



STATISTICAL RESEARCH, Inc.

ARCHAEOLOGY • ANTHROPOLOGY • HISTORY • HISTORIC ARCHITECTURE

Jonathan L. Dunnum Ph.D.
Senior Collection Manager
Division of Mammals, Museum of Southwestern Biology
University of New Mexico
Albuquerque, NM 87131

Dear Dr. Dunnum,

This to note is to acknowledge my use of the museum's collections for a recent project. The project involved the identification of animal bones from a series of archaeological sites located in the right-of-way of the improvement of a stretch of highway U.S. 491 in New Mexico. Due to the fact that all the sites were from various prehistoric periods, the taxonomic range was diverse and the Museum of Southwestern Biology's collections were therefore immensely helpful in either specifically identifying the taxon or at least narrowing down the taxonomic groups to which some specimens could belong. The museum provides a key resource for the state, in aiding archaeologists with the identification of animal bones: most private contract archaeology firms do not have the space to house, facilities to process skeletons, and further, cannot commit the employee time to the laborious task of developing and maintaining such collections.

Although I did not keep track of which precise specimens I used, I have assembled a list of species that I am fairly certain I checked (see next page). The list, however, may not be entirely comprehensive, but I have tried to be as accurate as possible, given that I did write down precisely which specimens I consulted. Note that the below list is biased in favor of mammals not because I did not find the avian collections useful, but rather because by far the majority of the ca. 8,000 excavated pieces of bone, and thus the majority of specimens requiring further consultation, were mammalian. In addition, most of the bird bones from these sites were clearly of turkeys.

Thank you very much for your and your staff's help and hospitality. I look forward to working with the collections when next I am assigned to such a project in New Mexico. I indeed wish such a facility were available near to my home office in Redlands, California.

Sincerely,

Justin E. Lev-Tov, Ph.D.

Senior Faunal Analyst and Project Director

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List of Specimens Consulted:

Mammalia:

Neotoma devia
Marmota flavivensis
Cynomys leucurus
Sciurus niger
Spermophilus sp. (various species consulted)
Tamias rufus
Gemoys bottae
Cynomys ludovicianus
Castor canadensis
Ondatra zibethicus

Erethizon dorsatum

Ochotona princeps

Ursus arctos
Ursus Americana
Canis latrans
Urocyon cinereoargentus
Vulpes vulpes
Lynx rufus
Felis concolor
Mustela frenata
Mephtis mephitis
Taxidea taxus

Cervus elaphus

Aves:

Haliaeetus leucocephalus
Aquila chrystatos
Buteo jamaicensis
Buteo regalis
Parabuteo unicinctus
Accipiter cooperii

Tympanuchus cupido
Bonsasa umbellus
Callipepla gambelii

Corvus corax
Cyanocitta stelleri
Pica nuttalli

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