Notes on a collecting expedition to Chepachet Post Office, Gloucester Township, Providence County, Rhode Island, made by Dr. Edgar A. Mearns and his son, Louis di Zerega Mearns, September 1st to 8th, 1900.

We left Fort Adams, R. I., at 1:30 P.M. and proceeded to Pascoag, Burrillville Township, Providence County, Rhode Island, arriving at 5:15 P.M. Hiring a Surrey & team at Pascoag we drove to Chepachet in time to shoot at ducks beside Chepachet River, after tasting tea.

September 1st we set traps along the east bank of Chepachet River in the morning and 50 cyclone traps and several others in a cedar swamp 3 miles west of Chepachet in the afternoon. These we visited Sept. 2, 3, and 5, on the last date bringing them in and setting them in the country bordering the west side of Chepachet River. So traps were kept set until the morning of the day we left (Sept. 8).

The township of Gloucester is hilly or rolling.
sandy, with scattered boulders; it is deeply
channelled by streams, and contains several
cedar swamps and some ponds and
small lakes. The country is well wooded
with second-growth timber, of which white
pine is the prevailing conifer, and oak (red,
white and beech) and chestnut the prevailing de-
ciduous trees. The following trees, shrubs and
vines were observed:

3. Tsuga canadensis (Linnaeus). Hemlock
   Semicultivated in yards.
5. Chamaecyparis thyroides (Linnaeus). Southern
   White Cedar. Forms extensive growth in swamps.
   naming Wild Low. Low Juniper.
   Hicoria alba (Linnaeus). Hickory.
14. Salix
17. Betula nigra Linnæus. River Birch; Red Birch.
21. Quercus māna (Marsh.). Bear or Scrub Oak.
22. Quercus alba Linnæus. White Oak.
26. Liriodendron tulipifera Linnæus. Tulip-tree. One
27. Sassafras sassafras (Linnæus). Sassafras.
32. Spiræa tormentosa Linnæus. Hardhack; Steeple-Bush.
33. Crataegus
34. Rubus strigosus Michx. Wild Red Raspberry.
37. Prunus serotina Ehrh. Black Cherry.
38. Robinia pseudacacia Linn. Locust.
39. Rhus copallina Linn. Dwarf Sumach.
40. Rhus radicans Linn. Poison Ivy, Poison Oak.
41. Ilex verticillata (Linn.). Black Elder, Winterberry.
42. Acer rubrum Linn. Red Maple; Swamp Maple.
43. Acer saccharum Marsh. Sugar or Rock Maple.
44. Aesculus hippocastanum Linn. Horse-chestnut.
46. Parthenocissus quinquefolia (Linn.). Virginia Creeper.
47. Lilium americana Linn. Basswood.
48. Cornus amomum Miller. Silky Cornel; Minnikinick.
51. Elethera canina Linn. Swort Pepperbush.
52. Kalua latifolia Linn. Mountani Laurel.
53. Gaylussacia frondosa (Linn). Dangleberry.
54. Vaccinium corymbosum Linn. White Oak.
55. Fraxinus americana Linn. White Oak.
57. Viburnum dentago Linnæus. Hannyberry; Sheepberry.
59. Aroma
60. Smilax rotundifolia Linnæus. Greenbrier; Chokeberry.
64. F. Mieramphelis

Note.— The lesser herbs observed at Chepachet are checked in blue pencil in my copy of Britton and Brown’s “Flora.”
A List of the Fishes of Chepachet, R. I.

1. Amiaurus nebulosus (Le Sueur). Small Catfish. "Bull-Pout." Abundant in the Chepachet River and Chepachet Reservoir, which are now (Sept. 1-8, 1900) very low. Specimens preserved.


3. Anguilla chrysaora Rafinesque. Fresh-water Eel. Abundant in the various waters.


Mammals collected at Chepachet, Providence County, Rhode Island, September 1–8, 1900, by Doctor Edgar A. Mearns and Master Louis di Grega Mearns.

