

REPORT ON 20 YEARS RESEARCH 1913-1933

BUREAU OF BIOLOGICAL SURVEY U S DEPT OF AGRICULTURE



Modifications to be made in "Review of Research Projects" Submitted by Bureau of Biolo ical Survey in April 1953.

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| Continuing Projects | : Duration : of work : | :Annual cost :of entire :profect :(F.X.1933) | : : Estimated : annual : saving | : Nor : Metrile : mec page |
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| Division of Rodent and Predatory Animal Control Control methods | : 1920 - | : 980 | : :311,000,000 | : 1 |
| Division of Food Habits Assearch Investigation of the relation of birds and animals to agriculture Investigation of food resources of migratory bird | : : 1285 - | : : 87,660 : | : Cannot be givon in : dollars. | : : : : : |
| refuge areas | : 1989 - | : 3,650 | : do | : 7 |
| Division of Fur Resources Investigations of fur animals Fur-Animal Experiment Station Rebbit Experiment Station Division of Disease Investigations Meladies of wild birds and animals Division of Biological Investigations | : 1912 - : 1916 - : 1916 - : 1927 - : : 1931 - | : 14,910 13,950 11,700 : 21,425 | : 0.0 : 0.0 : 0.0 : 0.0 : : 0.0 | : 8 : 9 : 10 : : 12 |
| Investigations of wild uniral life Investigations of migratory birds Research in forest wild life Muskox investigations Reindeer investigations | 1885 - 1918 - 1929 - 1930 - 1920 - | : 48,190 : 32,200 : 18,900 : 11,520 : 19,170 | : 00 : 00 : 00 : 00 : 00 | 15 17 19 21 23 |
| Discontinued Projects | Duration | :Cost of on- thre project :(For 3 years) | : Estimated : enhal : saving | for Actaile Sum 7/ 6 |
| Division of Fur Resources Commercial Fur Froduction | 1931-1933 | 34,500 | : Connet on :Siven in :dollars. | 54 |
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BURMAU OF BIOLOOICAL SURVEY

Title of project: Control Methods.

- <u>Dite begun</u>: The project was started in 1930 as a separate project under the title of "Sradication Methods", but similar investigations were previously conducted under other projects.
- Date completed: The project as a whole has not been completed. Kowever, several important phases of it have been brought to conclusion and are mentioned below under the heading, "Results." The continuation of this project is essential to determine effective methods for control of injurious rodents and predatory animals because developments in agriculture, horticulture, forestry, livestock production, as well as management of wild game, and protection to the public health are continually bringing wo new problems that require constant research for adequate methods to afford protection against injurious animals under changing conditions. Activities under this project are the foundation for all of the Bureau's cooperative operations for the control of injurious rodents and predatory animals.
- <u>Authority</u>: Authority for this project is contained in Agricultural Appropriation Acts and most recently under an item for the Eureau of Biological Survey, "Food Habits of Birds and Animals" and also in Congressional Authorizations embodied in the Act of Warch 2, 1931 (46 Stat. 1468; U. S. Code Supp., Title 7, sec. 426) authorizing a ten-year program of cooperative predatory-animal and redent control.
- 20st of the project: Allotment for fiscal year 1935 \$31,950; allotment for fiscal year 1934 \$34,850.
- Results: The following valuable results have been obtained from investigations conducted under this project:
 - 1. The perfection of effective and accountical poison baits for the various species of native rodent pests. Research under this project has made it possible to so select, prepare and expose effective poisons grain baits as not seriously to endanger animals other than those for which the baits are intended.

