

Note

NORTHERN POCKET GOPHER FROM CLARK COUNTY, SOUTH DAKOTA — The distribution of the northern pocket gopher, *Thomomys talpoides* (Richardson), in South Dakota is poorly known (Choate, J. R., and J. K. Jones, Jr. 1981. Provisional checklist of mammals of South Dakota. *Prairie Nat.* 13:65-77). The eastern edge of the range, based on Bailey (1915. Revision of the pocket gophers of the genus *Thomomys*. *N. Amer. Fauna* 39:1-136) and shown by Hall (1981. *The mammals of North America*. John Wiley & Sons, New York, 2nd ed.), extends from Fort Sisseton in Marshall County (T 125N, R 56W, sec. 10) in an arc southwestward that curves to the east in the southern part of the state to Armour (Douglas County) and Fort Randall (Gregory County).

On 8 July 1981, two northern pocket gophers were trapped in eastern Clark County, outside of the previously described range. One was captured at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Graves Waterfowl Production Area (WPA) (T 118N, R 58W, sec. 29) 8 miles north of Clark. The second was trapped at the USFWS Storbeck WPA (T 117N, R 56W, sec. 10) 2 miles east of Garden City. Both were females and were trapped on the ground surface within wetland basins using Museum Special snap traps baited with mixture of peanut butter and rolled oats. The wetland basin on the Graves WPA had essentially no standing water, and the predominant vegetation at the trap site was whitetop (*Scolochloa festucacea*) with lesser amounts of cattail (*Typha* sp.) and hardstem bulrush (*Scirpus acutus*). At Storbeck WPA, the gopher was trapped on a man-made island within the basin. The island was approximately 30.5 m square and surrounded by ponds and channels with water a minimum of 0.5 m deep; the basin, other than the excavation, was dry. The excavation was dry later in the year and presumably had been dry at some time in previous years. The vegetation at the trap site consisted of Canada thistle (*Cirsium arvense*), sow thistle (*Sonchus arvensis*), reed canary grass (*Phalaris arundinacea*), and dead sweetclover (*Melilotus* spp.).

Storbeck WPA, the more eastern site, is 79 km south of the closest previous locality of record for the species (Fort Sisseton, Marshall County) and 157 km east of Highmore, Hyde County (formerly the easternmost locality of record at that latitude). Choate and Jones (1981) stated that the plains pocket gopher (*Geomys bursarius*) is found in "parts of the state not occupied by *T. talpoides*" and that it (*G. bursarius*) occurs "west at least to Marshall, Clark, and Kingsbury counties". Based on specimens reported herein, the ranges of the two species seemingly abut in Clark County.

I thank B. G. Pendleton for field assistance and D. E. Hubbard for reviewing the manuscript. Funding was provided by Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration project number W-75R through the South Dakota Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, South Dakota Dept. Game, Fish and Parks, Wildlife Management Institute, and South Dakota State University cooperating). — *Grey W. Pendleton, South Dakota Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit, P.O. Box 2207, South Dakota State University, Brookings, South Dakota 57007.*