

Charles A. Rowe

Randallier National Monument

ANNUAL WILDLIFE REPORT

1964

The winter months of 1964 produced 11.52 inches of precipitation. It was a relatively warm and open winter providing plentiful food for the wildlife. The winter months produced 3.59 inches of precipitation and the snowstorms were scattered sufficiently so that foraging was not difficult for the wildlife. The combination of warm weather and moisture has shown a decided increase in food for the wildlife and a slight increase in the wildlife population.

The larger mammals and turkeys move to higher elevations in the summer months and to lower elevations in the winter, which tends to produce a seasonal change in the various animal populations of the Monument. However, deer may be seen in Frijoles Canyon anytime during the year. It has been noted that the size and weight of the deer appears to be much greater now than it has for some seasons. This can possibly be attributed to more and better food conditions.

The skeletons of two deer were found during the summer and the cause of death of one of them is presumed to be old age. The other evidently tangled with a cougar from the way the remains were scattered.

Bear have been observed in several different locations of the Monument ranging from near Ceremonial Cave to the Upper Frijoles and Apache Springs area. Tracks of several bear were found in both Capulin and Red Canyons in the backcountry. All of the bear observed appear to be in good condition and much heavier than previously noted.

So far the skunk population does not appear to be on the increase in the canyon and as yet, there has been no noticeable increase in the skunk population in the area of the Mesa Campground.

There has been a definite increase in the number of Merriam's Turkeys in the Monument. Turkeys have been observed feeding around the mesa development area and in the canyon. The largest flock numbered ten (10) with three of them chicks. Patrols and visitors have noted turkeys in nearly every area of the Monument.

Bobcat, coyote and fox are on the increase and some have been seen close to headquarters. In fact, a pair of Gray Fox visit the kitchen window of the District Ranger's residence nearly every evening for a handout. The fox have become rather tame and do not run away when the window is open.

Great success has been had by calling in animals using a Weems Whistler. So far three (3) bobcats, four (4) fox and five (5) coyotes have been called in close enough for pictures to be taken.

In the newly added Upper Frijoles Section the amount of wildlife reported from that area is especially gratifying. Deer and bear are common. Turkey, fox, coyote and an occasional bobcat have been sighted in that area. There was a sighting of two elk in the Beaver Dam area of that section.

Virtually no effort was made to reduce the feral burro population on the Monument, however, an agreement was reached with the Los Alamos Sheriff's Posse to live trap and remove some of the animals from the Monument during 1965. The burros are doing some damage to the range and are definitely not an aid to erosion control.

The estimated numbers in the following census are based upon reports from visitors, personnel and from wildlife patrols made during the year.

The following are some comments on some of the animals of the Monument:

Deer: Several of these animals were observed in the vicinity of the Mesa campground and in the Turkey Springs area. All appear to be in good condition and have increased over those reported last year.

Elk: Commonly seen at dusk and appear to be on the increase.

Squirrels: This animal appears to be on the increase and can be seen in the Upper Frijoles area. They seem to delight in getting a fir or spruce cone and then proceed in tearing it apart. They also delight in scolding any traveler that passes by.

Chipping: They are once again becoming more numerous, as personnel and visitor have reported seeing them in many areas of the Monument. Several of the trees in back of the Visitor Center have been stripped of their bark by them.

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 17, 1965			
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	10-15	R	U						Porcupine	15-20	R	U				1	
Bat		CL							Prairie Dog								
Bear, Black	15-20	R	U						Rabbit, Cottontail	35-40	R	U				4	
Bear, Grizzly									Rabbit, Jack								
Beaver									Rabbit, Snowshoe								
Beaver, Mountain									Raccoon	20-25	R	U					
Bighorn									Rodents, Small		CL						
Bison									Seal								
Bobcat	15-20	R	U						Sea Lion								
Caribou									Skunk	25-30	AL	S					
Cat, Ringtail	20-25	R	U						Squirrel, Ground		AG	U					
Chipmunk		CL				7			Squirrel, Tree		CG	U					
Coati-Mundi									Weasel								
Cougar		I							Wolf								
Coyote	25-50	R	U						Wolverine								
Deer, Blacktail									Alligator								
Deer, Mule	550+	AG	U			4	1		Crocodile								
Deer, Whitetail									Turtle, Green								
Elk	2	I	S						EXOTICS								
Fox, Gray	10-35	R	U			1			Boar								
Fox, Kit									Burro	100+	AL	U					
Fox, Red	5-10	R	S						Goat								
Fisher									Horse								
Goat, Mountain									Mongoose								
Gopher, Pocket		CL							Nutria								
Lynx									Rabbit								
Manatee									Birds		AG						
Marmot																	
Marten																	
Mink																	
Moose																	
Muskrat																	
Ocelot																	
Oppossum																	
Otter, River																	
Otter, Sea																	

Additional Species

Merrill's Turkey 50-75 AG U