

Studies on Shrew Behavior  
Edwin Gould  
Laboratory of Comparative Behavior  
Johns Hopkins University  
Project Number 172

The primary purpose of this three week visit was to capture water and vagrant shrews (Sorex palustris and S. vagrans) and to ship them back to Baltimore by air. The shrews are now being used for two studies: one on aggressive behavior and communication with particular concern for whether acoustic or visual stimuli are involved; and another on echolocation discrimination of different textures, sizes and distances of objects.

A second accomplishment of this trip was training a graduate student, Alan Beck, in various techniques of small mammal live trapping--a basic requirement for his education in field mammalogy--and in general aspects of vertebrate natural history. As a teacher of animal behavior I cannot overstate the opportunity of observing a family of otters, herds of elk, coyotes, ground squirrels, red squirrels and chipmunks. Indeed, I saw many of these same animals in the summer of 1960 but since that time I have been teaching, reading and conducting research in ethology. You might say that I had a high powered course in field ethology in 1969!

A third part of the visit concerned some evaluation of terrain and practical procedures for a visit in a future summer for an enclosure to study vocalizations, predatory behavior and obstacle avoidance by water shrews in a semi-natural situation.

Supported by NIH.