

Friday Morning
November 15, 1940

F. R. Oberhansley, Chairman.

MR. OBERHANSLEY: We are ready to begin our Friday morning session with the paper by Cliff Presnall.

Wildlife Research Projects in National Park Service Areas

Clifford C. Presnall,
Assistant in Charge,
Section on National Park Wildlife.

ABSTRACT

It is estimated that since 1933 two-thirds of the wildlife research and management work in the National Park System has been conducted through CCC funds and personnel. Although wildlife research and personnel have been transferred to the Fish and Wildlife Service the dependence upon CCC continues exactly as in the past. Wildlife research is now a cooperative affair between the National Park Service and the Fish and Wildlife Service. Two instances are cited to show the fine spirit of cooperation manifested by both Services in carrying out wildlife work. Our major effort in the future will be to collaborate as closely as possible with personnel of the National Park Service to the end that wise management practices may be instituted and followed. It is impossible for Fish and Wildlife Service personnel to gather all the data on which National Park Service wildlife management is founded. The park personnel are in the best position to secure information and formulate management advice. As in the past, park personnel will continue to put into effect management practice, the Fish and Wildlife Service function is advisory. The memorandum of October 16, 1940, outlines the organization of research projects within the Fish and Wildlife Service. Through such cooperation it is hoped that a more extensive research program can be planned and accomplished.

A survey of wildlife work in the National Park System during the past few years reveals that a very large part of it has been possible only through funds and personnel supplied by the Civilian Conservation Corps. It is conservative to estimate that such aid has been responsible for two-thirds of the wildlife research and management conducted within the Service, since the Corps was set up in 1933. Even now only 4 of the staff of 9 research men are paid from regular appropriations, and approximately the same proportion holds true in many management operations.

Although wildlife research and the research personnel have now been transferred to the Fish and Wildlife Service, the dependence upon CCC continues exactly as in the past. The transfer, effected by a Departmental order, made certain alterations in administrative procedure, but any fiscal change must await legislative action. Wildlife research work during the fiscal year 1941 continues to be paid for from funds appropriated by act of Congress to the National Park Service and to the Civilian Conservation Corps for use in the Service. National Park Service budget estimates for the fiscal year 1942 do not include funds for wildlife work, but those made by the Fish and Wildlife Service include requests for sufficient regular funds to take care of the entire research program as it now exists, including CCC personnel and expenses. It remains to be seen what action will be taken on this estimate.

Until the first of next July, however, wildlife research will continue to be operated essentially as in past years, except for a few administrative changes, designed to facilitate more efficiency and coordination for both the National Park Service and the Fish and Wildlife Service. Wildlife Research is now a cooperative affair between the two bureaus in much the same way as forest insect research is done through cooperative agreement between the Park Service and the Bureau of Entomology. Perhaps the practical workings of this arrangement can be best explained by outlining an actual case that involved both research and management.

During the past summer the Superintendent of Mammoth Cave National Park wrote to his Regional Director about the possibility of stocking the park with turkeys, and other species native to the area but long since extirpated by hunting. The Regional Director thereupon requested a study of the question by Mr. O. B. Taylor, the Fish and Wildlife scientist assigned to park areas of Region I, and paid from CCC funds allotted to the Park Service. Mr. Taylor spent some time in the area, working with Superintendent Hoskins and his rangers on such questions as food, cover, predators, and possibilities of State cooperation in strictly enforcing a closed turkey season adjacent to the park. A report was then submitted by Mr. Taylor directly to the Section on National Park Wildlife in Washington, with copies to the park and the region. Noting the favorable nature of the report, Mr. Hoskins recommended that the Director authorize introduction of wild turkeys. The Regional Director gave his concurrence upon Mr. Taylor's advice and the Director of the National Park Service authorized the project after consulting with our

office in Washington. Thus the interbureau cooperation on wildlife research in this particular case was concluded in a mutually satisfactory manner. In accordance with mutual agreements, the Section on National Park Wildlife continues to assist in the management phases of such projects. We went into a huddle with some other officials in the Fish and Wildlife Service and found that an unusually good strain of wild turkeys could be obtained from a national wildlife refuge if the park would meet transportation costs. This Superintendent Hoskins could not do from his limited regular allotment, but with the assistance of CCC labor and equipment the restocking is now assured.

