

Arizona  
1912

Itinerary  
E. W. Nelson

Nov - Dec.



Nov. 1912

Tues. Nov. 12 Sheldon reached Phoenix in am. and in the pm. we saw Gov. Hunt concerning introduction of elk in Ariz.

Wed. Nov. 13.

We remained in Phoenix arranging for trips after large game, getting outfit etc. Saw Mr. F.A. Shackley of Saccaton Indian Agency about trip to country south of Coconino Graham to Table Mountain both deer ranges for white-tail which deer reported to occur there.

Thurs. Nov. 14.

Saw Charles Sabin of Mesa and arranged to hire him with his auto to make trip south of Saccaton if we go there. At 6:30 pm. left for Grand Canyon.

Fri. Nov. 15

Arrived at Grand Canyon and arranged with W.W. Bass to take us out to Supai Ind. Res. tomorrow to stay at his camp on the river. He the Canyon west of Grand Canyon.



Station.

Sat. Nov. 16

Bass took us in his wagon 25 m. west to his camp. From Grand Canyon the yellow pines of Transition zone with some mixture of Juniper pinyons continue about 5 miles & thence to Bass Camp is pure Upper Sonoran & covered with a nearly uniform growth of pinyons, junipers, Mt. Mahogany, Artemisia tridentata & prickly leaf shrub.

Bass camp is on rim at top of a trail leading across Grand Canyon & up to pass between Powell Plateau & Kaibab Plateau. Bass has a trolley ferry on which he can pass over horses & people in a cage hung high above river.

Bass daughter Edith accompanied us from Grand Canyon.

Saw Shufeldts juncos, Parus, Colaptes c. collinis, Woodhouse's, Pinyon, Crested Jays, today. Also signs of Coyotes, deer, Cottontails & Thomomys.

Sunday Nov. 17

Left Bass camp after noon & reached storhouse of the agency at head of Cataract Canyon trail, <sup>15 miles,</sup> late in P.M. Had to break into the storhouse to get a camping place. The agency farmer Long and Dr. Frick of the public health service came up from agency & camped with us.

Saw Parus, woodhouses, jays, Pinyon jays, Flickers, ~~Red~~ Plain-titmouse, Shufeldts juncos, Nelson's nuthatch ~~today~~ & Redtail hawk today.

Monday Nov 18

Left the wagon at the last night's camp & proceeded by horseback down the trail into Cataract Canyon to the Hava-Supai Indian school in bottom of Canyon about 12 miles below the storhouse where we camped. This storhouse is used in getting supplies by wagon from Grand Canyon 38 miles away to the east. The trail led at first down a series of sharp zig-zags



at head of the side canyon & then down bottom of canyon a narrow, lower road to the main Cataract canyon which we entered about 50<sup>0</sup> miles above the Indian school at Supai where we were welcomed by A. H. Symons Supt. of the school who lives here with wife & 3 children.

On the way down the canyon we saw a flock of Partridge, Juncos, like ones, sparrows, Mockhouse jays, several Canyon Wrens & one Rock Wren.

Bird life was scarce.

About 1 1/2 miles above the present school the Supai creek rises suddenly in the gravelly bottom & flows a fine clear stream down the canyon bottom. The Indian school houses were formerly located close to head of the creek but in Jan 1910 a flood washed them away & ruined orchards & gardens & caused the removal to the present site.

There were 169 Supai Indians at the last census June 30, 1912  
June 30 1910 177 & 1911

June 30 1911 was 172.

90 ~~men~~ & 79 ~~women~~ & 9's June 30, 1912

The birth rate is decreasing & infant mortality is very great and the tribe is steadily decreasing.

1909-10 = 15<sup>15</sup> births

1910-11 = 10

1911-12 = 10  
Death rate about 10% of population.

Birth rate

The women do most of hard labor & have died off more than men from exposure.

The tribe lives in canyon & cultivate patches of land in summer & grow peaches & figs. In <sup>fall</sup> winter they move up on the plateau & live in small huts, they gather piñon nuts & hunt deer, rabbits, etc.

They according to Indian school employees they must have killed over 50 deer during the last 12 months besides quite a number of Mt. Sheep & Antelope. The deer & sheep are <sup>not</sup> killed on the Grand Canyon Game Preserve



The Antelope are from the  
open country between  
Cataract Canyon & Seligman

In Nov 1911 Mr. Squires,  
Capt. Indian School at  
Cataract Canyon saw a  
bunch of about 30 antelope  
20 m. N. of Seligman.

Earlier in same season he  
saw 4 new beds of trail out of Canyon  
to Seligman. The Indians report  
a number of small bunches of antelope  
of from 3 to 20 in the mesa country  
15-25 m. north of A. S. & R. R. between  
Ash Forks & Seligman.

A few Mt. Sheep occur about  
Cataract Canyon & along south  
side of Grand Canyon from  
Bad Trail to west of Cataract  
Canyon but they are becoming  
very scarce. Occasional stray indi-  
viduals occur along the middle  
of Cataract Canyon, one being shot  
Squires in 1912 near Indian School  
on cliffs & tracks of the same

lower down.

After arriving at the Indian School  
Sheldon I arranged for a couple  
of Indians on pack horse to take  
Sheldon back to the north on top of  
the red sandstone formation which walls  
in Cataract Canyon & from a mesa  
several miles broad to the foot of the  
Pitkin Detachment forms the high  
upper formation of the plateau on  
which the cedars & Pinions grow.