1. *Vibra zibethica* (Linnaeus). — Nov. 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 4570, 4571, 4572, 4573, 4574, 4579, 4583, 4584, 4585, and 4586.

2. *Eotomys gapperi* (Vigors). — Nov. 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 4570, 4571, 4572, 4573, 4574, 4579, 4583, 4584, 4585, and 4586.

3. *Peromyscus canadensis* novoboracensis. — Nov. 11, 14, 4577, 4578, 4581, 4587, 4588, 4589, 4590, 4596, 4599, 4615, and 4616.


Total, 72 specimens of 13 species of mammals collected on the trip.
### Measurements of Rhode Island Specimens of Peromyscus

**Sheet III**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Sex and age</th>
<th>Locality</th>
<th>Length</th>
<th>Tail without</th>
<th>Tail, hair</th>
<th>Hind foot</th>
<th>Head</th>
<th>Ear crown</th>
<th>Ear notched</th>
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<tr>
<td>148</td>
<td>♀ ♀ ♀ ♀ ♀</td>
<td>Eelpoquet, Rhode Island</td>
<td>140</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>20.5</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
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<tr>
<td>155</td>
<td>♀ ♀ ♀ ♀ ♀</td>
<td></td>
<td>180</td>
<td>81</td>
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<tr>
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</table>

*Average of 5 adult males*  
178.4 82.6 88.3 10.7 29.1 13.2 16.2

*Average of 3 females*  
186.7 85.7 90.8 20.8 30.5 13.3 17.3
## Comparative measurements of specimens of *Peromyscus*
from several localities.

### Average

<table>
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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Length</th>
<th>Tail without</th>
<th>Tail hair</th>
<th>Hind foot</th>
<th>Head</th>
<th>Ear crown</th>
<th>Ear, total</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7 Adult males of <em>Peromyscus canadensis</em> Miller from the Catskill Mountains, New York.</td>
<td>181</td>
<td>89</td>
<td>96.5</td>
<td>21.2</td>
<td>28.7</td>
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<td>17.7</td>
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<td>3 Adult females</td>
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<td>190</td>
<td>94</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>21.5</td>
<td>28.2</td>
<td>15.4</td>
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<td>12 Adult males of <em>Peromyscus leucopus monoporacensis</em> from the Catskill Mountains, N.Y.</td>
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<td>79</td>
<td>84.5</td>
<td>21.2</td>
<td>29.5</td>
<td>12.7</td>
<td>16.8</td>
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<td>6 Adult females</td>
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<td>81</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>21.5</td>
<td>30.6</td>
<td>13.3</td>
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<tr>
<td>10 Adult males of <em>Peromyscus leucopus</em> from the Hudson Highlands, New York.</td>
<td>170</td>
<td>78.5</td>
<td>20.7</td>
<td>29.5</td>
<td>12.8</td>
<td>16.7</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 Adult females</td>
<td>do</td>
<td>185</td>
<td>82.3</td>
<td>21.1</td>
<td>30.1</td>
<td>12.5</td>
<td>16.8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total average of above 18 specimens</td>
<td>do</td>
<td>180</td>
<td>80.2</td>
<td>20.9</td>
<td>29.7</td>
<td>12.7</td>
<td>16.7</td>
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<td>2 Adult males of <em>Peromyscus leucopus</em> from Conanicut Island, Rhode Island</td>
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<td>88</td>
<td>32.2</td>
<td>31.2</td>
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<tr>
<td>2 Adult females</td>
<td>do</td>
<td>168</td>
<td>77.5</td>
<td>82.5</td>
<td>21.4</td>
<td>29.7</td>
<td>11.1</td>
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<td>10 Adult males of <em>Peromyscus leucopus</em> from Rhode Island Island, R. I.</td>
<td>170.2</td>
<td>78.4</td>
<td>81.7</td>
<td>20.8</td>
<td>29.9</td>
<td>12.2</td>
<td>15.6</td>
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<tr>
<td>6 Adult females</td>
<td>do</td>
<td>174.2</td>
<td>78.6</td>
<td>84.3</td>
<td>20.7</td>
<td>29.9</td>
<td>13.2</td>
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<tr>
<td>5 Adult males of <em>Peromyscus</em> from Chepachet, Providence Co., Rhode Island</td>
<td>178.4</td>
<td>82.6</td>
<td>88.3</td>
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<td>3 Adult females</td>
<td>do</td>
<td>186.7</td>
<td>85.7</td>
<td>90.8</td>
<td>20.88</td>
<td>30.55</td>
<td>13.3</td>
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A list of the Mammals of Chepachet and surrounding regions of Gloucester Township, Rhode Island, based on information received from the inhabitants and on observations during a collecting trip made from September 1 to 8, 1900.:

1. Virginian Deer. — Deer are well known to occur in small numbers, and several have been killed in Gloucester Township during recent years. Numerous instances of their having been seen or shot were reported to me; and some bred in the township in the year 1900.

2. Southeastern Red Squirrel. — Abundant throughout the region. Some were chattering in the yard opposite the Chepachet Hotel where we were staying. Some of these taken were considerably larger than specimens from the island; they had commenced feeding upon the pig-nut hickory during the first week of September.

3. Northern Gray Squirrel. — Common throughout the township. Some live upon the island at the south end of Pescocog Reservoir, occupied as a fishing camp by Mr. H. R. Taft, proprietor of the Chepachet Hotel, who informed me that
he once found a very young Gray Squirrel in the gullet of a Black Bass caught in Tausay Reservoir, a circumstance which he explained on the supposition that the little Squirrel was being towed to the mainland from the island when it was seized by the fish.

In the collection of mounted game in Mr. H. R. Tofte's hotel are three mounted Gray Squirrels, one of which is a perfect albino, and, contrary to the rule, quite up to the average in size, most albino mammals being smaller than usual. We saw tame Gray Squirrels that had been captured in the neighborhood of Chepachet; but, though their leaf-nests were seen none were seen in the woods. Later, when the leaves have fallen, the Squirrel hunting is good.

Northeastern Chipmunk. — Abundant around Chepachet. My son shot one whose cheek-pouches were crammed with ripe wild cherries (*Prunus virginiana*), to the number of 31, 14 on one side and 17 in the other. These specimens so far as we can be judged
without making a direct comparison are similar in coloration to those from the Catskill Mountains, New York, though they are somewhat smaller. Specimens taken, 4.

Specimens of Tamias streatus from the vicinity of Providence, R. I. are nearer in coloration to the form of Tamias streatus streatus found in the lowest part of the Hudson River Valley than to extreme specimens of the subspecies hypostriatus, such as occur in Maine and Canada, and it is possible that some localities in the State of Rhode Island may furnish a form of the Chipmunk referable to streatus.

5. Woodchuck—Abundant at Chepachet. We saw numerous old burrows and one that seemed to be occupied. A farmer told us that he had killed several during August, 1900.

6. Southern Flying Squirrel.—Though none were seen by us, we learned from residents of Gloucester township that Flying Squirrels are not uncommon there.
7. **American Beaver.** — Remains of Beaver dams are still discernible in Gloucester and surrounding townships; some that were formerly known to exist have disappeared within the recollection of the present inhabitants of the region. I am unable to ascertain when the last Beavers were destroyed in Rhode Island.

8. **House Mouse.** — Said to be common at Chepachet. None were trapped or seen by me.

9. **House Rat.** — Five half-grown young were captured September 1, 1900. An adult was killed by Rev. Frank J. Nash a few days before. Rats are said to be common at Chepachet, though none were caught in the traps which we set in the woods surrounding the town. The inhabitants knew nothing of the former existence of the Black Rat in Rhode Island.

