

has increased rapidly. In 1889, Merriam* described no less than twenty-one species and sub-species while since then, and up to the publication of Miller's List† the total number of recognized kinds has increased to eighty. Most of these species, however, occur south of the Canadian boundary, and so far as known to me, but two have been taken north of latitude 49°. One of these, *Perognathus lordi* Bird, is a native of southern British Columbia, the other, *P. fasciatus*, probably occurs over much of the territory of southern Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta, but as yet, has only been recognized in the neighbourhood of the writer's home, where it was first recorded several years ago. Since the time of its original discovery in Manitoba, and up to about three years ago, this pocket mouse was comparatively rare, but of late it has greatly increased in numbers and can be said to be moderately common at the present time. So far as I can see the Manitoba examples seem to be considerably lighter in colour than the type which is described as between an olive-green and an olive-gray above. In my specimens the hairs are a light slaty-gray at their bases, fading to a light tawny colour higher up, and are tipped with black, these black tips, however, giving place to light tawny or pinkish along the sides, forming an indistinct band from which the animal gets its name. Below, the hairs are entirely white. The measurements of six specimens are as follows: three males; average length, 129 mm., tail 56 mm., hind foot 17 mm.; three females; average length, 126 mm., tail 56 mm., hind foot, 17 mm.: Dr. Merriam, in the publication before mentioned, gives the total length of one specimen as 136 mm., so that typical specimens are somewhat larger than the Manitoba examples. As apparently no information of the animal's habits are available, the following, from my own experience, may prove of interest.

The young are born about the middle of May. In the only instance of which I have record the number of young were four. As the female has but six teats, four young would probably be an average litter. Taking into consideration the various habits, such as the early storage of food and retirement below the ground and also the fact that all the young appear to be fully developed by the first of October, I am convinced that but one litter is produced yearly.

In their general habits these pocket mice are solitary, never gregarious, in consequence seldom more than one or two are met with at a time, either above or below the ground. They seem to have a preference for sandy soils in which to construct their homes, but sometimes wander far afield in their search for food.

*N. A. Fauna No. 1. U.S. Dept. Agr., 1889.

†N. A. Land Mammals, U.S. N.M., 1911.