

Piñon mouse (*Peromyscus truei*)

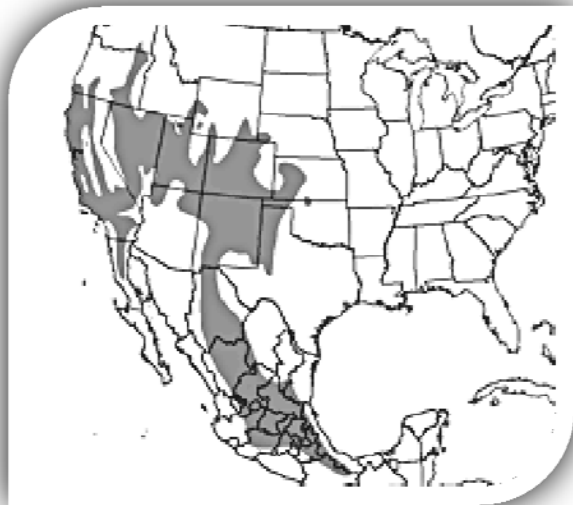


Taxonomy: Family Cricetidae. Also called big-eared mouse. Eleven subspecies are recognized, including *Peromyscus truei nevadensis* from the Park region.

Description:

Color grayish-brown above, white below. Tail is sharply bi-colored tail and nearly as long as the head-body length. Ears are very large, usually equal to or slightly longer than the hind feet.

Total length: 171-231 mm; Tail: 76-123 mm; Hind foot: 21-27 mm; Ear: 18-26 mm; Weight: 19-31 g.



Distribution:

Northwest Texas to the Pacific coast, and from central Oregon to southern México.

Few records local records from the Wasatch Front.

Ecology and diet:

Piñon mice are most closely associated with rocky areas in piñon-juniper habitat. However, they are also found in bristlecone and limber pine near timberline. They are excellent climbers and often nest in the hollows of juniper trees. Diet consists of piñon and other pine nuts, juniper berries, other plant material, and insects.

Life History:

Reproduction occurs between April and September. Females may have several litters of 3-6 offspring per year. Gestation length is about 25-27 days. Young may be sexually mature within 3 months. Average lifespan is about 1 year.

References: Hoffmeister 1981; Yancey and Jones 1999.