List of Mammals noted on trip from Las Vegas Ranch to Colorado River (Lincoln Co., Nevada) March 10th to 13th 1891.

E. W. Nelson

In his report upon Las Vegas Valley, Mr. Bailey has described the country as far south as Las Vegas Ranch. There he remained while Mr. F. V. Coville and myself made the trip of nearly 30 miles down to the banks of the Colorado River.

We were absent three nights making the trip on horseback and carrying our bedding and supplies upon our ~~horses~~ saddle horses.

From the Las Vegas ranch our route lay down the valley, southerly along the wagon road ~~to~~ the El Dorado Mining camp for eight miles to a spring of alkaline water by a bunch of mesquite bushes. Thence we turned sharply to the left taking a trail leading us some five miles to the ~~mouth~~ canon known as "Vegas wash" which leads down about fifteen or more miles to the banks of the Colorado.

From the Vegas ranch to the beginning of the "wash" our route lay along the lowest bottom land of the valley, adjacent to the low mountains on the eastern side of the basin. A vigorous growth of mesquites is scattered

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over this bottom and forming comparatively dense and heavy continuous belt several miles long along a portion of the eastern border of the valley a few miles below the ranch.
The soil of this bottom is mainly a stiff clay with croppings of limestone along its western side and a series of sand dunes across the lower half.
Several species of Atriplex and Prosopis pubiflora form the striking vegetation there.
As the valley narrows to form the canon leading to the Colorado the water is very near the surface and is alkaline in character.
In the canon the water rises and is found as a small stream or forming marshy and damp ground for several miles finally sinking eight or nine miles above the river the intervening bed of the canon being dry and gravelly. The wet portion of the canon from its extreme upper end is covered with a strong growth of distichlis maritimus, Pluchia borealis Willows and patches of Fragmites communis with mesquites and various desert bushes along the borders and in dry places.
The "Wash" is about 200 to 500 yards wide with enclosing

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walls rising as abrupt faces 50 to 100 feet high or slopes rising steeply for a considerable greater height & leading up to low mountains. The rock formation is sandstone and conglomerate becoming volcanic near the river.
At the point we struck the river there is a bordering bottom several miles long, of varying contour as outlined by the bordering hills and covered with sand-dunes. The river was at low flood stage and about 200 yards wide. Just below the bottom where we camped arose the black-lava walls forming the "Black Canon of the Colorado.

Lynx baileyi. A fragment of the skin of one of these animals was seen in the wash.

Canis latrans. Numerous tracks seen all along our route and others heard at night.

Mephitis —— sp? A few holes and fresh track of a skunk seen near the Colorado but none obtained.

Taxidea —— sp? From Las Vegas ranch to the upper end of "Vegas Wash" many fresh Badger holes ~~and~~

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were seen — more in fact than I have seen altogether in the past four months collecting.

Castor fiber. A number of fresh beaver tracks were seen on the muddy bank of the Colorado.

Lepus — sp? Cotton-tail rabbits were common in the lower end of the valley & all down the "Wash."

Lepus — sp? The Jack Rabbits of the common black-tailed form were seen at the lower end of the valley.

Dipodomys — sp? The large species of Dipodomys is very numerous in the lower end of the valley and at several places down the wash.
On the low hills bordering the river at the mouth of the wash they were excessively common.

Dipodomys — sp? Small species of Dipodomys was common from the ranch to the bank of the river.

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Perognathus — sp? The pale ashy, or light colored Perognathus obtained by me on this trip was found to be extremely abundant in the sand dunes along the bank of the river. The hard sand was full of their holes. In camp at night I heard them uttering a short, sharp, cricket like, clicking note.

Perognathus — sp? The surface of the hills along the sides of the wash and back of the sand dunes on the river are covered with dark colored pebbles and gravel. In this are a very great number of Perognathus holes from which I took three uniformly dark colored specimens of these animals — presenting a sharp contrast in color with the pale form living in the sand dunes. The three specimens named were taken within 200 yards of the point where I took the pale colored specimens and not over 50 feet higher above the river.

Perognathus — sp? Several holes of a very small species were seen but none were obtained.

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Hesperomys — sp.? A large, heavy bodied species #635 & 636 was found living in the sand dunes along the river with the pale perognathus.

Hesperomys sp.? A small, slender species #645 & 646 was found among the rocks under bluffs along the "Wash".

Neotoma — sp.? A dark colored Neotoma was found living in the rocks (#648) and sand dunes (#648) near the river. The latter specimen I took in my hand in camp at night, while holding a candle in the other hand.

Vespertilio — sp.? One obtained (#631) and others seen at the river.

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