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- 2. Ascertaining the fact that birds of the gallinaceous group such as quail, pheasant, grouse, and domestic chickens are relatively immune to strychnine poison. From this information grain baits were developed so that birds of the foregoing group are not endangered when the strychnine-poisoned grain recommended by the Bureau is used in rodent control.
- 3. The development of a method of using thellium subplate for the control of highly resistant species of rodents of which the California ground squirrel is one. This has solved the problem of controlling these animals on many of the agricultural areas where other forms of poison had failed.
- 4. The determination that the danger of secondary poisoning to man is practically nil should be est any game birds that had been poisoned with thallium sulphate exposed in ground squirrel control.
- 5. The development of mechanical means of preparing a uniformly standard rodent bait of high quality at a low cost which supersedes the old time method of handmixing.
- 6. The development of a raticide (powdered red soull) which is practically specific for the brown rat and which has the advantage over other raticides of being relatively harmless to cats, dogs, rabbits, chickens, pigeons, pige, and human beings.
- 7. The development of a method which made possible the cooperative production of ready-prepared red squill baits in sealed tin cans for use in county and state-wide campaigns for rat control.
- 8. The determination of lethal doses of strychnine for coyotes and other predatory animals.
- 9. The development of a method whereby the use of strychnine in predatory animal control is made efficient by mechanically processing the strychnine to materially delay the bitter tasts of this chemical.
- 10. The development of a strychnine tablet containing the correct amount of poison and which is acceptable in the poisoning of coyotes.
- 11. The development of an effective bait for use in poisoning predators and which at the same time reduces to a minimum the loss of other animals including fur bearers.

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- 12. The development of improved trapping methods for the control of coyotes, wolves, and other predators in the United States as well as in Alaska.
- 13. The development of oil of catnip for use in trapping of mountain lions and bobcats.
- 14. The perfection of a safety spring attachment for animal traps whereby smaller and valuable species of fur-bearing animals and birds are safeguarded during predatory animal trapping operations.
- 15. Development of repellents for bats to be used when they establish obnoxious roosts in dwellings.
- Economic importance: All of the activities under this project are of direct benefit to farmers and livestock growers, enabling them to efficiently and economically control injurious rodents which cause enormous losses in farm crops, forestry and fruit trees, range forage and stored products, and to efficiently and economically control predatory animals which commit serious depredations on sheep, lambs, goats, cattle, pigs, and poultry. Rodents and predatory animals are at times responsible for the spread of diseases such as bubonic plague, spotted fever, tularemia and rabies, and their control for the protection of public health is important. This project is necessary in the Bureau's operations for the control of animal pests, for under it effective methods of control are developed and special poisons are prepared for use in the field in connection with cooperative control operations. In many instances, the portion of farm oroducts, range forage and livestock destroyed by these enimal pests represents the difference between profit and loss of a year's enterprise. The cooperative control of injurious rodents and predatory animals under the leadership of the Bureau has materially decreased their depredations and where conducted has been one of the most tangible means of increasing profits from agricultural pursuits.
- Estimated annual saving: Field operations conducted under projects for the control of rodents and predatory animals employing methods developed under the Control Methods project have effected an average annual saving estimated at \$11,000,000.
- Similar work at State Experiment Stations: No work of similar nature is being conducted by State Experiment Stations.

Submitted April, 1935.

Title of project: Relation of birds and animals to agriculture.

Date begun: 1885.

Date completed: Specific portions of the general project and local investigations have been completed up to a certain date, but the project as a whole is a continuing one, and due to the facts that we are dealing with living organizes, some of them highly migratory, in a constantly changing environment, new problems are constantly arising or old ones appearing in a new guise, so that it is as difficult to say in this as it is in most research work that any line of investigation is definitely completed.

Authority: Annual appropriation acts for the Department of Agric.lture, the first in 1885. In recent acts the specific clause reads: "For investigating the food habits of North American birds and animals in relation to agriculture, horticulture, end forestry."

Cost of the work: Allotment for the fiscal year 1933 367,880; allotment for fiscal year 1974 350,750. Results:

The economic value of birds. Publication in more than 250 bulletins and other papers of information on the economic status of about 500 species of birds. This data is utilized in determining bird protective legislation and regulation in the United States. Several special reports have been issued on the relation of birds to various insect pests. Problems in economic ornithalory have received attention through all the years varying from brief correspondence to intunsive field and laboratory investigations. In carrying on the latter work, about 100,000 stomacks of birds have been examined, the results fully indexed, and extensive reference collections assembled, including probably the best collection of the seeds of native plants in the country. A comprehensive indexed pemphlet file has been accumulated, which embraces 10,000 or more items relating to all phase. of the work.

