SCIURUS FRÉMONTI.—TOWNSEND.

FRÉMONT'S SQUIRREL.

PLATE CXLIX.—FIG. 1.

Magnitudine Sciuri Hudsonii; caudâ corpore brevior; auribus cristatis; colore supra albido, infra cinereo.

CHARACTERS.

Size of Sciurus Hudsonius; tail, shorter than the body; ears, tufted. Colour, light gray above, ashy white beneath.

DESCRIPTION.

Upper incisors, larger than those of *S. Richardsonii* or *S. lanuginosus*; lower incisors, longer and more curved than those of *S. Hudsonius*. The first or deciduous tooth wanting.

Body, short and stout, presenting less appearance of lightness and agility than that of the Hudson's Bay Squirrel; head, short and broad; forehead, but slightly arched; ears, rather short, broad, rounded, and much tufted; whiskers, long, reaching to the shoulders; legs, short and stout; the third toe on the fore-foot, slightly the longest; nails, compressed, and shorter, blunter, and less hooked than those of *S. Hudsonius*. Tail, a little shorter than the body, of tolerable breadth, and capable of a distichous arrangement.

The whole body is clothed with a dense coat of rather long and soft fur.

COLOUR.

Fur on the back, dark plumbeous from the roots; on the sides, tipped with light gray. There is a narrow dark reddish line along the centre of the back, caused by the hairs on the dorsal line being tipped with reddish-brown and black. On the under surface the fur is plumbeous at the roots, and tipped with ashy white. The tufts on the ears are black; whiskers, black; a line of dark brown runs from the end of the nose, blending gradually with the lighter tint of the forehead; there is a light circle around the eye; sides of the nose, and lips, yellowish-white; upper surface of feet gray.

There is a slight and almost imperceptible black stripe about a line wide and three inches long, separating the colour of the sides from the ashy white tint of the under surface. The annulations in the hairs of the tail are somewhat indistinct: from the roots for nearly half their length they are grayish-white, are then black, and are broadly tipped with white.

DIMENSIONS.

	Inches.
Length of head and body, - - - - -	7
“ tail (vertebræ), - - - - -	4 $\frac{3}{4}$
“ “ (including fur), - - - - -	6 $\frac{1}{4}$
Height of ear posteriorly, - - - - -	$\frac{3}{8}$
“ “ (including tufts), - - - - -	$\frac{7}{8}$
Palm and middle fore-claw, - - - - -	1 $\frac{1}{8}$
Sole and middle hind-claw, - - - - -	2

HABITS.

We possess no information in regard to this animal farther than that it was obtained on the Rocky Mountains.

It no doubt, like all the other small species of Squirrels which are closely allied with it (*Richardsonii*, *Hudsonius*, *lanuginosus*, &c.), feeds on the seeds of pines, and other coniferæ.

All these squirrels inhabit elevated regions of country, and in addition to their habit of climbing, have burrows in the ground, wherein they make their dormitories, and dwell in winter; whilst in summer they select the hollow of a tree, in which they construct their nests.

Their note is peculiar, like *chicharee chicharee* repeated in quick succession, and differing from the *qua qua quah* note of the larger squirrels.

By their habit of burrowing or living in holes in the ground, these small squirrels make an approach to the genus *Tamias*, or ground squirrels.

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION.

The only specimen we have seen was obtained by Colonel FRÉMONT; it was procured on the Rocky Mountains, on his route by the south pass to California.

GENERAL REMARKS.

The tufts on the ears of this species are considerably larger than in any other known species of squirrel in our country, except *Sciurus dorsalis*, a

beautiful new squirrel discovered in California by Mr. WOODHOUSE, and recently described by that gentleman, and in this respect bear a resemblance to those on the ears of the common Squirrel of Europe (*Sciurus vulgaris*); the tufts, however, of the latter are twice the length of those of *S. Frémonti*, being an inch long, whilst in the latter they are half an inch in length.

These tufts, in the specimen, originate on the outer surface of the ear, near the base, and the edges of the ear are only covered with short hairs, whilst in the European species not only the posterior portions, but also the upper edges, or rims of the ear, are thickly haired, producing so large and thick a tuft that the animal at first sight appears to have an ear more than an inch long.

On Stone by W^m P. Hitchcock

Fig 1 Fremont's Squirrel. Fig 2 Sooty Squirrel.

Audubon, John James and Bachman, John. 1854. "Sciurus frémonti, Frémont's Squirrel [Pl. CXLIX]." *The quadrupeds of North America* 3, 237–239.

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