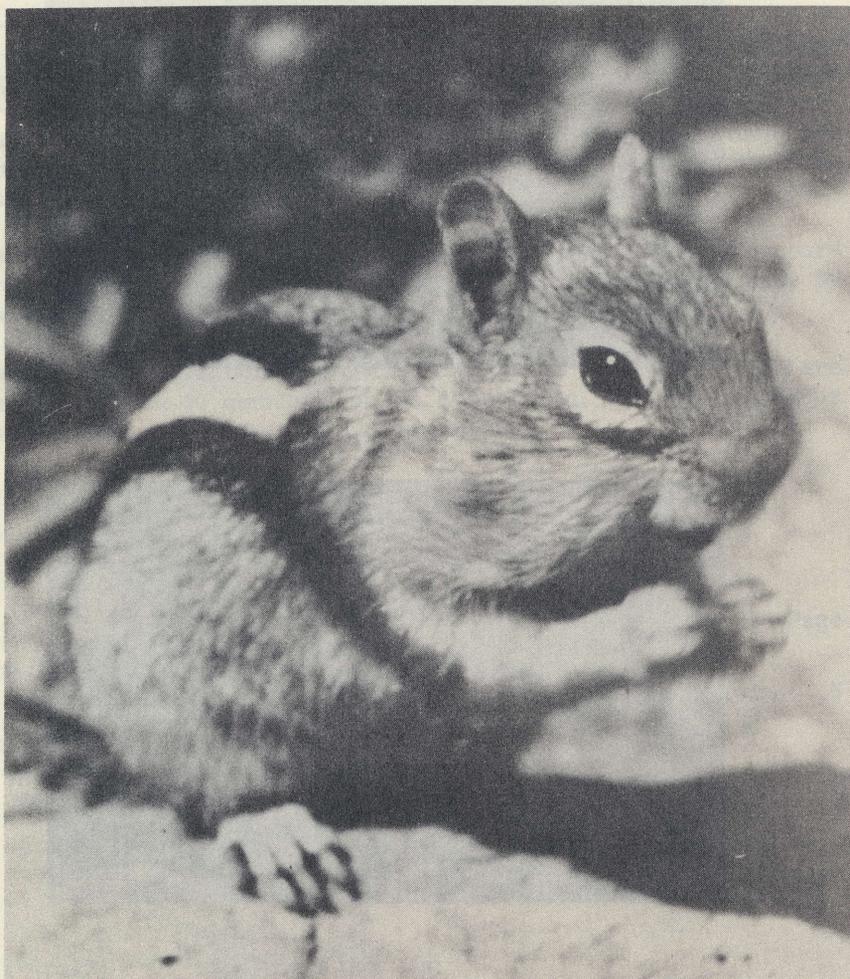


# THE GOLDEN MANTLED GROUND SQUIRREL

RALPH R. HUESTIS



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This series of special bulletins is planned in answer to the many requests for information on specific phases of the natural history of the Park.

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The author, Dr. Ralph Ruskin Huestis, during his summer vacations, has served, with several breaks in continuity, as a ranger naturalist in Crater Lake National park since the middle thirties. He was born in Bridgewater, Nova Scotia, on January 14, 1892, and received his BSA degree from McGill University in 1914. From 1914 to 1919 he served with the Canadian Expeditionary Forces. Entering the University of California for graduate work, he received a Master of Science degree in 1920, and completed his work for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in 1924. At the same time, he served as assistant biologist at Scripps Institute in California. Since 1924, he has been a member of the faculty of the University of Oregon, and is now a professor of biology at that Institution. Professor Huestis has been celebrated for his ability to make natural history interesting, for interpreting science and scientific subjects in a language that the layman appreciates. This special bulletin is a reflection of that ability as well as a fine contribution to our knowledge of one of the most fascinating small mammals of the Park fauna.



"Rim wall in front of Information Building"  
as seen through the view window of the same.  
Page 17.

## THE GOLDEN-MANTLED GROUND SQUIRREL IN CRATER LAKE NATIONAL PARK

Ralph R. Huestis

The golden-mantled ground squirrel, *Citellus lateralis chrysodeirus* Merriam, is one of the commonest mammals in Crater Lake National Park and probably produces more entertainment for visitors than all other types combined. This is not only because these animals are aggregated along the rim and in the campgrounds, where the greatest concentration of visitors takes place, but also because the squirrels are handsome in appearance, readily conditioned to the presence of human beings, and both appealing and comical in their behavior.

This species is commonly present in forested regions of Oregon from the Cascade mountains eastward and is especially prevalent in the ponderosa pine forests of the Cascade, Blue, and Wallowa Mountains. It is found, in these regions, from the edge of the sagebrush up into the white-bark pines at 8000 feet altitude. At Crater Lake these squirrels are present in all regions of the park including both Wizard Island and, on one occasion, on the Phantom Ship. The race occupying the Siskiyou mountains and therefore present in the Oregon Caves National Monument is described as subspecifically distinct and called the tawney-mantled ground squirrel, *Citellus lateralis trinitatus* Merriam.

**Description** - The golden-mantled ground squirrel is a chunky little animal with a body about seven inches long and a well furred tail somewhat more than one-half the body length. Its legs are rather short and its ears relatively small but held tautly erect. The eyes are quite large for a burrowing animal and their size, combined with the erect carriage of the ears, give these squirrels an air of alertness and intelligence.