Improving food resources for wild ford. Results of this work have been published on the food Ambits of the birds, including accounts of all of the shoal water species of wild ducks, and upon the insortant wild duck food plants and methods of propagating them. These publications have been widely distributed and the methods recommended used to improve a great news places as feeding resorts for wild fowl. This has not only been of considerable value to the birds but in some cases has really increased value of the property planted. Lists of dealers in duck food plants are kent available for correspondence. Surveye of feeding conditions for wild fow have been made in numerous localities and reports on the food resources for wild fowl of certain areas of which those of the Sandhill region of Nebraska, the Bear River marshes of Utah, and the State of North Dakota have been published and others on Fissouri, Minnesota, and Wisconsin are in press or preparations. Methods of attracting birds. From the complete index to items of bird food available. he is families of birds among fruits and seeds were ascertained. A list of genora of favorite fruit-bear is any end trees was prepared and data on the fruiting season of their species obtained by personal visiti to, or by purchase from, most of the leading herbaria of the United States, as well as from a variety of other sources. This information has served as the basis of a series of bullching wi attracting birds in various sections of the United States. These bulletins have dealt also the nest boxes and with methods of protecting birds from cormon enemies. A bibliography of south in attracting birds and lists of dealers in devices have been kept available for correctioned.

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Introduction of game birds: A publication issue, su gesting improvements in methods of largere birds and pointing out what species are undesirable and what desirable with mile where the latter can be successfully introduced.

- Propagation of hame birds: A series of bullstins has been published summerizing the methods a summerizing the methods a summerized by the most successful American and European game breeders. Lists of dealers in, and of the same birds have been kept available for correspondents.
- Care of ornamental birds. Publications issued on the care of peafowl, fancy pheasants, and wat for Bibliographies of related works and lists of dealers in the birds and in supplies kept ave for correspondents. Similar output on cage birds has been done incidentally as an accommonation to the public.
- .elfare of upland game birds. Two reports of progress on a 5-year cooperative quail investigation were published and the final report prepared in manuscript (this later published by cooperator in book form). Cooperative work under a fellowship system carcied on in the follo he states the object of research mentioned in connection with each: Michigan, Hungarian partridge; "investigated grouse; Wisconcin, bobwhite; Arizona, Gembel's quail; and now sith 9 experimental cuail management demonstration projects in 6 states. A list of Gealers in quail food plants is in manuscript."
- Control of injurious birds. Reports have been published on all of the principal injuri we see to together with suggestions for their control. Investigations of local bird nullances and dentions are made with special recommendations in all cases; this work new engages much of the time of personnel at three western field stations. Leaflets on bird control are kept constantly available for correspondents. Aid in bird control has been a much appreciated service and elicited important local coperation.
- The economic value of marmals. The work on the food habits of makenals was largely of a contained interesting information in the second state of several groups of marmals, and others have been prepared on bulb rests and not of animals classed as vermin, of seals and ach lions in relation to the fishing information on the northwest coast, and of the food of prairie dogs and pocket gophers in relation to method controlling these animals. It is probable that in the studies of the food of marmals is classed will yield information that will have the same relation to coalities the predetory species will yield information that will have the same relation to action the state of the second section of these animals, as the bird food-which studies have in the state of this project on fer an indication.
- publication of a bulletin on the economic 1 contance of alligators, preparation of a subsection on the food habits of American toads, and of one leaflet relating to toads, or a the st and two relating to snames, especially poisonous species with directions for treatment of so bites and for reducing the numbers of snakes.
- conomic importance: It was scientific research in Toonomic Crnithology that led to the unit resolution of bird protective legislation in the United States and to the midespread movement for the protocol and increase in the number of birds. Maintenance and increase of the numbers of beneficial means increased destruction of insect pests and prevention of increase in lockes due to fold limited number of birds are destructive, and research has reculted in affective opthace of optimized County agents have estimated that destruction of Inglish sparrows in (ten by methods optimized)



Economic importance (con't.)