10. **Northeastern Deer Mouse.** — Abundant. We took them on both sides of the Chepachet River and in the cedar swamp 3 miles west of the village of Chepachet. On discovering some old
coon traps which had been left in the woods we began to set them for Rabbits. The second one opened contained a nest of this Peromyscus from which fled 5 or 6 half-grown mice, one of which (No. 11 collection of Louis de Geer Mearns) was caught; another ran up a tree; and the remainder disappeared beneath leaves and brush. This nest was sent to the Smithsonian United States National Museum at Washington, D. C. Specimens collected, 13. The Peromyscus of this heavily wooded and well watered region is darkly colored and has a remarkably long tail, though this member is much shorter than in Peromyscus canadensis Miller. Its ears are much smaller than those of the Deer Mice of the islands of Rhode Island and Conamicut in this State, or those of the Hudson River Highlands of New York, though they are exactly the same size as those of the Catskill Mountains, New York, collected by the writer and his son in 1896.* In general they resemble the Catskill

specimens quite closely except that the tail averages 5.8 longer by about 5 mm.

Measurements. — Average of 5 adult males from Chepachet, Rhode Island: Length, 178.4 mm.; tail vertebrae, 82.6; tail to end of hairs, 88.3; length of hind foot, 20.7; length of head, 29; ear from crown, 13.2; ear from notch, 16.2. Average of 3 adult females: Length, 186.7; tail vertebrae, 85.7; tail to end of pencil, 90.8; hind foot, 20.8; head, 30.5; ear from crown, 13.3; ear from notch, 17.3.

11. Common Red-backed Mouse. — Abundant in a cedar swamp 3 miles west of Chepachet P. O., where we trapped 15 specimens, September 2 to 5, 1900. All were taken under in hollows under the roots of trees, in the same situation in which the only Shrew (Sorex flumensis) was obtained. One female contained 5 very small fetuses, another that were much larger.

Measurements. — Average of 7 adult females:
Length, 146 mm.; tail vertebrae, 42.6; tail to end of pencil, 48.7; length of hind foot, 19.4; length of head, 28.7; ear from crown, 9.1; ear from notch, 13.9. Average of 4 females:
Length, 148.8; tail vertebrae, 43.8; tail to end of penis, 49.8; length of hind foot, 18.6; length of head, 28.1;
car from crown, 8.8; car from notch, 13.9. These specimens average larger than the series collected by me in the Catskill Mountains, New York.*


12. Common Meadow Mouse.—We saw the runways of the Meadow mouse in marshy situations and meadows but failed to secure any of them in our traps. The species, we were told, is usually common, but extreme prolonged drought had driven most of them from their accustomed haunts in the meadow.

13. Muskrat.—Abundant in suitable localities. We saw their tracks along the river bank in the village of Chepachet, and trapped an adult and two half-grown young a short distance up the stream. From one of their burrows I took about
2 quarts of mussel shells. These bivalves (Unio and Anodonta) were found in small heaps about their feeding grounds all along the river bank. An albino Mussel was killed in this locality a few years ago. Several other albino Musselts have been taken in Rhode Island. Specimens taken, 4.

Measurements: — An adult female (No. 4595) taken at Chepachet, R.I., September 5, 1900, presented the following measurements: length, 600 mm.; tail vertebrae, 266; tail to end of ears, 272; hind foot, 87; head, 79; ear from crown, 15; ear from notch, 22.

14. Northeastern Cottontail. — Said to be abundant. We saw their tracks, and experienced some inconvenience by having them get into traps too which were too small to capture them, though we saw more.

15. Southern Varying Hare. — A common species in cedar swamps and wet thickets. We failed to obtain specimens. An experienced trapper informed us that they are easier to obtain than the Cottontail or Grey Rabbit.
16. Wildcat. — The Wildcat was formerly found in Gloucester, but I could not learn of any recent captures.

17. Red Fox. — We obtained a specimen was trapped in August, 1900, by Mr. Reubin J. Brown, at whose farm 2 miles from Chepachet we saw the skin and obtained the skull. The tip of this fox’s tail was white, which seems to be the usual pattern. Mr. Brown trapped a second Fox this year, on September 2, which we obtained in the flesh. A dozen additional skulls were obtained from trappers, Mr. Brown alone having killed 17 Red Foxes during the preceding 12 months. A bounty of $5.00 is now being paid on each Fox presented to the Town Clerk, who marks it by removing an ear.

