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A NEW RACE OF THE EASTERN COTTONTAIL  
FROM THE TEXAS PANHANDLE

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IN his revision of the rabbits of North America, Nelson<sup>1</sup> placed the Florida cottontail of both eastern and western Oklahoma in the race *alacer* and mentioned that the few specimens available from western Oklahoma were paler in color than typical *alacer*. Material recently acquired from the Texas Panhandle and from western Oklahoma indicates the existence of an undescribed race in that area. Topotypes of *caniculus* for comparison were kindly loaned by the United States National Museum. For the new race I propose the name

*Sylvilagus floridanus llanensis*, n. subsp.

## Staked Plains Cottontail

TYPE.—Male adult, skull and skin; U.M.M.Z. No. 66778, from Old "F" Ranch headquarters, Quitaque, Briscoe County, Texas; July 8, 1932; collected by M. F. Landwer; original number 285.

GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION.—Northwestern Oklahoma, at least as far east as Harper County; west through the Texas Pan-

<sup>1</sup> E. W. Nelson, "The Rabbits of North America," *N. Amer. Fauna*, No. 29 (1909): 174.

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handle to Bailey County; south at least as far as Howard County, Texas.

CHARACTERS.—Most closely resembles *alacer* (specimens from Rogers County, Oklahoma, and from Washington County, Arkansas, are considered to be typical), from which it differs in generally paler coloration. Less black above than *alacer*; sides and rump patch paler gray; nape Pinkish Cinnamon<sup>2</sup> rather than deep, rusty Rufous; outside of ears Tawny Olive rather than rusty Rufous. In summer pelage hind feet except toes generally white above rather than rusty Rufous as in *alacer*. More reddish above than *chapmani* and than topotypes of *caniclutus*, which was considered by Nelson to be synonymous with *chapmani*; feet slightly larger. More reddish above than *similis*; ears longer, more rusty outside; sides more brownish; hind toes and fore feet more Rufous above; underside of neck more buffy.

In winter pelage, *lanensis*, as represented by a specimen from Bailey County and one from Howard County, Texas, has less black above than either *alacer* or *chapmani* in similar pelage. It is less reddish above than *alacer*, but is not so gray as *chapmani*. It is darker and more reddish in color than *similis*.

COLOR OF TYPE.—Top of head and back Cinnamon, lightly washed with black, giving a light Cinnamon-Rufous effect; sides of body paler and grayer than back; a conspicuous rump patch present; nape Pinkish Cinnamon; underside of neck Light Ochraceous-Buff; outside of ears Tawny Olive; ears edged with white except near tip, where they are edged with black; front and sides of fore legs light Cinnamon-Rufous, becoming considerably paler on tops of fore feet; outside and back of hind legs light Cinnamon-Rufous; tops of hind feet except toes white with a very slight Rufous wash; tops of hind toes light Cinnamon-Rufous; tail light reddish brown above.

MEASUREMENTS OF TYPE (in mm.).—Total length, 405; tail vertebrae, 52; hind foot, 92; ear from notch, 59. Skull:

<sup>2</sup> Capitalized color terms are after R. Ridgway, *Color Standards and Color Nomenclature* (Washington, D. C., 1912), 44 pp., 53 pls.

Basilar length of Hensel, 49.0; length of nasals, 28.0; greatest width of nasals, 13.0; depth of rostrum in front of premolars, 13.8; anterior parietal breadth, 19.5; zygomatic breadth, 33.0; greatest diameter of auditory bulla, 10.4; alveolar length of molar tooth row, 12.9.

SKULL.—Not distinguishable from that of *alacer*.

REMARKS.—This pale reddish form occupies an area of predominantly reddish soils. It seems likely that there is some relationship between the red soil color and the reddish pelage of this race.

SPECIMENS EXAMINED.—*S. f. llanensis*, Old "F" Ranch headquarters, Quitaque, Briscoe County, Texas, 5; six miles southwest of Muleshoe, Bailey County, Texas, 1; Post, Garza County, Texas, 1; six miles east of Coahoma, Howard County, Texas, 1; four miles north of Laverne, Harper County, Oklahoma, 3.

*S. f. alacer*, Fayetteville, Washington County, Arkansas, 7; Columbus, Cherokee County, Kansas, 1; Garnett, Rogers County, Oklahoma, 12; Tecumseh, Pottawatomie County, Oklahoma, 1.

*S. f. chapmani*, Brownsville, Cameron County, Texas, 12; Fort Clark, Kinney County, Texas (topotypes of *caniclutis*), 4.

*S. f. similis*, Valentine, Cherry County, Nebraska, 2; Crookston, Cherry County, Nebraska, 1; Johnstown, Brown County, Nebraska, 1.

