

OCCASIONAL PAPERS OF THE MUSEUM OF
ZOOLOGY

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN PRESS

DESCRIPTION OF A NEW RED SQUIRREL FROM
ISLE ROYALE, MICHIGANBY ARTHUR H. HOWELL¹

COMPARISON of a series of red squirrels from Isle Royale, Michigan, in the collection of the University of Michigan with specimens from the north and south sides of Lake Superior shows the island form to be distinctly different from the mainland races. It is a pale species lacking the bright tawny colors of *Tamiasciurus hudsonicus loquax*, the race occurring in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. It seems to be nearest to the form occupying the greater part of Ontario, north of Lake Superior, considered to be nearly typical *hudsonicus*. Since there appears to be no evidence of intergradation with either *hudsonicus* or *loquax*, it seems best to consider the island form a distinct species. The series examined comprises 24 specimens, 5 of which are in winter pelage (January, 1; May, 4), and the rest in summer pelage (July to September). For the opportunity to describe this new species I am indebted to Dr. Lee R. Rice, of the University of Michigan.

Tamiasciurus regalis, sp. nov.

TYPE.—Collected at Belle Isle, Isle Royale, Michigan, May 8, 1930 by Adolph Murie; ♂ adult, skin and skull, No. 61802, Mus. Zool., Univ. Mich.; original No. 1088.

¹ United States Biological Survey.

RANGE.—Known only from Isle Royale, Michigan.

EXTERNAL CHARACTERS.—About the size of *T. hudsonicus loquax*; coloration paler and less reddish (more olivaceous), both in winter and summer pelage; tail conspicuously paler (less tawny); underparts vermiculated with fuscous in winter. Compared with *hudsonicus* from Ontario (James Bay to Lake Superior), this form differs in the same way that it does from *loquax*, being paler and less reddish, but agreeing with it in the color of the underparts.

CRANIAL CHARACTERS.—Skull similar to that of *loquax* and of *hudsonicus* from James Bay, possibly averaging slightly smaller in total length and zygomatic breadth; postorbital breadth averaging distinctly less.

COLOR.—Winter pelage: tip of nose black, bordered on each side with pale pinkish buff; top of head mixed fuscous and light buff; sides of head smoke gray; ears mainly fuscous, edged posteriorly with light buff; median dorsal area about sayal brown; sides of body about grayish olive; feet hair-brown, more or less washed with cinnamon-buff; tail above, between sayal brown and mikado brown, bordered with black and edged with pale buff; tail beneath, mixed cinnamon-buff and smoke gray; underparts pale smoke gray, vermiculated with fuscous. Summer pelage: upperparts and sides snuff brown or Saccardo's umber; head slightly darker; feet pinkish cinnamon; tail as in winter; underparts white, washed with pinkish buff.

MEASUREMENTS (in mm.).—Average of 8 adults from Isle Royale: total length 309.4 (291–323), tail vertebrae 123.5 (120–130), hind foot 46.7 (45–50). Skull.—Average of 8 adults: greatest length 44.7 (44.3–45.3), zygomatic breadth 25.6 (24.8–26.8), cranial breadth 20.3 (19.4–21.4), least inter-orbital breadth 13.7 (13.3–14.1), least postorbital breadth 14.1 (13.5–14.7), length of nasals 13.7 (13.5–14), maxillary tooth-row 7.5 (7.1–8).