The flanks, the underside of the tail, and the head and shoulders are colored a rich reddish brown. This is the coloring that accounts for the name golden-mantled. The back carries a broad median gray stripe, on each side of which are narrower contrasted stripes of black and white; two black ones with a white stripe between them. These contrasted stripes following the curve of the back while the squirrel sits up add greatly to its appearance.

Ground squirrels are not very fast animals and this squirrel compares unfavorably in speed with the chipmunks that occupy the same territory and with small enemy carnivores like the Cascade weasel, the Pacific marten, and the Cascade red fox. There is, however, an alertness in its postures and a briskness and energy in its movements



that visitors find attractive. It seems probable that the hurried gallop from point to point which the squirrels alternate with a frozen pose or a brief nosing of the ground is highly adaptive. An animal in motion is likely to be seen and had better hurry if it moves at all. In addition, the time spent on exposed territory and between feeding periods is reduced to a minimum. These points may not be obvious to visitors, but they do see a hard-working little animal and admire the display of energy.

Comedy is supplied by the fact that the air of brisk alertness is not accompanied by any real evidence of great intelligence. In fact *Citellus* not infrequently plays the role of a busy fool; searching industriously for peanuts in empty hands when full ones beckon, and taking the trouble to investigate with a passing sniff any little object which may lie in his pathway on the rim walk pavement. He easily changes, too, from assured approach to precipitous flight with his tail above his back at about the angle a stove lifter projects from the lid, his broad little hams twinkling as his short hind legs spurn the dust.

Golden-mantled ground squirrels are said by Vernon Bailey to have but one brood a year of four to six or more young. Grinnell found an average of five young in five females in Yosemite National Park. The number probably increases with the age of the mother and as fully adult females have ten functional mammae they could easily accommodate larger broods. In 1936 a mother squirrel was observed moving nine little ones from a burrow in the rim campground and in 1938 the accidental death of a mother squirrel was followed by the exit of eight hungry little squirrels which were adopted and fed by rim campground visitors. Young are reported by Vernon Bailey to be born late in June or early in July. This checks with observations at Crater Lake National Park where in both 1937 and 1938 young squirrels emerged from burrows along the rim



"Comedy is supplied by the air of brisk alertness..."



"...searching industriously for peanuts..."

during the first week in August. The adopted brood mentioned in the previous paragraph seemed to be about three weeks old on August the eighth. A small newly-emerged squirrel was seen coming out of a burrow in the rim campground as late as September 3, 1937.

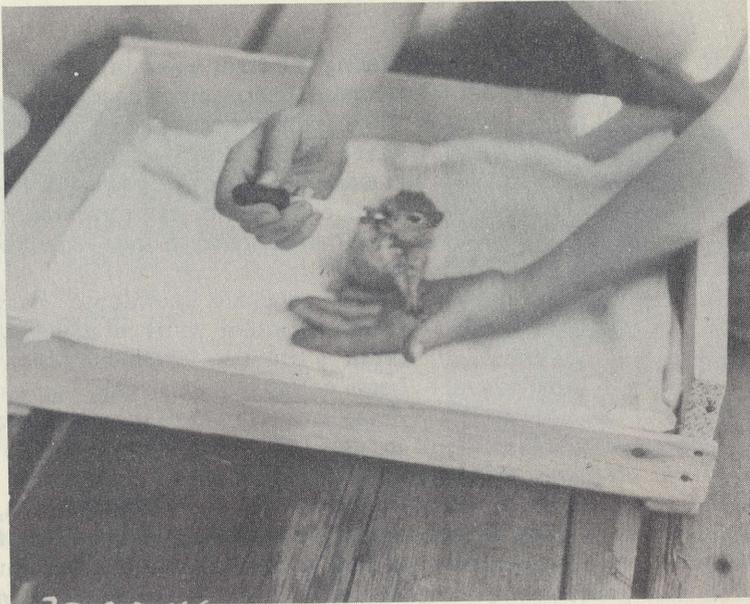
The episode mentioned above in which a mother squirrel moved young from a burrow, part of which had been collapsed by a car, shows that these animals share the typical mammalian habit of moving young to less menaced positions. In August 1938 Dr. Fred Miller, park physician, observed the moving of six young from a nest somewhere in the Community House through the door to a refuge somewhere outside the building. The young were carried by the body with ventral surface toward the mother's mouth and curled around the mother's head just as young deer mice are under similar circumstances.

**Behavior** - - The inherent or unconditioned behavior of these squirrels is interesting and can be usefully compared with the learned or conditioned responses that are in time built up by contact of squirrels with the park visitors. Young squirrels are quite timid upon emergence and for a few days depend upon the early morning hours for their initial foraging, a time when few people are around. They stay near a burrow entrance and hole up promptly if disturbed. This timidity is typical of the behavior of all squirrels in regions where contact with man is a rare incident. The air of easy assurance adopted by older park squirrels is evidence of their domesticability.

These rodents have quite a tendency to dig in the ground and the young ones do a good deal of random digging before they actually tunnel a home site for themselves. In digging, the head is lowered and the fore limbs are moved very rapidly for a brief interval. The limbs are then held still while the head is raised for a look around. Digging and looking



"...tail above his back about the angle a stove lifter projects from the lid..."



"...hungry little squirrels were adopted and fed by rim campground visitors."

alternate at rapid intervals. If partly within a burrow a squirrel will back out to raise his head for observation. When well into a burrow, a squirrel, observed at the rim on July 15, 1938, continued digging without kicking out the loose dirt which soon covered him. Hidden by this the squirrel continued on into the ground. About ten minutes later he burst out head first. The maneuver simultaneously cleared the burrow entrance and prepared it for possible retreat and got the squirrel clear of the entrance without embarrassing him with the adherence of loose earth. The interval had presumably been used to dig a length of burrow and a turn around.