Mr. Reubin J. Brown showed me a ‘Fox wallow’ on his farm, to which to rid themselves of fleas many Red Foxes regularly resort. The place
irregular mound of 11
is commanding hill on which Mr. Brown
had ploughed furrows and openings for
convenience in trapping the animals. The
Foxes can never be tempted to go near any
bait, though a dead fowl will attract
them to the neighborhood, and a trap
adroitly placed at some distance from the
bait may catch one, though the majority
of those taken by Mr. Brown were caught
in traps simply hidden in the sand in spots
which the Foxes frequented.

Mr. H. R. Taft informed us that the
silver-gray variety of the Red Fox has been
taken near Chepachet. Several Red Foxes
are kept as pets by boys of Chepachet, and
some are surprisingly gentle and affectionate.
The Gray Fox (Urocyon cinereusargentus) is
unknown in this region.

18. Raccoon.—A handsomely-mounted Raccoon
in W. H. R. Taft’s hotel at Chepachet, R. I., was killed
by a party from Newport who went on a night’s
coon-hunt at Chepachet a year or two ago.
We arranged with an old hunter who owns a good coon-dog to take us out coon-hunting, but the night proved dark and rainy and the hunter failed to come.

Raccoons are by no means rare in Grocester town, and some Frenchmen who follow hunting and trapping as a business often bring in several of them in a night.

Mr. F. R. Taft, the genial proprietor of the Chepachet Hotel, is bristling with reminiscences of coon-hunts in which he has taken part.

On the road between Rassag and Chepachet, we came where Raccoons had broken down the stacks of corn in a field.

19. Northeastern Otter. — Otters have become scarce, but almost every year one or more has been taken in the region around Chepachet. One was shot on Chepachet River in 1898.

20. Southeastern Mink. — Mink still occur on the streams about Chepachet, though they seem to have become quite scarce during recent years. We were unable to see any since
21. Skunk. — Skunks are abundant in the vicinity of Chepachet, and are extensively trapped for the fur, which now sells at "black" guinea bring $1.25 and others from 75¢ to $1.00. We found the skeleton of a Skunk near the entrance to a burrow, and subsequently obtained two specimens. One (No. ) had the dorsal stripes narrow and broadly interrupted on the thighs, the other (No. ) having very broad and continuous white stripes extending back to the tail; both had the median white stripe on upper side of head. We saw no others, but were informed by trappers that the amount of white varies greatly in different individuals, some being nearly all white above, while black Skunks are not very uncommon and command the highest price.

22. Bonaparte Weasel. — This is supposed to be the common Weasel of this region about Chepachet, R.I., where it sometimes changes to white in winter. We saw none of them.
23. New York Weasel. — This Weasel is less common at Chepachet than Bonaparte Weasel. It does not invariably assume the white pelage in winter, and many individuals are said to become partially white. My companion and I obtained a miniature male, caught in a trap set at the entrance of a burrow beneath the roots of a hemlock tree on the edge of the cedar swamp in which we trapped numerous Red-backed Mice, on which this Weasel doubtless feeds extensively. Another was caught but escaped from the same trap. The New York Weasel was said to be less numerous than Bonaparte Weasel, a statement which we could not verify as we saw but one Weasel on our visit.

We could learn nothing respecting the former presence of the Fisher or the Marten in Rhode Island.

24. Dorsey Jeremiah Miller. — We trapped one Smoky Shrew in a cedar swamp 3 miles west of Chepachet, Rhode Island, September 5, 1900. The trap was set in a hole beneath the roots of a white cedar tree. Those to whom the specimen was shown had never seen a Smoky before.
25. Short-tailed Shrew. — This was invari-
ably called the 'Meadow-mole' by the farmers.
We found them in all situations in which traps were placed, except the cedar swamps, where it may easily have escaped as the Red-backed Mouse were numerous, occupying or removing the bait from many of the traps.

