

Bendallier National Monument
Santa Fe, New Mexico

April 28, 1962

1961

ANNUAL WILDLIFE REPORT

INTRODUCTION

The winter months of 1961 through March of 1962 produced 30.7 inches of snow and 5.15 inches of precipitation. It was a rather open winter with the snow storms scattered sufficiently so that foraging was not too difficult for the wildlife and provided plentiful food. The combination of warm weather and increased amount of moisture during the past two winters has shown an increase in the amount of food for the wildlife, and therefore there is a slight increase in some of the forms of wildlife.

The larger mammals (deer, elk, etc.) and turkeys move to the higher elevations during the warm summer months and to the lower elevations in the winter months. This tends to produce a seasonal change in the various animal populations in the Monument. However, deer may be seen around the headquarters area any time during the year. The size and weight of the deer seem to have improved. This can possibly be attributed to the more and increasingly better food conditions.

Quite a number of reports were received of elk tracks in some of the canyons and on the mesa tops of the backcountry area. After checking with the New Mexico Game and Fish Department it is quite possible that there are elk moving into the Monument.

Bobcat, coyote, ringtail and fox all appear to be on the increase. With the exception of the coyote, the other animals have all been observed at night in and around the residential area and along the Monument road. The coyote is quite often seen during the day.

Turkeys are on the increase in the Monument, as several have been seen feeding in the vicinity of the lookout, entrance station, and the headquarters residential area.

The skunk population is still a problem, especially in the camping area, and the skunks are becoming somewhat of a nuisance.

No effort has been made to reduce the burro population in the Monument. This can be attributed to the heavy visitor use the Monument receives and the lack

of personnel to handle the problem. The burros are doing some damage to the range in the southern sections of the Monument, and are definitely not an aid in soil erosion control.

All of the animals observed appear to be in very good condition, and so far no evidence of disease has been found.

The estimates presented in this report are made mostly from general observations by visitors and Monument personnel and ranger patrols.

Species	Estimated No. and/or Relative Abundance	Comments
Badger	Rare	One observation of two on Frijolitos Mesa, and one observation of two near the Rio Grande.
Bat	Common	Often seen flying at night around the area. One bat picked up during daylight hours near the Long House Ruin.
Black Bear	Rare	Several tracks and observations throughout the Monument. They no doubt wandered in from the Jemez Mountains. All appeared in good condition including the cubs.
Beaver	Rare	Continues to be very scarce. Fresh cuttings were found in the vicinity of the Upper Crossing. Quite possibly a family group.
Bobcat	Common Locally	All actual observations were made at night.
Cat, Ringtail	Rare	All observations were made at night.
Chipmunk	Common	This animal is on the increase, and is quite often seen.
Cougar	Rare, Occurrence sporadic	Tracks observed occasionally. One medium sized animal observed near the lookout.
Coyote	Common	May be seen both day and night. One large pack (10) observed in back of visitor center.
Deer, Mule	Abundant	Seen throughout the Monument anytime of the year.

Species	Estimated No. and/or Relative Abundance	Comments
Elk	Rare, occurrence sporadic	Several tracks found in Alamo and Capulin Canyons, and on the mesas. State Game and Fish report a small number present in Santa Fe National Forest near the west boundary of Monument, and occasionally they may drift into the Monument.
Fox, Gray	Rare	Nearly all observations were made at night along the entrance road and in the residential area.
Fox, Red	Rare	Same as above
Porcupine	Rare	Population appears to be decreasing as observations, and damage to trees were negligible
Rabbit, Cottontail	Rare	Normally seen at night along the entrance road. Population held in check by the coyote.
Skunk	Abundant	Creates quite a problem in the camping area at night. Population is on the increase.
Squirrel, Abert	Common	Seen throughout the Monument, and apparently on the increase.
Squirrel, Rock	Common	Population is increasing in the Monument.
Turkey, Merriam	Rare	Appears to be on the increase. Flocks have been observed along highway #4, the residential area and the backcountry of the Monument.
Eagle, Golden	Rare	Four observations of this majestic bird were made. First observation of a young eagle was made in 1961.
Quail	Rare	One covey of Gambel's Quail was observed near the Upper Falls, and a covey of Scaled Quail was observed near the backgate in 1961.

