

## DEFENSIVE BEHAVIOR IN FEMALE BIGHORN SHEEP

On 19 December 1965, Wilbur Wiles and I witnessed an attempt by a bobcat (*Lynx rufus*) to catch a bighorn sheep (*Ovis canadensis*) lamb and subsequent defensive behavior by three mature bighorn ewes. These observations were made with the aid of a 7 × 35 binocular in mid-afternoon in the Big Creek drainage in the Idaho Primitive Area, Valley Co., Idaho.

A group of seven sheep, composed of two rams, three ewes, and two lambs, were sighted about 400 yards away on a sparsely-vegetated talus slope. All the sheep were bedded, with the exception of one ewe and one lamb. A third lamb, which had been apart from the others and obscured from view, suddenly ran toward the group from above, closely pursued by a large bobcat. The whole group bolted down the hill, easily outdistancing the cat. After running approximately 50 yards, the sheep stopped and turned around. The bobcat had ceased his chase and had turned back up the slope. The three ewes, all abreast, advanced up the slope toward the cat, followed at some distance by the rams and lambs. As they approached the retreating bobcat, their pace quickened, and the ewes closely pursued the obviously frightened cat approximately 20 yards before he escaped into a crevice. The ewes then returned to the lambs and rams, and the group moved unhurriedly about 200 yards to the west where they began to feed.—MAURICE G. HORNOCKER, *Department of Zoology, University of British Columbia (present address: Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit, University of Idaho, Moscow)*. Accepted 1 September 1968.

A NEW BAT RECORD, *PLECOTUS PHYLLOTIS*, FROM NEVADA

Since the Mexican big-eared bat, *Plecotus phyllotis*, was first recorded from the United States (Cockrum, J. Mamm., 37: 546–547, 1956), the reported range for this species has increased considerably. *P. phyllotis* has been reported from New Mexico (Jones, J. Mamm., 42: 538–539, 1961), and for much of Arizona (Commissaris, J. Mamm., 42: 61–65, 1961; Findley and Jones, J. Mamm., 42: 97, 1961; Hayward and Johnson, J. Mamm., 42: 402, 1961; Cockrum and Musgrove, J. Mamm., 45: 472–474, 1964). With the exception of northern Arizona (Cockrum and Musgrove, *loc. cit.*) the Mexican big-eared bat has been collected either in or near pine forests. The bats reported in the literature were collected between 8:00 PM and 1:30 AM (Commissaris, *op. cit.*; Hayward and Johnson, *loc. cit.*; Cockrum and Cross, *op. cit.*).

On 1 May 1968, at 4:00 AM, a male *Plecotus phyllotis* was collected in a mist net over a pond at Calico Spring, Red Rock Canyon, Spring Mountains, Clark Co., Nevada, approximately 75 air line miles northwest of the nearest recorded locality. The pond is situated at the base of a rocky hill at the upper end of a sprawling meadow. There are no pines in the immediate basin, but a pine forest is approximately 1 mile away. Other species caught the same night were *Antrozous pallidus* (5), *Lasiurus cinereus* (3), *Myotis californicus* (1), *Eptesicus fuscus* (1), and *Pipistrellus hesperus* (2). In most recorded instances *Plecotus phyllotis* has been collected with *Lasiurus cinereus* and *Antrozous pallidus*.

The measurements (mm) of our specimen are: total length, 102; length of tail, 48; hind foot length, 7; ear, 38; tragus, 15; forearm, 46. The weight was 7.3 g six hours after capture. The bat is deposited at the Biology Museum, Department of Biological Sciences, Nevada Southern University, Las Vegas.

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