

Field Trip Report - Woodrat (*Neotoma floridana*)

From May to October, 1980, previously recorded woodrat cave sites were checked for evidence of recent use. No fresh scats were found. Observations were made at the following sites (numbers keyed to accompanying map):

1. Cathedral Path

May 26 - 1 scat pile in a cavern along path. Scats very large due to swelling from moisture absorption (per Joel Hermes, DEC-New Paltz).

2. Rock Pass

May 26 - Scat pile found in crevice off Laurel Ledge Road.

3. Zaidee's Bower

May 28 - Woodrat and porcupine scats found in first crevice (walking the loop counterclockwise), and in second crevice past ladder (woodrat only).

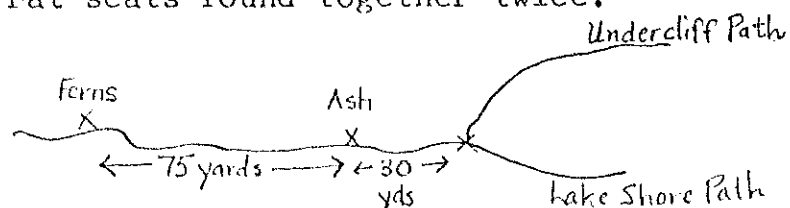
4. Arching Rocks Path

May 29 - Four individual scats in one spot only along path. No piles.

5. South end of Mohonk Lake

June 3 - Scat pile in cave (with mountain laurel covering entrance) on Undercliff Path near gazebo with "Swim at Beach Only" sign. Pile in next cave with overhang and mountain laurel at entrance, south of the above. 5± piles in this area--some caves found with 2 large piles.

June 12 - From Undercliff Path-Lake Shore Path junction, and south on Lake Shore Path from the large ash (30 yards from the junction) to the ferns (distance 75 yards), 10± piles in the talus. Porcupine and woodrat scats found together twice.



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6. Sky Top near base of Crevice

July 1 - 5⁺ piles and individual scats throughout. Only caves where fresh porcupine scats found. Approximately 150 square yards checked.

7. The Labyrinth

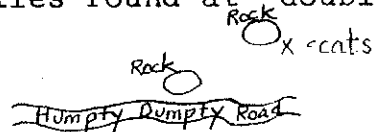
July 15 - Cave to left of ladder by clump of 4 white birches, had woodrat and porcupine scats. Individual scats, no piles, found on many ledges along this path.

8. Rock Rift Crevices

August 26 - Two large scat piles, and many places where 1-5 individual scats found. Evidence less widespread than at #5. Caves cool and moist, scats dark but dried out. A few individual porcupine scats found. Very old gnawed deer jaw bone here.

9. Humpty Dumpty Road, above

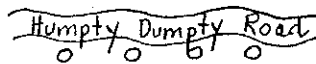
September 1 - 1 pile above curve in road before talus begins. In talus, 2 piles found at "double rock."



1 pile in cave 40 yards south past gazebo.

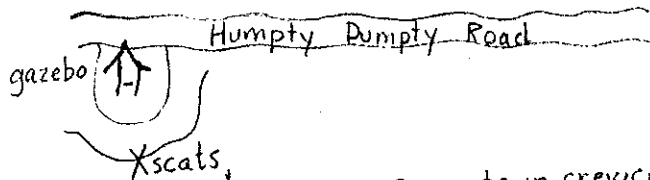
10. Humpty Dumpty Road, below

September 4 - 1 pile in cave below four pitch pines.



X scats

September 15 - Old scats found throughout.



X 1 or 2 scats in crevice. Tiny birch and blueberries at entrance.

XXX Scat pile 2 ft. in diameter, use seems to span many years.

□ Bluebird box

Vertical rock

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11. Sleepy Hollow Trail

September 29 - Three small piles and individual scats at Undercliff Road end of trail, in cave with rock overhang. North of this, 2 piles with porcupine scats in large cave. At Overcliff Road end, at base of cliff (approximately where cliffs become visible from the trail) huge cavern to right in back of fallen tree, woodrat piles and individual scats found with porcupine droppings.

12. Bonticou Crag

October 1 - Along Bonticou ascent trail and 20-25 yards on either side, 3± piles.

October 2 - In talus along west side of the Crag from 100 yards northeast of the ascent trail to 50 yards southwest of the trail, 15± piles. One cave complex with 10± raccoon scats.

13. Newlin's Cave, Cope's Lookout

October 14 - Old scats found.

14. Chestnut Spring, below Pinnacle Path

October 14 - Old scats found in cave behind cabin.

15. Falcon Aerie, Sky Top

October 20 - On ledge near nest site, 1 small pile. In crack behind ledge, individual woodrat and porcupine scats found.

Note: Old woodrat scats were also found in a cursory check of the talus below Dickie Barre, an area not previously searched for woodrat evidence.

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