10

HABITS.

Our specimens of Douglass' Squirrel were procured by Mr. TOWNSEND. He remarks in his notes:—"This is a very plentiful species, inhabits the pine trees along the shores of the Columbia River, and like our common Carolina squirrel lays in a great quantity of food for consumption during the winter months. This food consists of the cones of the pine, with a few acorns. Late in autumn it may be seen very busy in the tops of the trees, throwing down its winter stock; after which, assisted by its mate, it gathers in and stows away its store, in readiness for its long incarceration."

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION.

DOUGLASS obtained his specimens of this Squirrel on the Rocky Mountains, and TOWNSEND found it on the Columbia River.

GENERAL REMARKS.

This species was found by DOUGLASS and by TOWNSEND about the same time. These gentlemen, if we have been rightly informed, met together in the far West. We drew up a description from specimens sent us by Mr. TOWNSEND, and used the grateful privilege of a describer, in naming it (*S. Townsendii*) after the individual who we supposed had been the first discoverer. Under this name we sent our description to the Acad. of Nat. Sciences of Philadelphia, which was read Aug. 7th, 1838. After arriving in England, however, the same year, we saw a similar specimen in the Museum of the Zool. Society, and heard that it had been named by GRAY, on the 11th October, 1836, who had called it after DOUGLASS, (*S. Douglassii*.) He had not, as far as we have been able to ascertain, published any description of it. All that we can find in reference to this species is the following: "Mr. GRAY gave a description of two foxes, a squirrel (*Sciurus Douglassii*), and three hares." The foxes and hares were described by him in the Magazine of Nat. Hist., (new series,) Nov., 1837, vol. i., p. 578, but for some reason he appears never to have published a description of this species.

We, however, supposing that he had described it, immediately changed our name to that proposed by GRAY, and in our monograph of the genus assigned to him the credit of having been the first describer, although he had, it appears, only named the animal.

Audubon, John James and Bachman, John. 1851. "Sciurus Douglassii, Douglass' Squirrel [Pl. XLVIII, male and female]." *The quadrupeds of North America* 1, 370–372. <https://doi.org/10.5962/p.322548>.

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