

Arizona
1912

Itinerary

E. W. Nelson

Not done.

Nov 1912

Nov. 12. Sheldon reached
Phoenix in am and in the
pm he was out hunting
for fossils in the
vicinity of the
mine.

Nov. 13.

Sheldon and I went
to the mine in the
morning. We found
many fossils in the
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Nov. 15
Arrived at Grand Canyon
arranged with Mr. Baker to take
us out to Supai Ind. Terr. tomorrow
to set up camp on the river
at the Indian mts of Grand Canyon

at head of the side canyon & then down bottom of canyon among low rocks to the main Cataract canyon which we entered about 50⁰ miles to the Indian school at Supai where we were welcomed by A. H. Symons sub. of the school who lives here with wife & 3 children.

On the way down the canyon we saw a flock of Portulapans, juncos, larks, and vireos, Mockhouse jays, several Canyon wrens - one Rock Wren.

Bird life was scarce.

About 1 1/2 miles above the present school the Supai creek runs suddenly in the gravelly bottom & flows a fine clear stream down the canyon bottom. The Indian school shows signs formerly located elsewhere 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 - 744

June 30 1911 was 172.

90 ~~men~~ = 79 ~~women~~ June 30, 1912

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

1909-10 = 15 births

1910-11 = 10

Death rate about 10% of population.

Birth rate

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

The tribe lives in a canyon & cultivate potatoes & corn in summer & grow peaches & pears. In winter they come up on the plateau & live in small huts. They gather piñon nuts & hunt deer, rabbits, etc.

They according to Indian School employees, must have killed over 50 deer during the last 12 months but the game is scarce & number of Mt. Sheep ^{note} are all killed on the Grand Canyon Game Preserve

The Antelope are from the
spec. excavated from the
Catacomb Canyon. See journal

In Nov 1911 Mr. [unclear],
Capt. Indian School at
Catacomb Canyon saw a
bunch about 20 or 25
[unclear] Mr. [unclear]
[unclear] in some [unclear] he
saw 4 [unclear] [unclear]

to [unclear]. The Indians report
a herd of small bunches of antelope
from 20 to 30 in the [unclear]
15-25 in [unclear] 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100.

A few mt. sheep occur about
Catacomb Canyon & along south
side of [unclear] Canyon
Bad Trail to [unclear] Catacomb
Canyon but they are becoming
very scarce. Occasional [unclear] indi-
viduals occur along the middle
of Catacomb Canyon, one being shot
[unclear] near Indian School
on cliffs & tracks of [unclear]

down down.
[unclear] at the Indian School
Shilka [unclear] for a couple
of [unclear] to pack horse to take
Chilbon back to the north on top
of [unclear] formation which walls
in Catacomb Canyon & [unclear] [unclear]
[unclear] road to the [unclear] the
[unclear] [unclear] forms the high
approach to the plateau on
[unclear] [unclear] grow.

Nov. 19
[unclear] left the Canyon after
[unclear] about 2 a.m.
[unclear] the day collecting a
few [unclear] [unclear] [unclear]
[unclear] in the canyon.
A [unclear] of [unclear] [unclear]
[unclear] in the road for 20 [unclear]
when the [unclear] [unclear] [unclear]
[unclear] [unclear] [unclear] [unclear]
[unclear] is by far the most common
[unclear] 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
house, there were a great
number of black birds, about
30 meadow larks, numerous
ruby-crowned kinglets, several
red-shafted flickers, and 1 downy woodpecker.
An occasional wood thrush
jay & flicker occur in
the bottom in all weather.

Nov. 71

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
skunks & numerous bob-cats
in this region, both occasionally
coming into canyon. The Supai
Indians are extremely fond of them
both & both are eaten.

Symons reports that a large gray wolf
has been between the head of trail &
Grand Canyon in Sept 1912 by
~~one of the~~ one of Agency employees
who has Indian & dog's blood.

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

Nov. 77

Two specimens of Peromyscus
taken last night.

Yesterday I bought a Mt. Sheep head
from a Indian. It was killed
near the Cataract Canyon Summer 1912.

Pleasantly surprised - very nice
 ground in canyon. In canyon with
 some pumpkins & alfalfa
 this is ^{about} 1000 ft. above the level of
 Canyon & 1000 ft. above the level of

some of the plants of the
 Indian School

no	Proserpin	mesquite
3	...	Catclaw
1
2
4

...

Nov 23

A fine old ♂ Wrocyon was
 caught on the lower canyon in
 one of my traps last night a short
 distance from the Indian school.
 Now way down the canyon from
 the plateau ~~the~~ 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 Catclaw
 came in and along
 this part of the canyon up to a
 little above the upper mesquite
 were small patches of scruboak
 bushes. Cottonwood came in a mile or
 so above head of creek & was
 plentiful along the creek after it rises.
 5 specimens

Nov 24 Remained at Indian
 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.

We found that the sheep are
now living mainly on the
slopes, & talus slopes between
the ~~low~~ Colorado & the top of the
first plateau of the ~~low~~ ~~low~~
This is on the narrow canyon
immediately bordering the river
ranging from ~~to~~ 1200 - 2000 feet

Nov. 26

Sheldon came in last eve
and today we left Supai &
traveled 12 mi. 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. & Dad. Schost 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 letter from which
call him back to N.Y. at once &
break up our further trips

Nov. 29 In eve of 28th
we left Grand Canyon.

Nov. 29

I returned to Phoenix this
morning.

Nov. 30 Remained in Phoenix
afflicted 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-Calif-
ornia 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
FER on the winter train
left Phoenix at 6:50 pm. in section

DEC 12

Arrived at Washon, Ariz. at
8:30 am and remained here
all day getting my outfit
arranging for a meeting at
introducing it on the
Sagehen Hall forum

DEC. 13

Continued journey to Washington

DEC. 14 In Salt Lake

DEC. 15 " " "

DEC. 16 Arrived in

Washington at 11:45 pm