Interesting comparisons can be made between the golden-mantled ground squirrel and a rather small brown gopher which occupies the same territory and is therefore a competitor. Both mammals dig a tunnel system, that of the gopher being



"The air of easy assurance"

attended to particularly during the winter so that "he, while his companion sleeps, is toiling upward in the night." The squirrel feeds for the most part above ground while the gopher feeds for the most part underground on roots, there available, or on greens and grains pulled through the roof of the tunnel or gathered in short surreptitious forays launched from a tunnel entrance. In the latter the gopher emerges headfirst but goes to earth tail first. This reversal of direction without turning the body cannot be profitably employed by the squirrel for he ranges for a distance and maneuvers his body without regard to the position of the tunnel entrance. The squirrel always goes to earth head first. However, if a squirrel partly emerged is alarmed, he backs down gopher-like into the tunnel.

Adult squirrels, subjected to this inconvenience, usually stay below for awhile, may even register their annoyance by scolding the intruder as they hole up. But less blase, young squirrels, if not too greatly alarmed, immediately "pop up" after backing down, to see what is going on. This interesting example of youthful curiosity may be employed to demonstrate another pattern of the remarkable specificity of squirrel behavior. If in the game of pop up, back down, the young squirrel emerges enough to get one hind foot on the ground at the edge of the tunnel entrance he continues out, turns rapidly and goes to earth head first. This experiment, performed with a number of young squirrels, always produced the same result. The balance of advantages and disadvantages of the alternative methods reaches a critical point when one hind foot is in the air preparatory to complete emergence. Past this point, when the hind foot is on the surface of the earth, the advantage is presumably in favor of rapid emergence and immediate holing up.

Squirrels can occasionally be seen carrying dry material which they presumably use for bedding. Grass from the previous fall which has been pressed down by the snow, dries rapidly when the snow has melted and so provides an acceptable bedding material. An individual squirrel, when not interfered with during the process, may make trip after trip to the same site of supply and carry a load of dry grass back to a tunnel each time. The route taken for the journey out may be repeated each time but a different route is usually chosen for the return journey and this is repeated on each return. An exception to this was provided by a squirrel in the utilities area which made twelve trips in carrying old bedding from one tunnel which it deposited in another. In this moving process the squirrel took the shortest route between the two tunnel entrances, which were only about thirty feet apart, and the routes going and coming were therefore coincident.

A squirrel gathering bedding works vigorously with forepaws and teeth to loosen grass which is taken between the jaws. The squirrel then stands up and trims this load into a neat bundle. More grass may be added and the trimming process repeated. Thus to arrange the load between the jaws a squirrel makes rapid and complicated movements with the forepaws. As a result he can run with his grass sheaf without

stepping on loose ends and as the bundle does not project laterally much further than the ears the squirrel can enter a tunnel entrance on the run without embarrassment. A squirrel running with bedding has been seen to stop, stand up and retrim his load when a loose end of dried grass became detached and started to drag. On one occasion a squirrel running down the inner wall of the Sinnott Memorial ramp, stopped at the lower turn where two visitors offered him peanuts. To accept these the squirrel was obliged to put down his sheaf of grass and by running down the ramp the writer was able to prevent the squirrel from retrieving the grass before he ran away. This grass sheaf was in the form of an 8 which the squirrel had been holding in the center so a loop projected on each side. The grass in this bundle held together and could be lifted by the center or either loop without becoming disintegrated.

Like most rodents the golden-mantled ground squirrel grooms himself around the head, neck, and belly with his fore paws. Hinder parts, except the tail, are worked over with the teeth. The tail is combed by a sort of shucking motion with the fore paws and combed with the teeth as well. Grooming is particularly important in small mammals since a smooth coat conserves heat which radiates rapidly from the relatively large surface of a small creature. Squirrels dust themselves by a moderate rolling in dust piles often raised by a few rapid paw strokes for the purpose. They frequently save time by diving into dust like a base-runner making a head-first second. Frequently after the dive they lie spread-eagled in the dust for a brief period and this same position, with all limbs extended, may be used in resting. A well nourished little squirrel thus stretched out, after an interval of peanut gathering, has all the air of smugness carried by a lucky investor after a hard hour of coupon clipping.

Squirrels forage busily and nose over the ground for food. They frequently forage by standing on the hind limbs while they reach out



"... edible objects are always lifted first by the jaws and then transferred to the forepaws..."

and pull vegetation to the mouth with the fore paws. In this manner they nibble young leaves and flower buds of Newberry's knotweed and bleeding-heart and the seeds of wild grasses, the heads of which they obtain by arm over arm reeling in of the stem. It is interesting that in spite of this use of the fore limbs in a special circumstance, that edible objects like peanuts are always lifted first by the jaws and then transferred to the fore paws for manipulation during husking or fragmentation prior to storage in the cheek pouches. Occasionally a squirrel with

its mouth full of food will clutch an object on the ground and pull it toward the body but will then merely hold it with its paw until the mouth can be used as the grasping organ.

