

2. *N. ferruginea*. Upper parts almost uniform rich rufous; lower parts pure white; feet partly dusky; tail unicolorous, dark brown. Average length about 7", of tail 7".

The Californian Wood-Rat, *N. fuscipes*, Cooper, agrees most nearly with *N. floridana* in size and in general coloration, but resembles *N. ferruginea* in its proportions and in its dusky feet and unicolorous tail.

1. *Neotoma floridana*.

Mus floridanus, Ord, Bull. Soc. Philom. Philad. 1818, p. 181 (descr. orig., fide Baird)¹.

Neotoma floridana, Coues, Proc. Ac. Philad. 1874, p. 175²; Mon. N.-Am. Rodent. p. 14³.

Neotoma mexicana, Baird, Proc. Ac. Philad. 1855, p. 333 (descr. orig.)⁴; Mamm. N. Am. p. 490⁵; Rep. U.S. Mex. Bound. Surv. ii. Mamm. p. 44⁶.

Neotoma micropus, Baird, Proc. Ac. Philad. 1855, p. 333 (descr. orig.)⁷; Mamm. N. Am. p. 492⁸; Rep. U.S. Mex. Bound. Surv. ii. Mamm. p. 44⁹.

Hab. NORTH AMERICA, from New England southwards³.—MEXICO, Sonora (*Kennerly*⁶, *Emory*³, *Webb*³, *U.S. Nat. Mus.*), Charco Escondido, Santa Rosalia (*Couch, ib.*⁹), Chihuahua (*Potts, ib.*³).

Several specimens of *Neotoma* were obtained by the officers of the United-States Boundary Survey in Northern Mexico, which became the types of Professor Baird's *N. mexicana*⁴ and *N. micropus*⁷. On a comparison with a larger series, however, Dr. Coues has been unable to recognize the validity of these species—the first having been founded on points of coloration which prove not to be constant, while the latter is based on two very imperfect specimens². Not having an opportunity of investigating the matter for myself, I accept these identifications on Dr. Coues's authority.

According to Mr. A. Schott, this animal "builds its domicile between the forks of mezquite-trees, the deflexed ramifications of which usually form a natural defence against larger intruders. The nest itself is made up of dry sticks, such as the ground underneath such trees is strewn with. There is no regularity in the construction of this house, which resembles, on a smaller scale, those of the Beavers. . . . A common inmate of those rat-nests is a *Sceleporus*, perhaps *S. collaris*, which has its entomophagous sports on the rough bark of the mezquite-tree: thus the Rat and the Lizard live peaceably together. The principal food of this Rat seems to be the pods of the mezquite and the screw-bean, of which large depositories can be found in their strongholds"⁶. There appears, however, to be considerable variety in the habits of the Wood-Rat according to the nature of the country: in some districts it frequents trees; in others it lives among rocks, while elsewhere it builds large conical pyramids, about three feet high, on the surface of the ground.