

Bandelier National Monument

1962

Annual Wildlife Report

The winter months of 1962 produced 21 inches of snow and 5.53 inches of precipitation which did much to continue the amazing increase in the amount of wildlife to be seen in the Monument. Mule deer are in abundance. Bear are becoming more commonly seen in the backcountry and the Merriam's Wild Turkey appears to be on the increase. Elk are now occasionally seen in the backcountry.

A fact which exists here in the wildlife situation and which should be in mind while reading this report is that the presence of the larger animals and the turkeys fluctuates greatly with the seasons. In early summer the larger animals make their way to the higher elevations (7,500' to 10,000') outside of the Monument. This accounts for the relatively few animals seen by visitors and Rangers on patrol during the summer months. The animals make their way back into the Monument elevations during September and October and are more readily seen.

The greatest number of animals are observed in the Monument during the months of November to March. However, deer can now be seen in the Headquarters area at any time of the year. It has been noticed that the size and weight of the male deer seems to be greater now than it was two or three years ago, which can possibly be attributed to more and better food conditions.

The skeletons of two male deer were found on the Frijolitos Mesa south of Headquarters and the cause of death is not known. The skeletal structures were complete and not torn apart as they would be if they had met death by a predator. A dead doe was found in back of the Lodge. Its death was caused by apparent old age.

Animals
do
die!

We have no major animal feeding problems, such as the bear at Yellowstone, although the skunk problem in the campground during the summer is increasing and the animals are becoming quite bold. At first the visitors treat the daytime and nocturnal visits of these nonchalant creatures as a novelty, but after a number of visits of a quite friendly nature, they are considered more of a nuisance. It is apparent that some form of control will have to be taken to alleviate this pressure being exerted by the skunks on the campers.

A more concentrated effort will be made this summer to study the burros in the southeastern corner of the Monument. This study has long been neglected and is needed to really determine the amount of burro-deer competition and the amount of damage being done to the range.

A deer transect was established on Burnt Mesa and the transect established by State Game Department has been located and will be re-established to help determine the number of deer on the Monument.

There has been a definite increase in the number of Merriams Turkey on the Monument. They have been observed in Frijoles Canyon, on top of the mesa along Highway 4 and in the backcountry.

Especially gratifying is the amount of wildlife reported in 1962 in the detached Otowi Section. Deer are common, bear were reported several times, as well as the coyote, fox and turkey. This improvement of the wildlife situation in the Otowi Section is due largely to the more rigid enforcement of game regulations on the ANM Los Alamos project and to more frequent patrols by the Rangers.

The estimated numbers in the following census are based on four wildlife patrols made during the winter and reports from visitors. Each patrol was made after a fresh snowfall. A careful check was made of the type and amount of terrain covered and a record made of the track and animal count for that area. It was then estimated how much more of that type of country there was on the Monument and then the appropriate multiplication was made to give an estimate for the entire Monument including the detached Otowi Section.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

ANNUAL WILDLIFE REPORT

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							Prepared by							Date						
Bandelier National Monument							District Ranger							April 25, 1963						
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									Pika											
Badger	6		Up						Porcupine	10-15	R	U					1			
Bat		CL							Prairie Dog											
Bear, Black	10-15	R	Up						Rabbit, Cottontail	25-30	R	U								
Bear, Grizzly									Rabbit, Jack											
Beaver	4	R	S						Rabbit, Snowshoe											
Beaver, Mountain									Raccoon	10-15	R	U								
Bighorn									Rodents, Small		CG									
Bison									Seal											
Bobcat	10-15	CL	U						Sea Lion											
Caribou									Skunk	25-50	AL	U					1			
Cat, Ringtail	8-10	R	U					3	Squirrel, Ground		AG	U								
Chipmunk		CL	U				4	5	Squirrel, Tree		CG	U					7			
Coati-Mundi									Weasel											
Cougar		I							Wolf											
Coyote	20-25	AG	U						Wolverine											
Deer, Blacktail									Alligator											
Deer, Mule	450	AG	U				2	1	Crocodile											
Deer, Whitetail									Turtle, Green											
Elk	6	I							EXOTICS											
Fox, Gray	5-10	R	U						Boar											
Fox, Kit									Burro	25-50	AL	U								
Fox, Red	5-10	R	U						Goat											
Fisher									Horse											
Goat, Mountain									Mongoose											
Gopher, Pocket		CL							Nutria											
Lynx									Rabbit											
Manatee									Birds		AG	U					10			
Marmot																				
Marten																				
Mink																				
Moose																				
Muskrat																				
Ocelot																				
Opposum																				
Otter, River																				
Otter, Sea																				

Additional Species

Merriam's Turkey 25-50 AG U