the Biological Survey resulted in a saving of 3357,000 in three years. These methods have been u ad with great success also at the North Dakota Experiment Station and at certain Army posts. Ald has been rendered also in the control of rice - and othor grain - and fruit-destroying birds with results which have been highly preised by the beneficiaries but which are difficult to estimate in money terms; persons using methods devised by our workers in California have been able to reduce damage to a tenth of what it was before. Research on the feeding habits of game wild fowl and in methods of propagating the plants most important as food for them has assisted to build un a business in the sale of these plants that amounts to many thousands of dollars manually. Recommendations by the Biological Survey for important of wild ford feeding grounds have set at tenfold. Studies in improvement in the environment of upland game birds have set new standards for game bird management and embodied in the final report upon one of them, the next comprehensive account of an American game bird that has ever been published. Qualiproduction on extensive southern holdings was doubled as a result of the findings of this Cooperative Quali Investigation. Considering the high value set on quali hunting, the financial gains would be estimated at a large figure.

Estimated annual saving: By prevention of increase in the amount of damage done by injurious insecte, through fostering the maintonance and increase of the nation's stock of useful birds, and by reduction in damage by injurious birds through use of mothods devised or recommanded by the Eureau millions of dollars have undoubtedly been saved. The value of upland gume birds and of wild fowl produced or conserved annually by methods devised or recommended by the Eureau has amounted to hundreds of thousands of dollars, and profits from the wild duck food industry have amounted to a wast sum.

Similar work at State Experiment Statione: In New York "Extension service in ornithology deals with birds in their relation to agriculture and rural life" (45th Ann. Rep., N. Y., Cornell Sta., 1952, p. 55); this as noted is extension, not research work.

In Arizona there are two projects which deal with food habits of marmals in which the Biological Survey cooperates. These are: "Study of the life history of range rodents (Jack Rabbits)" No. 24 Adams Fund, and "Food requirements of certain game animals in the Southwest with especial reference to the influence on the livestock industry" (recent, no number, Furnell Fund).

Arizona also is making "A study of the life bistory and ecology of the wild turkey" (recent, no number, Purnell Fund).

Oklahoma has a project "Game Bird Propagation and Distribution" (Rep. Oklas. Agr. Exp. Sta. 1980-3 pp. 143-144).

In California it is said that "The work of the Station has to do with studying the historic record and present economic status of the various species of animal life in California with exclusion on problems of economic concern" (Rep. Calif. Agr. Exp. Str., 1931-1932, p.65); this work appeared to almost exclusively bibliographic.

To sum up, States can pursue in a 'imited way restricted problems in the companies of mild hif, but as the latter in the case of elmost every species, spreads far and wide regardless of State boundaries it is only the federal government that can make the general étudies necessary as a basis for only trapublic olicy toward wild hife.

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BUREAU OF BIOLOGICAL SURVEY

Title of project: Food resources of migratory bird refuge areas.

Date begun: 1929.

Date completed: The first great campaign of surveys of proposed rafuge sites to determine their biological characteristics and desirability as sanctuaries and breeding, feeding and resting places for migratory birds was completed in a single field season; supplementary work occurs from time to tiand investigations looking toward the improvement of existing rafuges is continuing in pature. Authority: Annual encropriation acts of the Department of Agriculture; wording in this year's act

"For carrying into effect the provisions of the Act entitled "An Act to more effectively meet the oblications of the U.S. under the migratory-bird treaty with Great Britain (39 Stat. p. 2, p. 1702) by lessening the langers threatening migratory game birds " * " to furnish in perpetuity reservations for the adequate protection of such birds; and authorizing unproministions for * * " their mainternood and improvements"

Scat of the work: Allotmont for fiscal year 1933 05,650; allotmont for fiscal year 1934 05,650.

Fegulta: In the three fiscal years subsequent to authorization of the work, about 220 areas totalling over 4,250,000 acres were examined and reported upon. About a sixth of them were recommended for accuisition.

According importance: The saving of the lives of waterford is of economic as well as of esthetic importance, but to put the value in figures would be a difficult task.

Estimated annual saving: To be measured in improvement of refuge facilities and quality, and in accommodation of increased numbers of migratory raterfowl; but not readily in money terms.

Similar work at State Experiment Stations: The selection and management of migratory bird refuges are exclusively federal functions, so there is no State work concerned.

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Fitle of project: Investigations of Fur Animals

Date begun: 1912.

Date completed: This project is a continuing one and like other research problems of its nature the more is being constantly developed.

