

ZAPUS FROM WARREN COUNTY, OHIO

JACK L. GOTTSCHANG

Department of Biological Sciences, University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati 21

Dexter (1954) clearly outlined the distribution of *Zapus hudsonius* in Ohio, his distributional map showing a preponderance of captures from the northeastern part of the state. As Dexter has intimated, there is little doubt that this reflects a greater amount of collecting in this part of Ohio rather than a scarcity of jumping mice throughout the rest of Ohio, so that any records from the southern and western part of the state become important. On October 1, 1960, my son and I captured an adult female *Zapus hudsonius* in a dead trap at the edge of a fallow corn field six miles east of Lebanon, in Turtle Creek Township, Warren County, Ohio. As far as I can determine, this is the first definite trap record for the jumping mouse in Warren County and the southwestern-most record for this mouse in the state. The one specimen previously reported from Warren County by Dexter was one which I secured from a taxidermist, Mr. C. Foxbower. This specimen is now in the University of Cincinnati collection. The circumstances surrounding the capture of the Foxbower specimen were rather obscure. Mr. Foxbower relates that a relative of his caught the mouse by hand while he was harvesting grain. A freight train was on a siding about one thousand yards away from the site of capture, and it was assumed that the animal had been transported to the area in one of the box cars. The present record suggests that *Zapus* is well established in Warren County since there is little possibility that the animal could have been transported into the trapping area. It might not be abundant, however, because on a number of nights of trapping, I and several other collectors in the counties immediately bordering Warren County to the south have failed to capture a single jumping mouse. It might also be of interest to note that on the night of the present capture the temperature dropped to 44°F, and that several different mammals taken along the same trap line had light coverings of frost on their fur. *Zapus* is usually reported to have one of the longest hibernating periods among the small mammals, although Hall and Kelson (1959) report that they may occasionally be found above ground in midwinter.

Following the latest revision of the group (Kruttsch, 1954), the present specimen belongs to the subspecies *Zapus hudsonius americanus* (Barton), as do all Ohio specimens. Its measurements are: total length, 193 mm; tail length, 115 mm; right hind foot, 30 mm; ear, 12 mm; weight, 12.3 g. The animal was not pregnant, and there were no signs of earlier pregnancy. The skin and complete skeleton (No. 1065) are deposited in the University of Cincinnati mammal collection.

LITERATURE CITED

- Dexter, R. W. 1954. Distribution of the meadow jumping mouse *Zapus hudsonius* in Ohio. *J. Mammal.* 35: 233.
Hall, E. R., and K. R. Kelson. 1959. *The Mammals of North America*. The Ronald Press Co., New York City. 1083 pp.
Kruttsch, P. H. 1954. North American jumping mice (genus *Zapus*). *Univ. Kansas Publ., Museum Nat. Hist.* 7: 349-472.