

32d CONGRESS, }
2d Session. }

SENATE.

{ EXECUTIVE,
No. 59.

REPORT OF AN EXPEDITION

DOWN THE

ZUNI AND COLORADO RIVERS,

BY

CAPTAIN L. SITGREAVES,
CORPS TOPOGRAPHICAL ENGINEERS.

ACCOMPANIED BY MAPS, SKETCHES, VIEWS, AND ILLUSTRATIONS.

WASHINGTON:
ROBERT ARMSTRONG, PUBLIC PRINTER.
1853.

Genus SPERMOPHILUS, Cuv.

SPERMOPHILUS TRIDECENLINEATUS, Mitchell.—The 13-lined Spermophile.

Spermophilus tridecemlineatus, Mitchell, Med. Rep., 1821.

Arctomys tridecemlineatus, Godm. Nat. Hist., vol. 2, p. 112.

Arctomys (*Spermophilus*) *Hoodii*, Rich. F. Bor. Amer., vol. 2, p. 117, pl. 14.

Spermophilus tridecemlineatus, Aud. and Bach. Quad. N. A., v. 1, p. 117, pl. 39.

I have only observed this pretty little spermophile on the prairies of the Cherokee Nation.

SPERMOPHILUS LUDOVICIANUS, Ord.—The Prairie Dog.

Prairie dog, Lewis and Clark's Exp., vol. 1, p. 67.

Wishtonwish, Pike's Exp., p. 150.

Arctomys ludovicianus, Ord., in Guthrie's Geog., 2,302, 1815.

“ “ Say, Long's Exp., vol. 1, 451.

Arctomys Missouriensis, Warden, descr. des Etas Unis, v. 5, p. 187.

Spermophilus ludovicianus, Aud. and Bach. Quad. N. A., vol. 2, p. 319, pl. 99.

This noisy spermophile is ever on the watch, and at the approach of danger commences its barking, if it might be called so, for it resembles much more the chirp of a large finch. Seated by the edge of its hole, it keeps up an incessant chirping, at the same time jerking its tail. On a nearer approach it disappears suddenly into its hole.

I have shot specimens frequently, but never secured more than one, on account of their falling into their holes, which are so deep that it is impossible to extricate them. I have taken the ramrod of my gun, and with it and my arm reached down one of them, and even then was not able to find the bottom.

These animals live in communities, or “dog-towns,” as they are called by the trappers and people of the country. They are in many places quite extensive; one that we passed through in western Texas must have been thirty miles in extent. Many of these towns are apparently without water.

Their food appears to be principally grass and insects.

Their holes are generally situated at regular intervals apart, say from twenty to thirty feet.

I have not always found the owl (*Athene hypugæa*, Bonap.) and rattlesnake (*Crotalus*) with them. The former occupies the deserted burrows of this animal.

Their flesh is quite palatable.

Genus SCIURUS, Linn.

SCIURUS CAROLINENSIS, Gmel.—The Carolina Gray Squirrel.

Sciurus Carolinensis and *cinereus*, Gm. Schreb., tab. 313.

“ “ Aud. and Bach. Quad. N. A., vol. 1, p. 55, pl. 7

Common in the Indian territory and Texas.