Cost of work: Allotment for fiscal year 1933 314,910; allotment for fiscal year 1934 \$14,110.

Results: Numerous bulletins, leaflats, and circulars have been published on all phases of the unital production. This information serves as a guide to fur furmers and those contemplating ontains the business. Working countries also depend upon the Bureau for much of this information. Despective relations have been established with the Carnegie Institution of Washington, University of the relation Conservation Department of Faryland, Bureau of animal Industry, University of California, and the Fontana Farme Company.

Economic Innontance: Fur is an innortant commercial commodity of high cash value. The initial contents are more fur than any other country and more than it produces. Innorts are received for a dyed, 320,000,000; furs and values are as follows: Raw-fur catch, 355,000,000; furs dessed are dyed, 320,000,000; furs minufactured, 3250,000,000; exports of furs and fur monufactures 20,000 and the estimated personal tax paid is approximately 3900,000. The work performed the Division of Fur Resources, while of special interest to the trappers, fur farmers, legis to an and conservationists, is of benefit also to fur tradesmen. These industries and interest and the rest of this unit the source of technical information and the means to assist in colving their are done.

Estimated annual saving: This cannot be given in domlars and cents. These investigations betain a contract for trade and allied industries, the trapper, for farmer, for tradesman, and consumer.

Mmilar work at State Experiment Stations: No similar work is conducted at State Experiment of the state

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 A second sec second sec "itle of project: Pur-Animal "speriment Station (New York)

Date begun: 1916

- Inte completed: This project is a continuing one and like other research roblams of its nature the set is being constantly developed,
- Authority: Agricultural Appropriation Act under item in the appropriation for the lureau of Biological Survey "For investigations, experiments, demonstrations, and conservation in connection with the production and utilization of fur-bearing animals raised for ment and fur, in the United States and States.

- Results: Investigations conducted at the Eur-Animal Experiment Action have developed more eraction and economical methods for the moduction and distribution of furs. Suitable rations have been deviced for for animals in capitwity. Feed costs have been reduced by utilizing most substitut a and disregarding feeds not adaptable for fur enimals. The addition of suitable vitamin concentrate to the ration has been studied. Improvements rade in cons, ders, and feeding trouchs, together in a prestical system of feeding and num genent, have eliminated wasteful practices. New developments, such as varied wire-bottom per floors, improved feeding and water troughs, have prevented parasitie infectation. Progress has been meds in determining the effect of sunlight on the quality of fur. Detailed anatomical data on various fur animals has been recorded. A genetic basis for o mirel of color phases in force has been established and the breeding and gestation pariod of mertans have been definitely established.
- Scontric importance: The Fur-Aniral Experiment Station is the only one of its kind on the North uncies continent where various species of fur animals are studied to determine the best methods of the scin feeding, and managing for the economic production of fur.
- Estimated annual saving: There are no statistics available to show the losses occurring from faulty investments, improper feeding, breeding, and handling of fur animals and the lack of applying proper mathods of samitation. Experience indicates that the losses in these respects have been trenentous. Pioneering in a field of research naturally revolutionizes practices and the first progressive and accumulative.

Similar work at State Experiment Stations: No similar work is conducted at State Experiment Stations.

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Title of project: Hebbit Experiment Station (California)

