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UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
WASHINGTON

June 24, 1937.

Mr. Guy E. McCarty,
Custodian, Craters of the Moon National Monument,
Arco, Idaho.

Dear Mr. McCarty:

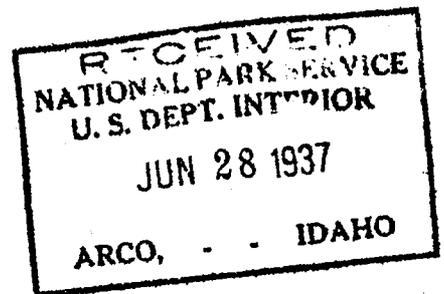
We have received your letter of June 16, transmitting a Provisional Generic List of Mammals, Craters of the Moon National Monument, prepared by Mr. Phillip M. Blossom, Associate Curator of Mammals, University of Michigan.

This report will be very useful to us and we wish to thank Mr. Blossom for his work in preparing it.

Sincerely yours,

H. C. Bryant,
Assistant Director.


By C. P. Russell,
Chief,
Wildlife Division.



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
CRATERS OF THE MOON NATIONAL MONUMENT
ARCO, IDAHO

OFFICE OF THE CUSTODIAN

715
June 16, 1936

The Director,
National Park Service,
Department of the Interior
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Director:

I am transmitting a Provisional Generic List of Mammals, Craters of the Moon, National Monument, prepared by Mr. Phillip M. Blossom, Associate Curator of Mammals, University of Michigan.

I have been informed that Mr. Blossom has obtained a permit to trap mammals in the monument again this season. If so, another report on his activities will be forthcoming.

Sincerely yours,

Guy E. McCarty
Custodian

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

----- NATIONAL PARK
Craters of the Moon National Monument

FILE NO. N22

A PROVISIONAL LIST OF MAMMALS

Prepared by:

Mr. Phillip M. Blossom
Associate Curator of Mammals
University of Michigan

IMPORTANT

This file constitutes a part of the official records of the National Park Service and should not be separated or papers withdrawn without express authority of the official in charge.

All Files should be returned promptly to the File Room. Officials and employees will be held responsible for failure to observe these rules, which are necessary to protect the integrity of the official records.

* A Provisional Generic List of Mammals, Craters of
the Moon, Idaho

By Philip M. Blosson
Museum of Zoology
University of Michigan
Ann Arbor, Michigan

- Big-eared Bat (Corynorhinus)
Reported by Stearns
- Black Bear (Euarctos)
Reported seen near margin of lava, 1934
+ LITTLE CUPRESSWOOD 1953
- Grizzly Bear (Ursus)
Reported last seen on lava in 1915
- Weasel (Mustela)
Single Specimen taken. Reported common
- Spotted Skunk (Spilogale)
Reported
- Large Striped Skunk (Mephitis)
Reported
- American Badger (Taxidea)
Reported - OBSERVED COMMON 1952, 3.
- Red Fox (Vulpes)
Reported as not common on lava
- Coyote (Canis)
Common
- Canada Lynx (Lynx)
Reported as rare in mountains near margin of lava
- Bobcat (Lynx)
Reported common
- Woodchuck (Marmota)
Reported common OBSERVED COMMON, 1952, 3

*This list is based on field-identifications and reports by residents, and in no way is intended to represent a complete list of species or a finished report, which report will be prepared for publication at some future time.

Golden-mantled Ground Squirrel (Callospermophilus)
Common

Ground Squirrel (Citellus)
Reported common

Western Chipmunk (Eutamias)
Common

Red Squirrel (Tamiasciurus)
Few

Western Pocket Gopher (Thomomys)
Common at margin of lava

Pocket Mouse (Perognathus)
Common

Kangaroo Rat (Dipodomys)
Few taken in Laidlow Park

Grasshopper Mouse (Peromyscus)
Found Rare in Laidlow Park

Deer Mouse (Peromyscus)
Common

Wood Rat (Neotoma)
Few taken on lava

Meadow Mouse (Microtus)
Common

Porcupine (Erethizon)
Common

Pika (Ochotona)
Common

White-tailed Jack Rabbit (Lepus)
Few

Rocky Mountain Snowshoe Rabbit (Lepus)
Rare on lava

Colorado Desert Jack Rabbit (Lepus)
Common

Cottontail (Sylvilagus)
Few

Idaho Pigmy Rabbit (Brachylagus)
Common

Wapiti (Cervus) Reported few in mountains near margin of lava

Black-tailed Deer (Odocoileus)
 Common

Pronghorn (Antilocapra)
 Reported often seen near margin of lava

Bighorn (Ovis) Reported last evidence seen on lava in 1908

Literature Cited

Stearns, Harold T. 1928. Guide To Craters of the Moon
National Monument, Idaho Bull. Idaho Bureau
Mines and Geology, Vol. 13, pp 1-59, pls 21.

THE LAVA BEARS

Visitors to the Craters of the Moon National Monument frequently ask about the "lava bears" that are supposed to inhabit the area. The following story, related by Eva Martin, an early settler of the region, may throw some light on the subject.

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For many years men hunted bears in the lavas that are now a part of the Craters of the Moon National Monument. Some of the hunters were fortunate and did kill some brown and black bears. One day, Solon Clark, one of the hunters, came home with a story of a successful hunt out on the lava beds. Naturally he had excited himself somewhat and was quite tired so he partook of a refreshing drink or two, to revive his spirits. The desired effect was soon at hand and as was usually the case, it was necessary that he recount the details of his successful hunt.

The tale began with a description of the lavas, which on this particular day, were more grotesque and more awe inspiring than on any previous visit. Mr. Clark discovered some peculiar tracks and decided to follow them. In stalking his quarry, the hunter was obliged to use every bit of hunting strategy at his command. Finally his efforts bore fruit. There in front of him stood the queerest looking bear he had ever seen. It had an enormous head. Its hind quarters were so large that they were greatly out of proportion with its fore parts. It was terribly bony and as fierce a creature as one would ever dare to dream about. Such a vicious looking animal would naturally be expected to battle wildly for his life. However, the hunter took careful aim and fired. Even he admitted it must have been a lucky shot because it killed the brute instantly. The hunter was preparing to return with his trophy when he realized that it would be impossible for him to get home that night, handicapped as he would be with the carcass. He decided he would leave it and return the next day and bring it in.

at this stage of the story the narrator, again somewhat exhausted, was obliged to depart for another supply of refreshment. His departure was accompanied by an exchange of knowing winks among the old timers, but there were evidently some amateur listeners in the group who were much impressed and carried the story, with variations, to the far corners of the globe.

Subsequent hunts have failed to find any such creature and so far as is known, the original was never seen again. Thus the "lava bear" came into existence and went out of existence with one little, waxy, black bear cub.

Aug 1936