Another example will illustrate a slightly different application, as regards fisheries. At Crater Lake, Park Naturalist Doerr had been directing research that included a survey of fish food and environmental factors, coupled with an analysis of fish planting and creel census figures obtained through CCC assistance. This fall the work had progressed far enough to indicate that another year or two might reveal a sound basis for scientific fish stocking. Since such continuation would involve some extra expense, both regular and CCC, for special equipment, and labor, Superintendent Leavitt requested a review of the study, and stated his belief in its eventual value. This review was made by our office in collaboration with the Division of Fishery Biology. It was agreed that the study should be continued by Park Service personnel with such assistance and advice as could be given by the Fishery Biologist at Clackamas, Oregon. His time was already pretty well occupied by previously authorized projects, so that assignment of the Crater Lake job to him exclusively would have greatly delayed the work at the Lake. By continuing for the present the work under supervision of the National Park Service Naturalist, we hope to have soon some accurate data upon which there is every assurance that the Fish and Wildlife Service will cooperate in supplying stock for a truly scientific planting program.

These two instances have been cited to show how well the wildlife agreement is working. In these and all other jobs there is a true spirit of cooperation manifested by both Services, without which the most carefully drafted formal agreement would be relatively ineffective. As most of you know, the working agreement with the fisheries people in the Fish and Wildlife Service has been kept very flexible during this first year, to permit adaptation to such changes as may develop during the consolidation of the old Bureau of Fisheries and Bureau of Biological Survey. During the coming winter a more definitive agreement can probably be worked out. Comments from the field have already been requested, and any suggestions should be forwarded through your Superintendent to Washington at an early date.

As to the future: Our major effort will be to collaborate as closely as possible with personnel of the National Park Service to the end that wise management practices may be instituted and followed. Under present circumstances, as well as those that can be foreseen for a long time to

come, it will be impossible for our technical staff to gather all of the data on which National Park Service wildlife management should be founded. Indeed, such exclusive reliance would be unnecessary and wasteful, for qualified park personnel are in a most advantageous position to secure information and to formulate management advice. Secondly, park personnel will continue as in the past to put into effect management practice; our function continues to be purely advisory. Therefore, naturalist and ranger experience and cooperation is as essential as ever, in order that the wildlife program may succeed. In planning such cooperation it will be helpful to understand the organization of research projects within the Fish and Wildlife Service, as outlined in the memorandum of October 16, 1940. Through such cooperation it is hoped that a more extensive research program can be planned and accomplished in future years than is shown on the mimeographed list of future wildlife projects in the National Park System. Suggestions for broadening this program will be welcome at any time.

MR. PRESNALL: For the record I ask permission to include a paper prepared by Joseph Dixon on keeping proper data on photographs. It is a relatively short paper and has information in it which would be of value to anyone taking photographs in relation to wildlife work.

Keep Data For Your Photographs

Joseph S. Dixon,
Field Biologist.

I wish to call attention of the Park Naturalists to the necessity of keeping certain essential data for each photograph taken. Unless this is done, much of the value of the photograph is lost, especially when the photograph is sent to anyone other than the person who took the photograph.

It is not necessary to record the camera, the lens, the exposure and time of day, but it is essential to record the following:

1. The photographer.
2. Locality.
3. Date.
4. The subject or purpose of the photograph.

Many photographs come into the Regional Office which might be of much greater use if the reason for taking the photograph had been concisely stated. In some instances we are at a loss to understand why certain photographs have been taken because of the lack of explanatory data.

A distinctive number should be written on the extreme outer edge of each negative to identify it. This is especially important when a series