Date begun: 1927

- Date completed: This project is a continuing one and like other research problems of its nature the work is being constantly developed.
- Authority: Agricultural Appropriation act under item in the appropriation for the Buresu of Biological Survey "For investigations, experiments, demonstrations, and cooperation in connection with the roduction and utilization of fur-bearing animals raised for meat and fur, in the United States and lasks
- Cost of work: Cooperative project. Biological Survey allotment for fiscal year 1953 [1,700; allotment for fiscal year 1954 [1,660. (Cooperators' investment, 334,000.00)
- Results: Practical information has been obtained as to the arount of feed necessary and the rate of growth to raise rabbits to a marketable age. Gats and barley have equal feeding value. Best results are obtained than 60% of the ration is composed of alfalfa hay. Feed given in the four of cellets has no advantage over a mdst, crumbly mash. Cod-liver oil and yeast added to an otherwise satisfactory ration has little value. A nutritive ratio of about 1:3.8 is not t satisfactory for does suching young. The most practical and efficient protein supplements for rabbits have been determined. If it grades and classes of dressed rabbit caceases have been established. Experiments demonstrate that cross-breeding develops meat and fur qualities in rabbits. By actual count, the relative proportion of guard hairs to underfur has been determined and measurements of the guard hairs and underfur length and texture have been made. The quality of fur from rabbits of different ages has been inst mineteen feeding and breeding experiments have been planned and put into operation since Parch, 1985, and thus far 15 have been completed.
- Becautic importance: The production of rabbits for food and fur has an estimated economic value of 350,000,000. It is an agricultural business that has assumed large propertiens in every state in the Union. Buring the past ten years it has developed ten-fold. Domestic rabbit meat has become a staple article of food in many markets of our large cities. Rabbit fur is used more extensively than any other kind by the fur trade.
- Letimsted annual saving: There was no suthentic information on rabbit production swallable to the preeders from any source prior to the establishment of the United States Rabbit Experiment States In the six years since this project was commenced much valuable date on the raising of rubbits for food and fur and the management of rabbitries has been made available to the ublic. A rough hose findings and the dissoning tion of accurate information on the rabbit industry many has been vented from becoming the victims of uncerupilous promoters, and thus saved from lusses is being wiso would have anounted to thousands of dollars.

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Similar work at State Experiment .itations: No similar exp: rimental work is being conducted by any state experiment station.

The Poultry Husbandry Department of the University of Michigan has conducted some feeding experiments with rabbits. They are not very extensive in scope and include from 4 to 8 rabbits.

The Extension Jervice in the State of California publishes a bulletin on rabbit raising and revises this publication annually. The information it contains is not based on any research work but on information that can be obtained from the U.S. Rabbit Experiment Station and persons raising rabbits. It should be remembered that Secretary Jardine obtained the approval of the University of California before the Rabbit Experiment Station was established in Fontena.

Submitted spril, 1933.

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Title of project: Maladies of Wild Birds and Animals.

- Date begun: Established as a separate project in 1931. Frior to this date discase investigations were conducted in connection with various wild bird and animal projects. At this time for efficiency and economy all disease investigations in the Bureau were consolidated under one project.
- <u>Date completed</u>: Continuing. While several specific diseases of fur animals, upland game birds and migratory waterfowl have been diagnosed and successful means for treating them developed or methods dizcovered for protecting them from loss, a number of obscure gilments continues to take a large toll of the valuable species raised in captivity as well as those maintained in the wild.
- Cost of work: Allotment for the fiscal year 1933 \$21,425; allotment for the fiscal year 1934 \$20,370.
- Authority: Items in Agricultural Appropriation Act. "Production of fur-bearing animals: For investigations, experiments, demonstrations, and concertion in connection with the production of fur-bearing animals ******in the United States and Alaska *****." ---- *******investigations of the relations of wild animal life to forests. ----- "For investigation, experiments, and demonstrations in the establishment, improvement, and increase of the reindeer industry and muskozen in Alaska *****." Act of July 3, 1918 ***** and for necessary expenses for enforcing the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of July 3, 1918 ***** and for necessary investigations connected therewith." -----"Migratory-Bird Conservation Act. ****An act to more effectively meet the obligations of the United States under the migratory-bird treaty act with Creat Eritain by lessening the dangers threatening migratory birds ***** and protection of stock ****** through the suppression of rabies and other diseases of predatory wild animals ******
- Regults: A number of epizootics have been stamped out on fur farms and gene farms as a result of research in this project. Abnormal conditions usually attacking wild life are of such severity that a large portion of the exposed populations are wiped out and as a consequence of investigations conducted under the project "Maladies of Wild Birds and Animals" many of these activities have been saved from bankruntcy.

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<u>Reconcricimportance</u>: Since disease is the limiting factor to the successful operation of fur farms and game farms information furnished many of those enterprises has been the means of reducing the losses and enabling the operators to continue on a profitable basis. Individuals and organizations connected with the \$65,000,000 fur production industry in this country as well as the upland game bird producers demonstrate their appreciation of the actual help being furnished in the control of disease in that they annually contribute more than twice the amount appropriated by the Government. Those officials in charge of wild-life preserves frequently have recourse to call on this project for aid in control of losses of birds and animals on protected reservations. The periodic or cyclic disappearance of same over side areas is a highly important feature in wild-life administration. Since these conditions are of interstate extent the various State officials look to this project for authoritative information and advice in controlling wild-life losses.