The golden-mantled ground squirrel has a vocabulary of at least four different sounds. There is a high-pitched "peesk" which is quite bird-like in tone, sometimes followed by a trill which is rather more musical than the similar trill of the western chipping sparrow. Both single and multiple notes seem prompted by excitement or alarm. These sounds are made while sitting, sometimes with one foot raised. The mouth is widely opened for the first sound and the body vibrates obviously with the trill. On August 6, 1938, the writer stopped to investigate a singing squirrel which had gathered an audience of a number of campers. One of them estimated that the squirrel, presumably a female since it was occasionally followed by young, had already sung for an hour and "sang almost every day!" There is a throaty little growl which is uttered as a warning to interlopers and during pursuit of them or while in the throes of combat. This sound is commonly employed when squirrels are competing for peanuts. Rather rarely a squirrel running from a pursuer, utters a series of high squealing notes when pursuit is close. In general these animals are rather silent and are usually credited with the single note first mentioned (Bailey, 1936, p. 140).

Conditioned Behavior -- It takes young squirrels a little while to accustom themselves to eating from visitor's hands. No critical test of this has been made, but by using experience at Government Headquarters as a criterion, it can be said that some young squirrels accept food the second or third day it is offered. Conditioning appears to be continuous over a long period for the biggest and presumably oldest individuals usually show the least hesitation. Even when young squirrels are taking food readily from the hand the bristling of the hairs on the tail show that the situation is producing considerable emotional disturbance. Emotionality in animals is difficult to estimate and this pilot motor response might be used in behavior experiments.

The greatest accumulation of squirrels in Crater Lake National Park is at the head of the Crater Wall Trail, immediately north of the Rim Parking Area. A dozen squirrels may often be seen here, begging, feeding, bickering with one another, or running



"It takes young squirrels a little while to accustom themselves to eating from visitor's hands."

home with the take. On August 8, 1938, a squirrel with full pouches was followed to its burrow which proved to be 220 yards west of the Crater Wall Trail on the edge of the fill for the shoulder of the Rim Road. The squirrel, which had been observed taking this route before, crossed the road twice to get to its burrow; once to the island at the Y just at the top of the hill and then across the south fork of the highway that leads to the Rim Road.

After considerable observation of known individual squirrels, the writer came to the conclusion that the squirrels with home sites a considerable distance from the head of the Crater Wall Trail filled their cheeks with more peanuts, before starting on the home trip, than did the squirrels with a shorter distance to go. The assumption that rodents acted as though they were conversant with the axiom, that you must have a paying load for a long haul, greatly interested park visitors although some said they would like to believe it but just couldn't. Dr. Kenneth Gordan of Oregon State College, basing his observation on marked squirrels seen daily, came independently to this same conclusion: the squirrel with the longer route home takes the bigger load.



"...filled their cheeks with more peanuts." load.

Young of the year or yearling squirrels early in the season, not infrequently dig a small hole, after they have gone a short distance from a feeding area, and put their peanuts into it. The hole is then carefully covered with earth pushed into it and the site may be camouflaged by loose dirt dusted over it with brushing motions of the forepaws. Older squirrels dig these caches much more infrequently presumably because they have well established the routine of taking their food home. Late in the season of 1938 a squirrel was observed digging such a hole in the level ground just east of the Community House. This individual deposited some peanuts and had almost completed the earth cover when it was interrupted by the advent of another squirrel which started a territorial squabble. The two animals engaged in a running fight which took them as far as the west end of the Community House and must have occupied fifteen or twenty seconds. To the astonishment of the writer, one of the two, and presumably the one which had been engaged in covering its little hoard, returned to the site and completed the covering process including the refinement of brushing loose dirt over the site.

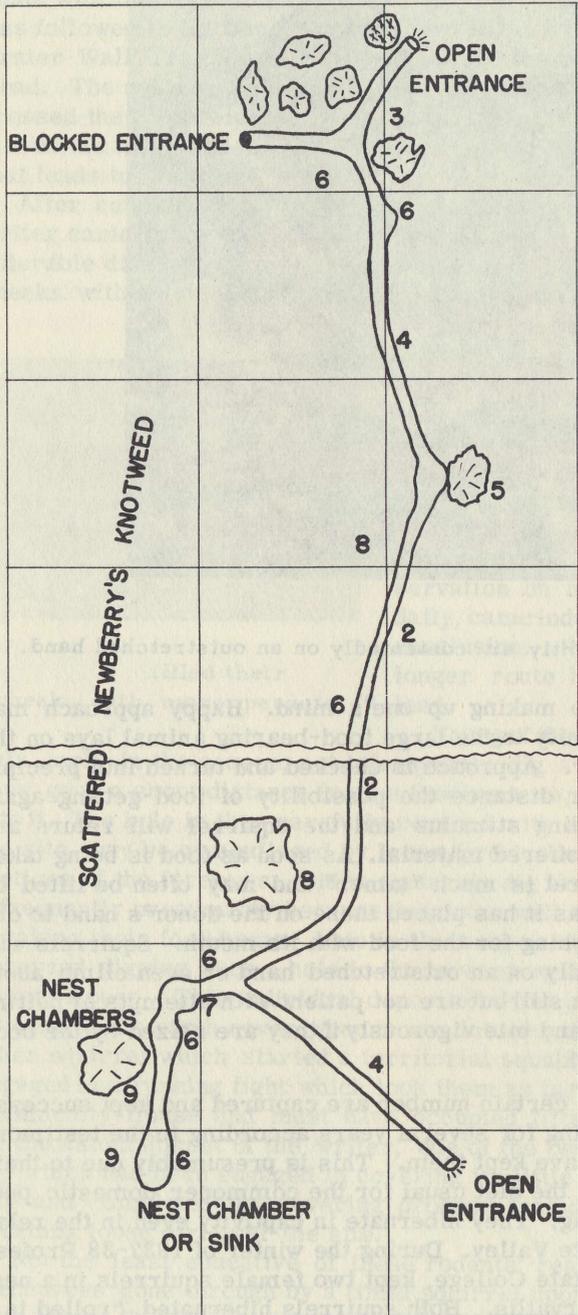
Not the least educative of these rodents' reactions is the series of maneuvers gone through by a timid squirrel upon being offered food in hand, since this traces, in physical outline, the mental shuttling which