Species	Estimated No. and/or Relative Abundance	Comments
Hawks	Common	The only hawks commonly seen in the Monument are the Redtail and the Cooper's. Occasionally a Sparrow Hawk is observed.
Vulture, Turkey	Common	At times over 50 to 100 birds may be seen roosting and feeding near the garbage dump during the spring and summer months.
Vulture, Black	Rare	Three observations of the Black Vulture in the spring of 1961.
Owl	Common	Several observations of owl were made during the spring and summer of 1961. One observation of the long-eared owl was made near Ceremonial Cave. One Long-eared owl was found near death in front of the visitor center after it had tangled with a skunk.
Dove, Mourning	Common	Seen in all parts of the Monument. Numerous around headquarters.
Snake, Bull	Common	Often seen throughout the Monument, and one or more lives in the wall of the Kiva.
Snake, Rattle	Common	Often seen throughout the Monument at all elevations. There are several types of this reptile in the Monument.
Deer	Common	This exotic species appear to be on the increase in the southern sections of the Monument, and if they continue to increase it will not be long before they will give the deer some trouble.

Charles A. Rowe

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Supervisory Park Ranger

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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Submit in triplicate to the Regional Director who will submit the report in duplicate to WASO. Use symbols in Columns 3 and 4 as follows: RELATIVE POPULATION: Abundant Generally (AG); Abundant Locally (AL); Common Generally (CG); Common Locally (CL); Rare (R); Infrequent (I). POPULATION TREND: Up (U); Static (S); Down (D). See reverse for detail explanation of symbols. If all important facts on wildlife have not been covered, a narrative report should be prepared as outlined on the reverse.

Park Bandelier National Monument								Prepared by Charles A. Rowe Supervisory Park Ranger								Date April 28, 1962			
SPECIES (1)	ESTIMATED POPULATION (2)	RELATIVE POPULATION (3)	POPULATION TREND (4)	NO. MOVED OUT ALIVE (5)	NO. STOCKED IN PARK (6)	REDUCTION KILL (7)	ACCIDENT AND POACHER KILLED (8)		SPECIES (1)	ESTIMATED POPULATION (2)	RELATIVE POPULATION (3)	POPULATION TREND (4)	NO. MOVED OUT ALIVE (5)	NO. STOCKED IN PARK (6)	REDUCTION KILL (7)	ACCIDENT AND POACHER KILLED (8)			
							Car	Other								Car	Other		
Antelope									Peccary										
Armadillo	4	R							Pika	8	R	Dn							
Badger		CL							Porcupine										
Bat	10	R	Up						Prairie Dog	10	R	S							
Bear, Black									Rabbit, Cottontail										
Bear, Grizzly	4	R	Dn						Rabbit, Jack										
Beaver									Rabbit, Snowshoe										
Beaver, Mountain									Raccoon										
Bighorn									Rodents, Small		CG	S							
Bison									Seal										
Bobcat	20	CL	Up						Sea Lion										
Caribou	6	R	Up						Skunk	50	AL	Up							
Cat, Ringtail		CG	UP						Squirrel, Ground		AG	Up							
Chipmunk									Squirrel, Tree		CG	Up							
Coati-Mundi									Weasel										
Cougar	20	I							Wolf										
Coyote		AG	Up						Wolverine										
Deer, Blacktail	100	AG	Up						Alligator										
Deer, Mule									Crocodile										
Deer, Whitetail	4	I							Turtle, Green										
Elk	15	R	Up						EXOTICS										
Fox, Gray									Boar										
Fox, Kit									Burro	25-30	AL	Up							
Fox, Red		R	Up						Goat										
Fisher									Horse										
Goat, Mountain									Mongoose										
Gopher, Pocket									Nutria										
Lynx									Rabbit										
Manatee									Birds										
Marmot																			
Marten																			
Mink																			
Moose																			
Muskrat																			
Ocelot																			
Opposum																			
Otter, River																			
Otter, Sea																			

Additional Species