

Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument
Ajo, Arizona

Peccary, *Jarvisia*

- 12-39 Three seen. Two young taken. Rancho Bonito.
Lawrence M. Huey - San Diego Society of Nat. History
William R. Supernaw - Sept. Organ Pipe Cactus Mon.
- 12-2-44 Indians establish young born in August in
broods of 1 to 5. (W.R.S.)
- 8-3-45 Mine tunnel below Pinkley Peak. Measured stride
running 9'10" (Ace Kempton - Fish & Wildlife.)
- 10-11-45 Red tank canyon. 10-12 pigs at head of canyon.
(Kempton - Supernaw)
- 10-11-45 Mine tunnel below Pinkley Peak not used.
Sign of sow & pig at Pot hole 1 mile from tunnel.
(W.R. Supernaw)
- 1-15-46 Two miles south of cattle guard on Sonoyta highway.
Pig killed on road. Filled with cholla. Several
other pigs in herd. (W.R. Supernaw)
- 1-27-46 Young boar killed by car on Sonoyta highway.
2 mi. South of cattle guard. Stomach contents -
mostly cholla. Tusks broken, weight - 40 lbs. (W.R.S.)
- 2-20-46 Quitobquito road 2 miles South Growler wash
5 or 6 in group (W.R.S. - R.B. Fingenback, ranger)
- 3-26-46 Head of Red Tank Canyon. Seven or more in
herd. One boar, pigs less than half grown. (W.R.S.)

3-1-49

On a field trip with Mr. Aldous, to the foot of the Ajo Mts. along the Int. boundary an exceptionally lot of sign was noted for at least two miles north from the border.

Mr. Wood a live rider had captured a young adult sow by running it down and tying it up.

Notes taken as follows:

NO ticks or other parasites were found.

The main food at this time seems to be prickly pear.

Main hair averaged 6" in length with some 6½"

Bed grounds found along wash bank used for years.

10-15-49

Young male killed on Ajo-Sonoyta highway 15.2 miles north of headquarters, probably on evening of October 14. Carcass brought to headquarters and disposed of. Measurements - total length about 33 inches, hind foot 7½ inches, weight 35 lbs. NO ticks or parasites found.

Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument
Ajo, Arizona

- 2-1-53 Herd of 20 seen on Nature Trail - 4:00 P.M. Visitor
- 3-18-53 Three large ones seen just east of knife
in bull Pasture (A.G. Henson, Ranger)
- 3-24-53 Five seen in Arch Canyon by Visitors.
- 4-20-53 One killed on road by car.
- 11-14-53 About 12 seen. Split and we followed
6 of them. Four full grown and two about half
grown. About 2 miles N.E. of Twin Peaks between
loop road and highway. (W.R.S. - A.G.H.)
- 11-23-53 Four seen. Crossed Quitovaquito road about
1 mile west of main road. One small, three
large. Seen about 4:00 P.M. by camper
- 12-3-53 8 seen just this side of new campground
in the A.M. About 20 seen there in the P.M.
Apparently different bunch. Seen by visiting
wild-life photographer - Handley
- 4-19-54 8 seen near new campground. (Roy Tompkins
and Frank Brown Maintenance men)

Pecari angulatus sonoriensis

Pecary or Jarahina. Not uncommon over the more level portions of the Monument, but extremely shy. Fresh tracks were seen at Gray's Ranch, Rancho Bonito, Alamo Canyon wash, Bates Well and West of Fowler Mine. On Dec 1, at Rancho Bonito, Charles Harrison, my assistant during the fall visit, was returning to camp about mid-day, when he came upon an old sow and two tiny pigs. His approach had apparently startled the mother and she was seen rapidly running away, in spite of her voracious young which could not keep up with her. The two baby Jarahinas were gathered into a butterfly net and brought to camp where they tended with gentle care. But one died on Dec. 2, and the other on the 11th. These two little pigs were extremely interesting, and the one that lived longest became so attached to Harrison that it would follow him all about the camp.

Lawrence M. Huey
San Diego Society of Nat. History

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
WASHINGTON

March 17, 1942.

Received
MAR 23 1942
Southwestern Nat'l Mon.

MEMORANDUM for the Custodian,
Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument.

The next time we come loping out there with our bandaged tires, we will come with our hands raised since you seem to have the drop on us in regard to the peccary count.

Seriously though, no reflection on your census methods was intended. Your detailed comments in memorandum of December 27, 1941, for the Superintendent, Southwestern National Monuments (which, incidentally, reached us March 12), show that you had a good reason for placing the peccary estimate at 1200. Since peccaries are protected on only a few Federal areas, conservationists are particularly interested in getting as accurate a count as possible of animals under Federal protection. In view of this and the great contrast with the 1939 "guess", you can see why a detailed statement showing how you arrived at the 1941 figure was desirable.

We would like very much to receive any data you may have on the life history, behavior, and food habits of peccaries. Very little has been written up on this species, at least as far as its habits in the southwestern desert country are concerned.

You might be interested in reading Ernest Thompson Seton's account of this species in his "Lives of Game Animals", if you have not already done so. You could probably borrow a copy from the Southwestern National Monuments library.

Victor H. Cahalane
Victor H. Cahalane,

In Charge,
Section on National Park Wildlife.

cc: Regional Biologist McDougall, Region Three, NPS.
Mr. Hugh Miller:

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

~~Organ Pipe Cactus~~ NATIONAL MONUMENT

~~Organ Pi Ajo, Arizona~~

~~December 27, 1941~~, 19

MEMORANDUM for the Superintendent,

With reference to Mr. Cahalane's memorandum of December 16, 1941, I still think that my estimate of 1200 peccaries on this monument is close to a correct count.