"Squirrels will frequently sit contentedly on an outstretched hand."

is so often a prelude to making up one's mind. Happy approach may take place until proximity to the large food-bearing animal lays on the paralysing hand of fear. Approach is checked and turned into precipitous flight. At a safer distance the possibility of food-getting again becomes the commanding stimulus and the squirrel will return and this time accept the proffered material. As soon as food is being taken into the mouth a squirrel is much "tamer" and may often be lifted by the fore paws as soon as it has placed these on the donor's hand to obtain support while reaching for the food with its mouth. Squirrels will frequently sit contentedly on an outstretched hand or even climb about on visitors who remain still but are not patient with attempts at petting and they will struggle and bite vigorously if they are seized by the body or tail.

Domestication -- A certain number are captured and kept successfully as pets, often living for several years according to the testimony of Park visitors who have kept them. This is presumably due to their being able to thrive on the diet usual for the commoner domestic pets and to stand overfeeding. They hibernate in captivity even in the relatively warm Willamette Valley. During the winter of 1937-38 Professor Milne, of Oregon State College, kept two female squirrels in a nest box in his yard at Corvallis. Both squirrels hibernated, "rolled in a ball" with their heads between their fore limbs. They were cold to the



**BURROW PLAN  
OF  
GOLDEN MANTLED  
GROUND SQUIRREL**

**LEGEND**

-  Douglas Phlox
-  Rabbit Brush

Depth, in inches, to left of burrow;  
width, in inches, to right.

touch and promptly resumed the hibernating posture if forcibly unrolled. They could be gradually aroused if put out in the sun and would attempt to bite if they were touched during this interval. During the warmth of the day they would remain active but would resume hibernation again that night and remain asleep unless again disturbed. Quite contrary to what is usually assumed, the smaller, thinner squirrel remained in hibernation two or three weeks after her bigger sister had emerged. Neither squirrel appeared to have lost weight during the hibernating period. Squirrels emerging from winter quarters at Crater Lake in 1937 and 1938 were all in good condition also.

Three burrows were dug out in August 1937 to study the plan of construction. Two were empty (abandoned?) and one, herewith reproduced, contained a squirrel. He hung around awhile during the excavating process and regarded the operation with some concern.

The burrow which has been reproduced was the shortest and simplest of the three, being rather less than thirty feet in length. The longest tunnel was more than a hundred feet in total length, tortuous and containing cross connections. The third burrow was forty feet in length. Tunnels were usually about six inches below the surface, the greatest depth being reached in a cul-de-sac ten inches deep, either a nest chamber or sink. No tunnel contained nesting material. Diameters varied from two to four inches. Turn-arounds and nesting sites or sinks were from five to seven inches in diameter. All tunnels contained more than one open entrance, with one or more blocked with earth.

Tunnels went under rocks and the roots of bushes when these were encountered but entrances were not necessarily hidden. In general one might say that the tunnels were like the squirrel, rather simple and direct.

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REPORT ON THE TRAPPING AND MARKING OF  
GOLDEN-MANTLED GROUND SQUIRRELS AT  
CRATER LAKE NATIONAL PARK, 1939

During the 1939 season 95 ground squirrels and 4 Allen chipmunks were taken in live traps in the rim area. Ninety squirrels were released (many squirrels were retaken and released several times) and 5 squirrels were kept captive for observation of their winter behavior. The data that might be expected to accrue from this procedure are:

The age distribution and sex ratio.

The population density in the area examined.

The winter survival rate.

The foraging area of individual squirrels.

The spacial distribution of young of the year after they leave the mother's burrow.

Although the returns from this project are for the most part purely ecological there is the possibility of some practical utility should the squirrels, as has happened elsewhere, become infected with some communicable disease which would require their elimination from a given area. A proof that they are not migratory would greatly simplify the eliminative procedure.

METHODS

Squirrels were taken in wire box traps obtained from the National Live Trap Co., Tomahawk, Wisconsin, and rewired to hold squirrels. They were marked by cutting hind toes for numbers 1 to 10 (toes cut in order from left to right), and by cutting front toes in order from left to right for 10 to 20, etc. Correspondence on the subject had elicited the information that ear tagging with metal tags is unsatisfactory because the tags come out. Cut toes were disinfected with 70% alcohol and did not appear to cause the squirrels any considerable inconvenience although some swelling of the cut digit could be observed and squirrels occasionally were noted to be favoring the foot in question for a day or so after the operation. However since many squirrels were seen foraging as usual within an hour after release and as no squirrel was retaken with an obviously infected foot the method seems to have been a good one.

