

## ZOOLOGY.

## THE BANDED POCKET-MOUSE.

*(Perognathus fasciatus.)*

A good specimen of a small rodent, which Dr. C. H. Merriam has identified with this species, has recently been presented to the Museum of the Geological Survey of Canada by Mr. Norman Criddle, who caught it at Aweme, Manitoba, in June, 1904.

The pocket-mice are not very dissimilar to the common house mice, in size and shape; but the former, as their name implies, are provided with cheek pouches, which open externally, and their fur also is very distinctive both in its coloration and texture. Beddard places the pocket-mice next to the kangaroo rats, in the family *Heteromyidae*; but Lydeker says that they can be distinguished therefrom "by the presence of roots to their molar teeth," and adds that most of the pocket-mice are "brownish above and white beneath, with a tawny stripe on the flanks, dividing the dark from the light area." Their hind limbs are described as "scarcely saltatorial," and their fur as "coarse and bristly."

The type of the genus *Perognathus* (*pera*, pouch; and *gnathos*, jaw) is *P. fasciatus*; both the genus and its genotype were first described by Maximilian, Prince of Wied, in 1839.

Audubon and Bachman's brief and altogether unsatisfactory Latin diagnosis of the specific characters of *P. fasciatus*, published in 1856, when freely translated, reads—yellowish gray, white below, with a pale yellow lateral stripe. Baird's definition of its specific characters, published in 1857, is as follows: "Considerably larger than the house mouse. Tail as long as body without the head. Antitragus" (the inner lobe of the ear, opposite the tragus) "conspicuously lobed. Soles naked. Above reddish yellow closely lined with black; fore legs all round, feet and under parts white; a pale reddish yellow immaculate band on each side."

*P. fasciatus* is said to occur in Mexico, Dakota, Kansas and Manitoba. At least six species of this genus are now known, most of which are inhabitants of the western parts of North America.

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