As to the 1939 census of wildlife down here I do not believe that much time was spent on any count as at that time there was no one on the Monument and I believe all counts were guessed at just to show known species on the area. The 200 increase in 1941 over 1940 does not seem to me to be out of line.

To arrive at the 1940 count of 1000 I studied sign over all the area which can be seen at all times of the year over nearly all parts and along all washes. Jack Gray one day reported to me that he rode up on 54 in one band and I have seen as many as 20 in one band myself. Groups of three or four are very common all over the area. There are 516 square miles in Organ Pipe and this count would be only two to the square mile. With sign over the entire area the large groups would account for several sections where it is known that none are ranging.

On checking with Mr. Kempton the warden on the Cabeza Prieta Wildlife Refuge he states that he does not know how their figure was arrived at as he had not turned in any count but that he knew the number to be a great many more than 100 on that area.

I have seen young in October, December, June and August so I think that he is correct in thinking that they breed at any season. These animals are by nature gregarious but in undisturbed areas such as here they may be found alone or in small bands as well.

I have been making some studies of peccaries down here and if it will be of any use to Mr. Cahalane I will try and write up what little information I have gathered so far as to their habits and food.

William R. Supernauth.

Supernaugh

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Fish and Wildlife Service
Washington

Bill:
Will you
please furnish
information
requested
Chuck R.

MEMORANDUM for the Superintendent,
Southwestern National Monuments.

Reference is made to the Annual Wildlife
Pipe National Monument, submitted by Custodian Supernaugh on September
24, 1941. It is noted that the population of peccaries is estimated
at 1,200, as against 1,000 in 1940.

Although food and water conditions have greatly improved on the
monument and patrol activities are increasingly beneficial to wild-
life, this appears to be a phenomenal jump in peccary numbers over the
50 reported in the 1939 census.

As you know, each year a summary of all game and fur-bearing
mammals reported on Service areas is sent to the Fish and Wildlife
Service. The latter Service annually prepares a mimeographed leaflet:
"Big Game Inventory of the United States". This compilation has a
"breakdown" by species and states. For example, the number of
peccaries in Arizona is listed for Fish and Wildlife Service refuges,
national forests, national monuments, private lands, etc.

It is, of course, important that estimates be prepared as care-
fully as possible. We would like to call your attention to the
number of peccaries reported on the Cabeza Prieta Wildlife Refuge
which adjoins Organ Pipe Monument. The refuge manager listed only
100 in 1939 and 100 in 1940. It is possible that the refuge estimates
are general ones and not based on actual counts in sample areas. In
1940 the monument reported 1,000. This figure will be used in the
1940 compilation now being mimeographed.

Although the refuge is larger than the monument, we realize that
habitats are less favorable for peccary. Still, 1,200 animals would
mean 60 groups if each band averaged 20 animals or 80 groups of 15
each. As the animals are active, there is a possibility of duplica-
tion in observations of tracks or the peccaries themselves.

As a matter of interest we would like to know at what seasons
young (red-pelaged) peccaries have been observed on the monument.
According to authorities, the animal breeds at "any season". In
south Texas, young, only a week or so old, have been observed in
February, July, September and November. Perhaps Mr. Supernaugh can

give us some information on this point.

The above comments on peccary populations are not given as a criticism of Mr. Supernauth's census report or technique in preparing estimates of numbers but merely to call his attention to the need for using extreme care in censusing such an important animal. Organ Pipe probably contains over 90 per cent of the peccaries found on National Park Service areas. The species has been exterminated from much of its original range and is still endangered in many regions. The chief source of information by which conservationists can get a definite report of the current status of this species is the Big Game Inventory mentioned above.

Your comments on the status of peccaries and information on breeding seasons at Organ Pipe National Monument will be appreciated.

(SGD) V. H. Cahalane
Victor H. Cahalane,
In Charge, Section on National
Park Wildlife.

cc: Custodian, Organ Pipe Cactus.
Region Three.
Dr. McDougal, Region Three.
Fish and Wildlife Service.
National Park Service.

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Santa Fe, New Mexico

January 10, 1942.

MEMORANDUM for the Acting Superintendent,
Southwestern National Monuments.

Reference is made to Acting Superintendent Thomas' memorandum of January 5 for the Regional Director, and related correspondence, concerning the 1940 census of peccary in Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument.

I am not in a position to judge very intelligently the accuracy of Custodian Supernaugh's census of these animals since, as I remarked the last time I visited the monument, I have never personally seen a single peccary on the area, although I have seen many of their tracks. Mr. Supernaugh's report of 1,200 animals in 1941 may be too high or, conceivably, it may be too low, but I feel quite sure that it is more nearly correct than the report of 100 for the Cabeza Prieta Refuge. The longer Mr. Supernaugh stays at Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument the more accurate his report should become, and for the first few years any increase or decrease he may report should not be taken too seriously as an actual increase or decrease in the numbers of animals but, rather, as an increase in the accuracy of his methods of censussing. The report of 50 peccary in 1939 should, of course, not be considered at all since it was a mere guess.

I suggest that you send a copy of Mr. Supernaugh's memorandum of December 27 for the Superintendent to Mr. Cahalane, since it contains just the kind of information that I know Mr. Cahalane will want to have and you are, of course, at liberty to send a copy of my comments along with it if you wish. Note that 100 in the first line of the third paragraph of Mr. Supernaugh's memorandum should be changed to read "1000".

I suggest also that Mr. Supernaugh be requested to write up any further information that he may have been able to accumulate about the habits or activities of the peccaries as suggested in the last paragraph of his memorandum. I know such information will be of interest to Mr. Cahalane as well as this Office, even if Bill has to retract some of his statements after further study, for exact knowledge about these animals is very meager.

W. B. McDUGGALL

Regional Biologist.

cc: Custodian Supernaugh,
Organ Pipe Cactus NM.