The data are presented in tabular form.

| No. | Sex | Trapping Dates | Place   | Other Data   |
|-----|-----|----------------|---|--|
| 1.  | M   | July 21        | East side Information Building                                  | Tail had been broken and healed again.   |
|     |     | July 26        | East side Information Building                                  |  |
|     |     | July 27        | Rim wall just east Information Building                         | Large male with rich color.  |
|     |     | July 29        | Front platform Information Building                             | Filling up burrow entrance between stones using excavated earth and rock on top.   |
|     |     | August 15      | East side Information Building                                  | Taking dry grass down burrow under wood pile.  |
|     |     | August 16      | East side Information Building                                  |  |
| 2.  | F   | August 21      | Information Building platform                                   | Lactating. Scolded in trap, didn't struggle to get out.<br>With young squirrels.<br>Mooching peanuts.<br>Fed.<br>Now very fat, has lost end of tail. This squirrel's burrow near #1 above on east side Information Building but with entrance on west side also. #1 has entrances on east and south. |
|     |     | August 23      | Rim wall in front of Information Building                       |  |
|     |     | July 25        | East side Information Building                                  |  |
|     |     | July 27        | East side Information Building                                  |  |
|     |     | August 1       | East side Information Building                                  |  |
|     |     | August 2       | Rim wall in front of Information Building                       |  |
|     |     | August 11      | Front door Information Building                                 |  |
|     |     | August 15      | East side Information Building                                  |  |
|     |     | August 15      | West side Information Building                                  |  |
|     |     | August 16      | East side Information Building                                  |  |
|     |     | August 17      | Front platform Information Building                             |  |
| 3.  | F   | July 25        | Head of Sinnott ramp  | Lactating.   |
|     |     | July 27        | Rim wall 50 feet east Information Building                      | Lactating.   |
| 5.  | M   | July 27        | Shrub bed on Information Building walk south                    | Large male. Aggressive.  |
|     |     | August 15      | Shrub bed southeast Information Building 150 feet               |  |
| 6.  | F   | July 27        | 1st bay in Rim wall east, Information Building                  | Lactating. Hole in ear.  |
| 7.  | M   | July 27        | Bed with crooked hemlock just southeast Information Building    | Young (unweaned?)  |
|     |     | August 24      | Bed west Information Building (1st west)                        |  |
| 8.  | M   | July 27        | Bed southwest Information Building in line with Community House | Young.   |
| 9.  | M   | August 1       | East side Information Building                                  | Son of #2? Young. (with #10) Alone.  |
|     |     | August 7       | East side Information Building                                  |  |
|     |     | August 7       | West side Information Building                                  |  |
|     |     | August 11      | East side Information Building                                  |  |

| No. | Sex | Trapping Dates | Place   | Other Data                            |
|-----|-----|----------------|---|---------------------------------------|
| 10. | M   | August 1       | East side Information Building with #9                          | Young of year.                        |
|     |     | August 15      | Bed with crooked hemlock southeast Information Building         |                                       |
|     |     | August 24      | 2nd bed east Information Building                               |                                       |
| 11. | M   | August 1       | East side Information Building                                  | Young. Brother of #9 and #10?         |
| 12. | M   | August 2       | Bed 150 feet southeast Information Building                     | Young. Aggressive.                    |
| 13. | F   | August 2       | Bed 150 feet southeast Information Building                     | Sister of 12? Young.                  |
| 14. | M   | August 2       | Rim wall 50 feet east Information Building                      | Large male. Aggressive.               |
| 15. | F   | August 2       | Bed with crooked hemlock  | Lactating mother of 12, 13?           |
| 16. | F   | August 2       | East side Information Building                                  | Young and noisy. Sister of 9, 10?     |
|     |     | August 11      | Bed south Information Building at highway                       | Noisy.                                |
|     |     | August 15      | Bed south Information Building at highway                       | Noisy.                                |
|     |     | August 15      | Bed southwest Information Building in line with Community House |                                       |
| 17. | F   | August 2       | Bed with crooked hemlock  | Lactating. Possible mother 12, 13?    |
| 18. | M   | August 2       | East side Information Building                                  | Large. Foraging in #1's territory.    |
|     |     | August 22      | Behind Sinnott sign at ramp                                     | Husky. Not very fat.                  |
| 19. | M   | August 2       | Bed with crooked hemlock  | Young. Brother of #12, 13?            |
| 20. | F   | August 2       | Rim wall 100 feet east Information Building                     | Large. Not lactating. Sterile female? |
| 21. | M   | August 2       | Rim wall 100 feet west Information Building                     | Old male.                             |
|     |     | August 11      | At Sinnott sign   |                                       |
|     |     | August 22      | Rim wall 150 feet west Information Building                     |                                       |
| 22. | F   | August 2       | Behind Sinnott sign at ramp                                     | Young.                                |
|     |     | August 22      | Below wall along Sinnott ramp                                   |                                       |
| 23. | F   | August 2       | Bed opposite drinking fountain head of Sinnott ramp             | Young.                                |
|     |     | August 7       | West side Information Building                                  |                                       |
| 24. | M   | August 7       | Behind Sinnott sign   | Young.                                |
| 25. | M   | August 7       | West side Information Building                                  | Young. Playing with other young.      |
| 26. | M   | August 7       | East side Information Building                                  | Young sibling #9 and 10?              |
|     |     | August 11      | East side Information Building                                  |                                       |
|     |     | August 15      | South Information Building in bed at road                       |                                       |