26. Star-nosed Mole. — The residents of Chepachet recognize three kinds of mole — the common 'Meadow-mole' (Blarina boscarelisa), the 'Bur-mole' (Condylura cristata), and the 'Black Mole', which may be either Scalops aquaticus or Parascalops breweri. The Star-nosed Mole is abundant and was said to frequent swampy localities. We saw no true Moles, but observed numerous hillocks of sand thrown up in the meadows exactly like those of Parascalops breweri seen in the Catskill region of New York. None of the characteristic ridges of Scalops aquaticus were
seen; and the hillocks of soil often seen in the grass may possibly have been the work of the Star-nosed Mole, a species very familiar to the residents under the name of 'Bur-nose.' Similar Mole mounds in the vicinity of South Auburn, Providence County, Rhode Island were attributed to the Star-nosed Mole by Mr. Harry S. Heathaway, although my own impression is that they are made by Parascalops breweri which makes precisely similar signs in the Catskills.


Several species of Bats were seen at Chepachet, among them small ones which must have belonged to the genus Myotis or Pipistrellus.
29. Canadian Porcupine. — From conversation with present persons residing in the township of Gloucester I learned that Porcupine was found there formerly. Mr. H. R. Saft told me that he remembered seeing a dog whose mouth was with Porcupine quills in its lips, having attacked a Porcupine near Cady's tavern, about 4½ miles west of Chepachet, Rhode Island. He was not sure whether the 'Porke' had been killed or not.

Mr. Reuben J. Brown informed me that he had been familiar in boyhood with a stuffed Porcupine which was still preserved in the house of his grand-parents, as late as about the year 1875. This animal was killed about 60–65 years ago in Hoar Swamp, Gloucester, by Mr. Cheney Brown, grandfather of Reuben J. Brown, the narrator.

Remarks on the species of mammals not known to occur at Chepachet, Gloucester.

Glossum. — No one ever heard of one there.

Moose. — I made no inquiries respecting its former occurrence, which, however, is quite certain.

Northern Pine Mouse. — Trapping in appropriate places failed to discover any, and none were heard of.

Jumping Mice. — None seen or heard of.

Northeastern Panther. — No inquiries made.

Canadian Lynx. — Mr. H. T. Taft said he had 'often heard of Lynxes.' Most persons discredited even the present existence of Lynx rufus. I made few inquiries respecting the Canadian Lynx.

Timber Wolf. — No inquiries made respecting its former presence or date of extinction.

Black Bear. — No inquiries made.

Fisher. — Unknown to the inhabitants.

Pine Marten.

Northeastern Fox Squirrel. — A tame Fox Squirrel had been kept in a cage. Where it came from was not known.
Gray Fox. — The only 'gray' Fox known to
the inhabitants of Chepachet is the silvery-gray
variety of the Red Fox.

Wolverine. — No inquiries made.

Bats and Moles of several kinds were
spoken of by the inhabitants. A jar of
1:20 formalin solution was left at the
Chepachet Hotel and another given to Mr.
Rufus J. Brown, in the hope that specimens
might be saved for our examination.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Sex and age</th>
<th>Locality</th>
<th>Length</th>
<th>Tail notches</th>
<th>Tail hairs</th>
<th>Hind foot</th>
<th>Head</th>
<th>Paw, wren</th>
<th>Ear noted</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>♂♂ad.</td>
<td>Newport, Rhode Island</td>
<td>185 cm</td>
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Average of 10 Adult males from Rhode Island, 170.2 78.4 81.7 20.8 29.9 12.2 15.6

" " 6 " females " " 174.2 78.6 84.2 20.7 29.9 12.2 16.2

" " 2 " males " Conanicut Island 184.5 83 88 22 31 12.1 16.8

" " 2 " females " " 168 77.5 82.5 11.4 29 11 16.1