

The habitations consist of a number of burrows, many of them running close to the surface, and often extending over an area of, at least, 20 feet across. From these burrows there may be several entrances or exits, as the case may be, as well as numerous blind runways. One burrow somewhat deeper than the rest is enlarged at its lower extremity to form a summer resting place. All these burrows twist about in a most intricate manner, and, as a rule, have their entrances hidden in a clump of weeds or grass, well away from the piles of sand thrown out in excavating.

At the approach of winter the pocket mouse becomes still more industrious. Two or more chambers are constructed at a depth of about three feet and in these are stored various seeds for winter use. Then having finished the task of providing food, the burrows above the stores are tightly closed from below and a much deeper hole commenced, which is doubtless intended to take the mouse below the frost line. At the end of this burrow, which is about six and a half feet below the surface, a winter home is constructed by digging out an enlarged chamber and lining it with a scanty supply of Green Foxtail heads. In this home the pocket mouse passes the winter, probably much of it in sleep, as those kept in captivity became very sluggish when exposed to even a moderately cold atmosphere.

The method of constructing a winter home, after the mouse has retired for the winter, wants confirming. As further evidence, however, to indicate that the winter home is constructed in the manner described above, I may mention an instance in which I dug out a burrow in late October before the mouse had retired, when no burrow occurred below the store chambers, though just above them was the material that would afterwards form the winter nest. Thus there is every reason to believe that the mouse gathers all that is necessary, in the form of food and nest-making material before winter commences and constructs the true winter home after retiring from above ground for the winter.

A remarkable fact about the two fully constructed burrows dug out on November 10th, was the finding of a dead pocket mouse at the entrance of the lower store chamber in each instance, the dead animal being presumably the owner of the home. Both these mice had been dead several days and each had a hole eaten in its head, and the brains extracted. Both these mice were males. Thinking that perhaps a female, or whatever the kind of animal was that killed them, might be hiding in an unobserved chamber, I made a very careful search for any hidden hole, but without avail. I am still of opinion, however, that there must have been some hidden burrow that I failed to