| No. | Sex | Trapping Dates | Place   | Other Data   |
|-----|-----|----------------|---|--|
| 27. | M   | August 7       | Bed near fountain   | Old.   |
|     |     | August 13      | Sinnott ramp  | Mooching.  |
|     |     | August 22      | Sinnott ramp  |  |
|     |     | August 23      | Rim wall at fountain  | Mooching.  |
| 28. | M   | August 7       | West side Information Building                                  | Young, sibling of #25?   |
|     |     | August 11      | South Information Building at road                              |  |
| 29. | M   | August 9       | Bed south Information Building at road                          | Young.   |
| 30. | M   | August 9       | Bed south Information Building at road                          | Young of year.   |
| 31. | F   | August 9       | East side Information Building                                  | Yearling or well advanced young of year. Had not been lactating. |
|     |     | August 22      | Sinnott ramp  | Mooching.  |
| 32. | F   | August 11      | Behind Sinnott sign   | Had been lactating. Adult.                                       |
| 33. | F   | August 11      | Bed south Information Building at road                          | Young.   |
| 34. | M   | August 11      | Bed at drinking fountain  | Young.   |
|     |     | August 22      | Behind Sinnott sign   | Very rich brown. Even "white" stripes are brown.                 |
|     |     | August 23      | Mooching at fountain  |  |
| 35. | F   | August 11      | Bed south Information Building at road                          | Young.   |
|     |     | August 24      | Rim wall 50 feet east Information Building                      |  |
| 36. | F   | August 11      | Bed at drinking fountain  | Young.   |
|     |     | August 22      | Behind Sinnott sign   |  |
| 37. | F   | August 14      | Campground west Ranger's tent                                   | Had been lactating. Adult.                                       |
| 38. | F   | August 14      | Campground west small comfort station                           | Young.   |
| 39. | F   | August 14      | Campground south comfort station                                | Large. Had been lactating.                                       |
|     |     | August 21      | At Ranger's tent  |  |
| 40. | M   | August 14      | On stump near tent  | Medium sized. Yearling?  |
| 41. | F   | August 15      | Bed east Information Building at Rim                            | Old and fat.   |
|     |     | August 24      | Bed east Information Building at Rim                            |  |
| 42. | F   | August 15      | Bed southwest Information Building in line with Community House | Young and small.   |
| 43. |     | *****          |   | Missed number.   |
| 44. | F   | August 22      | Below Sinnott sign  | Young and noisy. Red-toned pelage.                               |
|     |     | August 24      | Below Sinnott ramp near sign                                    |  |
| 45. | M   | August 22      | Behind Sinnott sign   | Young.   |
|     |     | September 7    | Behind Sinnott sign   | Well grown at this date.   |

| No. | Sex | Trapping Dates             | Place  | Other Data  |
|-----|-----|----------------------------|--|---|
| 46. | F   | August 22<br>September 7   | Sinnott ramp 1/2 way down<br>Behind Sinnott sign                               | Young.  |
| 47. | F   | August 22                  | Below Sinnott  | Large and very fat.   |
| 48. | M   | August 22                  | At Sinnott Memorial (south wall)   | Adult with white belly spot.  |
| 49. | M   | August 22                  | Below ramp near Memorial   | Well grown young or yearling.   |
| 50. | F   | August 22                  | Below ramp near sign   | Young.  |
| 51. | F   | August 22                  | Tree just south Sinnott Memorial   | Adult.  |
| 52. | F   | August 23<br>August 24     | Rim 30 feet east Information Building<br>Rim 30 feet east Information Building | Adult.  |
| 53. | M   | August 22                  | Bay just west Lodge  | Very large. Released at Information Building.                             |
| 54. | F   | August 24                  | Bay just west of Lodge   | Very large and fat.   |
| 55. | F   | August 24                  | Rim 300 feet east Information Building   | Recently lactating. Not fat. Pale pelage.                                 |
| 56. | F   | August 24                  | Rim 200 feet east Information Building   | Young.  |
| 57. | --  | August 24                  | Rim 200 feet east Information Building   | Escaped. Was not sexed.   |
| 58. | F   | August 24<br>September 7   | Bay no 1 west Information Building<br>Bay no 1 west Information Building       | Adult. Wounds on chest and throat.<br>Throat largely healed at this date. |
| 59. | M   | September 6                | Boat Landing   | Adult. Bobtail.   |
| 60. | F   | September 6<br>September 7 | Boat Landing<br>Boat Landing   | Adult.<br>Adult.  |
| 61. | F   | September 6                | Boat Landing   | Young.  |
| 62. | F   | September 6<br>September 7 | Boat Landing<br>Boat Landing   | Young.  |
| 63. | M   | September 6                | Boat Landing   | Adult.  |
| 64. | F   | September 6                | Boat Landing   | Adult.  |
| 65. | M   | September 7                | Boat Landing   | Young.  |
| 66. | M   | September 7                | Boat Landing   | Adult. Fat.   |
| 67. | M   | September 7                | Boat Landing   | Adult.  |
| 68. | F   | September 7                | Boat Landing   | Adult.  |
| 69. | M   | September 7                | Boat Landing   | Adult.  |
| 70. | F   | September 7                | Boat Landing   | Adult. Large.   |
| 71. | F   | September 7                | Boat Landing   | Adult.  |
| 72. | M   | September 7                | Behind Sinnott sign  | Young and rather small. White spot on ventral surface.                    |

