

ENCLOSURE

6587

FROM

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,

BUREAU OF BIOLOGICAL SURVEY.

Bi-1222

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
BUREAU OF BIOLOGICAL SURVEY
WASHINGTON, D. C.

ADDRESS REPLY TO
CHIEF, BUREAU OF BIOLOGICAL SURVEY

AND REFER TO

FH-Z

Pellets

Iowa

May 28, 1936.

Mr. W. M. Rosene,
Ogden, Iowa.

Dear Sir:

Further reference is made to your letter of April 10 concerning owl pellets. These have been examined by Mr. Clarence F. Smith of our Food Habits Staff with a copy of results enclosed.

Trusting these will be of interest and value, I am

Very truly yours,



Clarence Cottam,
In Charge, Food Habits,
Division of Wildlife Research

Encl. 6587

Contents of Asio wilsonianus pellets

*[Report of examination of 32 pellets plus loose pellet material -- including about 30-35 pellets as estimated from bulk -- is herewith recorded.]

Collector: W. M. Rosene
Ogden, Iowa.

1936.

Contents of loose pellet material

each = (Zea mays -- 3 or 4 kernels
a (Juniperus virginiana ? -- several twigs, 27 seeds
trace (Fraxinus sp. -- 2 seeds
(Other plant material -- trace.

100% (Reithrodontomys megalotis -- 2 skulls + jaws + 1 add'l. pr.
(incisors (3 indiv.).
(**Peromyscus sp. -- 58 skulls or parts.
(Gravel -- several pieces = trace.
(Fringillidae -- 1 skull + mandibles, 1 indiv., possibly Junco
(Passeriformes -- 1 lower mandible tip, probably Passer
(domesticus.
(Microtus ochrogaster -- 2 skulls + jaws.
(Microtus pennsylvanicus -- 5 skulls + jaws.
(Microtinae -- 2 left mandibulae.

Sturnus vulgaris -- shank and foot with feathers attached.

(Numbers used are purely arbitrary)

- No. 1 -- Cenchrus pauciflorus (sandbur)
**Peromyscus sp. -- 1 skull, jaws and bones of 2 individuals
Ophidia -- 2 scales.
- No. 2 -- Lepidoptera scales
Peromyscus sp. -- 3 skulls, 1 pr. mandibles + 1 right mandible.
- No. 3 -- Reithrodontomys megalotis -- 1 pr. mandibles + upper incisor
Peromyscus sp. -- 2 pr. mandibles.
Chilopoda
- No. 4 -- Peromyscus sp. -- 2 skulls, 1 pr. mandibles.
Reithrodontomys megalotis -- 1 pr. mandibles.
Chilopoda

**All identifications of Peromyscus are one of two species: P. leucopus or P. maniculatus. It is impracticable to separate these two species on the basis of the pellet material. Seven of the pellets have been retained for future study and will be reported on at a future date.

- No. 5 -- Peromyscus sp. -- parts of 2 skulls
Chilopoda
- No. 6 -- Microtus pennsylvanicus -- 1 skull and jaws.
Chilopoda
- No. 7 -- Microtus pennsylvanicus -- 1 skull + jaws.
- No. 8 -- Peromyscus sp. -- 3 skulls + jaws.
- No. 9 -- Microtus pennsylvanicus -- 1 skull + jaws.
Peromyscus sp. -- jaw and upper incisor (individual)
- No. 10 -- Peromyscus sp. -- 2 skulls + jaws.
- No. 11 -- Microtus pennsylvanicus -- 1 skull + jaws.
Reithrodontomys m. dychei -- mandible and maxilla - 1 individual
- No. 12 -- Feather from own body
Microtus pennsylvanicus -- skull and jaw of 1 individual.
Reithrodontomys megalotus -- right mandible and left upper
incisor of 1 individual.
- No. 13 -- Peromyscus sp. -- 2 skulls, 1 pr. jaws.
- No. 14 -- Peromyscus sp. -- parts of 2 skulls, 2 pr. jaws.
Chilopoda
Feather (own body)
- No. 15 -- Feather from own body
Peromyscus sp. -- 1 skull.
- No. 16 -- Peromyscus sp. -- 1 mandible
Microtus ochrogaster -- skull + right mandible
Grass
- No. 17 -- Reithrodontomys megalotis -- 1 skull + right mandible
Peromyscus sp. -- 1 skull + mandibles
Microtus sp. -- 3 molar teeth
- No. 18 -- Microtus pennsylvanicus -- skull + jaws
Blarina brevicauda
Grass stems
- No. 19 -- Juniper twig and 15+ seeds
Leporidae -- fur (probably Sylvilagus floridanus)
Zea mays -- fragments
Peromyscus sp.
- No. 20 -- Microtus pennsylvanicus -- 2 skulls + mandibles
Blarina brevicauda -- 1 skull + mandible
Twig of woody plant
Coleoptera
Hemipterous egg, probably Pentatomidae
Orthoptera (grasshopper) wing
Chilopoda, dorsal sclerite

- No. 21 -- Peromyscus sp. or leucopus -- 2 skulls + mandibles
- No. 22 -- Reithrodontomys megalotis -- 1 pr. mandibles
Microtus ochrogaster -- 1 skull and 2 pr. mandibles
Grass fragments
- No. 23 -- Peromyscus sp. -- skull and left mandible.
Several Juniperus seeds and berries
- No. 24 -- Peromyscus sp. -- 4 skulls and 3 prs. + 1 right mandible.
Coleoptera ?
- No. 25 -- Microtus pennsylvanicus -- 1 skull
Microtus ochrogaster
Peromyscus sp. -- 2 skulls + mandibles.
Grass stem.

Examination by C. F. Smith
May, 1936.