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SCIENTIFIC NOTES

NOTES ON THE DISTRIBUTION OF *MACROTUS WATERHOUSII*
IN SOUTHERN NEVADA

The California leaf-nosed bat, *Macrotus waterhousii* (= *californicus*), has been previously reported in southern Nevada from only four locations (Hall, Mammals of Nevada, p. 130, 1946; Cockrum and Musgrove, J. Mamm., 45:636-637, 1964). *Macrotus* are usually found in large numbers during the fall and winter when they congregate in selected warm mines. I have made a concerted effort to locate this species during the winter in Clark Co., Nevada with noteworthy results.

Hall (op. cit.) lists *Macrotus* from three locations. At Frenchman's Mine, 7 mi. E Las Vegas, 120 bats of this species were found dead at the bottom of the shaft in 1934. At Jap Ranch, Colorado River, 500 ft, 14 mi. E Searchlight, leaf-nosed bats were found night roosting in abandoned buildings in 1934. In Hemenway Wash, 1600 ft, 14 *Macrotus* were observed in a mine shaft in 1938 (U.S. National Park Service, Boulder City, Nevada). The entrance to Frenchman's Mine has recently been permanently sealed and the other two locations have been under water since the formation of Lakes Mohave and Mead respectively.

Cockrum and Musgrove (op. cit.) found up to 200 *Macrotus* roosting in shafts and tunnels of a mine 4½ mi. N Davis Dam, ¾ mi. W Lake Mohave, 800 ft, Clark Co., Nevada. It is a difficult area to get into and as yet I have been unable to verify the mine location.

On 14 March and 5 April 1964, two students collected a male and female respectively in a mine tunnel 3.8 mi. W Cottonwood Cove Landing, Clark Co., Nevada. These specimens are on deposit in the Biology Museum, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. I examined this tunnel on 16 Nov. 1968 and 2 Jan 1969. Bats were not observed at these times, but the mine is apparently utilized by small numbers of bats at certain times of the year.

On 16 Nov. 1968, four male *Macrotus* were captured at the Rockefeller Mine, SE ¼, Sec. 30, R 64 E, T 27 S, Clark Co., Nevada. At least ten more were observed. The Rockefeller Mine, approximately 4 air line miles from Lake Mohave, is a long, narrow tunnel of extreme warmth and humidity. On 2 Jan. 1969 the mine was visited again and the population estimated to be in excess of 100 bats. On 29 Jan. 1969, 88 *Macrotus* were collected and banded. The difference in numbers observed might be due to a combination of disturbance and periods of warm weather during January. Guano deposits indicate that this mine is frequently utilized by bats. Other mines in the area have been visited during the winter but no bats were observed.

Southern Nevada represents the northern-most extension of the range of *Macrotus*. Prior to 1939 *Macrotus* occurred along the Colorado River and into the Las Vegas Valley. This apparent extension was brought about by man's provision of suitable roosting sites in the form of mines. Ironically, man in recent years has destroyed many suitable roosts and *Macrotus* is now restricted to the southern-most tip of Clark County. Work is now in progress to study populations in this area.

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