| No. | Sex | Trapping Dates | Place   | Other Data  |
|-----|-----|----------------|---|---|
| 73. | M   | September 7    | Rim opposite Community House                    | Adult.  |
| 74. | M   | September 7    | Rim opposite Community House                    | Adult. Fat.   |
| 75. | M   | September 7    | Rim opposite Community House 50 feet west of 74 | Adult. Fat.   |
| 76. | M   | September 7    | Rim 300 feet east Information Building          | Adult seen at same place in half an hour.                                       |
| 77. | F   | September 7    | Bay just west of Lodge                          | Adult.  |
| 78. | F   | September 7    | Bay just west of Lodge                          | Adult.  |
| 79. | M   | September 7    | 2nd bay east Information Building               | Young.  |
| 80. | M   | September 20   | Information Building back door                  | Young and recently emerged.   |
| 81. | M   | September 22   | Head of Lake Trail                              | Liberated at Information Building. Adult.                                       |
| 82. | M   | September 22   | Head of Lake Trail                              | Liberated at Information Building. Adult.                                       |
| 83. | F   | September 22   | Head of Lake Trail                              | Taken back to head of lake trail. Adult.  |
| 84. | M   | September 23   | Head of Lake Trail                              | Taken back to head of lake trail. Adult.  |
| 85. | M   | September 23   | Head of Lake Trail                              | Liberated at Information Building. Adult and fat.                               |
| 86. | F   | September 23   | Head of Lake Trail                              | Taken back to head of lake trail. Adult.  |
| 87. | M   | September 23   | Head of Lake Trail                              | Liberated at Information Building. Still there 2 hours later. Very large adult. |
| 88. | F   | September 23   | Head of Lake Trail                              | Taken back to head of lake trail. Adult.  |
| 89. | F   | September 23   | Head of Lake Trail                              | Taken back to head of lake trail. Adult.  |
| 90. | M   | September 23   | Head of Lake Trail                              | Liberated at Information Building. Adult. Fat.                                  |
| 91. | M   | September 23   | Head of Lake Trail                              | Liberated at Information Building. Adult. Left ear notched.                     |

## ASSEMBLED DATA

## Age and sex of trapped squirrels

|                 | females | males | total number | per cent males |
|-----------------|---------|-------|--------------|----------------|
| Adult squirrels | 29      | 26    | 55           | 47             |
| Young squirrels | 15      | 19    | 34           | 127            |
| Total           | 44      | 45    | 89           | 102            |

## Reproduction in terms of the season as determined by lactation of adult females

|               | July 21-August 7 | August 8-22 | August 23-Sept. 8 | September 9- |
|---------------|------------------|-------------|-------------------|--------------|
| Lactating     | 6                | 2           | 1                 | -            |
| Not lactating | 2                | 4           | 10                | 4            |

## Number of times squirrels were retaken

|        | <u>1</u> | <u>2</u> | <u>3</u> | <u>4</u> | <u>5</u> | <u>6</u> | <u>7</u> | <u>8</u> | <u>9</u> | <u>10</u> |
|--------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|-----------|
| Adults | 44       | 8        | 1        | 1        |          |          |          | 1        |          | 1         |
| Young  | 20       | 9        | 3        | 2        |          |          |          |          |          |           |

## SUMMARY

1. Seventy-three squirrels were trapped between the Crater Wall Trail and the Lodge in a strip of territory about 150 feet broad. This represents a very dense population.
2. Squirrels do not, in a season, move around much. They may repeatedly be taken in the same territory, rarely are found more than 100 feet away from it.
3. The sexes are equal in number in the population; an excess of young males balances an excess of old females. This is the situation to be found in other rodent populations such as the deer mouse.
4. All young squirrels taken in the vicinity of a mother's burrow were found to have traveled only a short distance away after weaning. This is a tentative inference and awaits further trapping data.
5. Young are born during the months of June, July, and August and emerge from the mother's burrow during July, August, and September. At the Rim Area in 1939, the first newly emerged young were seen July 15th and the last September 20th. A lactating female was taken as late as August 24th. In 1938 the first young were noted in the Rim Area on July 31st and the last on September 15th. This seems to suggest that occasionally a mother may have a second brood.

## THE CRATER LAKE NATURAL HISTORY ASSOCIATION

ITS PURPOSES

1. To promote and assist the ranger naturalist program in Crater Lake National park and Oregon Caves National Monument.
2. To help gather and publish accurate information on the wildlife and natural features of the two areas.
3. To further investigation of subjects of popular interest and importance to the two areas.
4. To assist in the development and procurement of an adequate park museum and series of displays.
5. To sponsor the production of CRATER LAKE NATURE NOTES.
6. To aid the park library by acquisition of books.
7. To make available for purchase by park visitors at the most appropriate time and place, government and private publications on subjects pertaining to the park and its welfare.
8. To publish, when funds permit, pamphlets and bulletins on park subjects.

The Crater Lake Natural History Association was organized under the direction of the National Park Service and was approved by the Secretary of the Interior on July 25, 1942. It operates under a constitution which provides for the following classes of membership:

|                     |                  |
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| Annual member       | 2.00 per year    |
| Subscribing member  | 5.00 per year    |
| Contributing member | 10.00 per year   |
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|  |         |
|--|---------|
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| Western National Parks, Yeager                             | 3.50    |
| Higher Plants of Oregon, Peck                              | 6.00    |
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| Oh Ranger, Albright and Taylor                             | 3.00    |
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| Life member         | \$ 2.00 per year   |
| Contributing member | \$ 10.00 per year  |
| Life member         | \$ 100.00 per year |

Contributing members are eligible to vote in the election of the board of directors and other officers and to hold office in the association. Life members are eligible to hold office in the association and to hold office in the association. The association is a non-profit organization and its funds are used for the publication of books and other information pertaining to the Crater Lake National Park and Oregon Caves National Monument.

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