Nov. 19

Sheldon left the Canyon after  
break about 9 a.m.  
I spent the day collecting a  
few birds. Birds & mammals are  
scarce in the canyon.  
A few coveys of Gambel's quail  
live in the broad part of the canyon  
where the cultivated land is situated.  
In the Rocky Mts. White Crowned  
Sparrow is by far the most common  
bird in the canyon.

Nov. 20.

A few clouds and a drop in  
temperature with cold wind made  
the weather threatening today.



As a result quite a number of birds came down from the high mesa for shelter in the fields about the school. Among these were a flock of mourning black birds, about 30 meadow larks, numerous ruby crowned kinglets, several red shafted flickers and 1 sharp-shinned hawk. An occasional woodhouse wren & flicker occur in the bottom in all weather.

Nov. 21

Weather cleared during the night & the meadow larks & blackbirds were gone this morning.

A few raccoons are said to occur in lower end of canyon but no one seems to know anything of the Civet Cat here. Urocyon are rather common in winter & occasional in summer. No coyotes nor Thomomys are found in canyon but both are common on top.

Mr. Symons reports a few otters & numerous bob-cats in this region, both occasionally coming into canyon. The Supai Indians are extremely fond of the flesh of both these cats.

Symons reports that a large gray wolf was seen between the head of trail & Grand Canyon in Sept 1912 by one of Agnew's employees who has known wolves elsewhere.

Some Tritamias live on the talus along canyon sides and a few Citellus grammurus. A few mouse traps set today.

Nov. 22

Two specimens of Peromyscus taken last night.

Yesterday I bought a mt. sheep head from an Indian. It was killed near the Cataract Canyon Summer 1912.



Peaches, Apples & figs are  
grown in Canyon by Indians with  
corn, pumpkins & alfalfa.  
This <sup>is</sup> ~~an~~ <sup>about</sup> ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> ~~best~~ <sup>best</sup> ~~of~~ <sup>of</sup> ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> ~~available~~ <sup>available</sup> ~~agric.~~ <sup>agric.</sup> ~~land~~ <sup>land</sup> ~~in~~ <sup>in</sup> ~~Canyon~~ <sup>Canyon</sup> & ~~is~~ <sup>is</sup> ~~now~~ <sup>now</sup> ~~cultivated~~ <sup>cultivated</sup>.

Lower Sonoran Plants at Supai  
Indian School.

no	<u>Prosopis</u>	mesquite
#3	<u>Mimosa?</u>	Cat-claw
#1	S	Shrub
#2		Shrub
#4?		Grasswood

Peaches

Nov. 23

A fine old ♂ Urocyon was  
caught by the Lorin Symons in  
one of my traps last night a short  
distance from the Indian school.  
Snow way down the canyon from  
the plateau ~~is~~ the mesquite was  
the first lower Sonoran species to  
come in about 5 miles above  
the head of the creek. A mile or  
more lower down the Cat-claw  
(mimosa?) came in and along  
this part of the canyon up to a  
little above the upper mesquites  
were small patches of semibark  
bushes. Cottonwoods come in a mile or  
the less so above head of creek & are  
plentiful along the creek after it rises.  
Sheldon sent in 5 specimens.

Nov. 24 Remained at Supai  
waiting for Sheldon to come in.

Nov. 25

Sheldon came in from lower  
Canyon of the Colorado where  
he saw a number of sheep on  
both sides of the river.



He found that the sheep are now living mainly on the benches & talus slopes between the river Colorado & the top of the first plateau of the red sandstone. This is in the narrow canyon immediately bordering the river & rising from ~~to~~ 1200-2000 feet.

Nov. 26

Sheldon came in last eve and today we left Supai & tramped 12 m. by horseback to top of trail at warehouse on way to Grand Canyon.

Nov. 27

Traveled 38 miles by wagon today to Grand Canyon. The Supt. of Ind. School at Supai came bringing us in.

Nov 28

Remained at Grand Canyon partly so I could recuperate from trip out from Canyon.

Sheldon rec'd letters here which call him back to N. Y. at once & break up our further trips

Nov. 7 In eve of 28<sup>th</sup> we left Grand Canyon.

Nov. 29

I returned to Phoenix this morning.

Nov. 30 Remained in Phoenix suffering from cold taken at Supai.

Dec. 1912

Dec. 1-3 Remained in Phoenix in bad condition and not able to continue field work.

Dec 4-5 & 6

Took leave of absence

Dec. 7 Arrived at Calixico Calif. in the morning and remained there.

Dec. 8

Remained at Calixico.

Dec. 9

Left Calixico by the Inter-California R.R. and reached Yuma Ariz.



Dec. 10

Left Yuma and returned  
to Phoenix.

Dec. 11

Packed outfit and prepared  
outfit ready to start back  
for Washington via Santa Fe  
RR on the evening train  
Left Phoenix at 6:50 P.M. via Santa Fe.

Dec. 12

Arrived at Muslow, Ariz. at  
8:30 a.m. and remained here  
all day getting information  
concerning possibilities for  
introducing elk on the  
Sitgreav National Forest.

Dec. 13,

Continued journey to Washington

Dec. 14 En route to W.

Dec. 15 " " " "

Dec. 16 Arrived in  
Washington at 4:40 P.M.