Estimated annual savings: This project has been established so recently that savings as a result of investigations cannot be stated in dollars and cents. It is conceded by the officials of fur farming organizations and State conservation officials that this work is of incalculable value to raisers of fur animals and game birds and in the conservation of wild life and the preservation of valuable species from complete extinction.

Similar work at State Experiment Stations:

In Minnesota (Adams Act) Dr. W. A. Riley, Dect. of Entomology and Economic Zoology, is engaged with a project entitled "The Animal Paracites of Fur-bearing Animals with Snecial Reference to Those of Mink and Foxes". The Bureau of Biological Survey in conducting studies on the losses of fur animals has a cooperative working agreement with the University of Minnesota and the leader in this project located at that clace utilizes the findings of Dr. Riley in a collaborating manner with no duplication of effort whatever.

In Myoming (Purnell Act) Dr. J. W. Scott and R. F. Honess are engaged with a project entitled "The Investigation of the Langworms of Mammals, Tild and Domestic, in Myoming - I. The Lungworms of Rabbits, Sheep and Other Ungulates in Myoming". The Bureau of Biological Survey in conducting studies on the losses of game concerns itself essentially with the forms of destructive agents responsible for deaths in widescread or epizootic form. Local conditions of parasitism in game species as occur in Myoming are reported to the Bureau by published records and direct correspondence and are used as an adjunct to the Bureau's activities in the control of loss in wild life. There is no overlapping or duplication of effort.

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In Arizona (Purnell Act) Dr. A. A. Nichol in a project entitled "A Study of the Life Histories of Certain Came Animals" is engaged in a study of the parasites and diseases of these animals; and at the same institution Dr. C. T. Vorhies in a project entitled "A Study of the Life History and Ecology of the "ild Turkey" is engaged in a study of the parasites and disease of these birds. The Bureau of Biological Survey through its employee Dr. W. P. Taylor located at the University of Arizona is cooperating with these workers in the exacution of these investigations and no overlapping of endeavor occurs. The work being done by Dr. Taylor, Dr. Kichol, and Dr. Vornies is all part of a coordinated program.

Submitted April, 1933.

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Pitle of oroject: Investigations of wild animal life (distribution, migration, and habits of vilus and animals).

Date bagun: 1885.

- Date completed: The project is a continuing one since needed work is far from completion, and renges and habits of many species are changing under conditions of agricultural occupation and use of the land. Some species have multiplied greatly, some have extended their ranges hundreds of miles within the bast 40 years, and others have been reduced or even exterminated. Changes in abundance and range result in changed relations to agriculture and forestry. Some lines of work, such as biological surveys and life some maps for certain States, have been completed and the results published. The field and laboratory investigations supply information that is constantly required by institutions of the Biological Survey, and the Department of Agriculture, and by other State and Federal Departments.
- Authority: Agricultural appropriation acts "for biological investigations, including the relations, habits, geographic distribution, and migration of animals and plants, and the preparation of maps of the life zones."
- Cost of the work: Allotment for the fiscal year 1933, \$46,190; allotment for the fiscal year 1934, \$44,800.
- Results: Extensive files of data have been accumulated, forming the basis for over SOO published reports and papers, including many nonographs that are the result of extensive studies of groups of birds and mammals of North America, and faunal studies of States or other large areas. This information enables the Biological Survey to blan intelligently undertakings for which it is responsible and to comperate by furnishing information on the above subjects to game commissions, conservation boards, agricultural and livestock associations, universities, agricultural colleges, experiment stations, museums, and other educational institutions.

Biological surveys and life zone maps of several States, including Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Florida, New Mexico, Morth Dakota, Oregon, Tezas, Fashington, and Hyoming, and parts of the Territory of Alaska, have been coumleted, and the results published in whole or in part, in the North American Fauna series and other Department publications, or in cooperation with other Federal or State agencies.

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Studies of gome conditions on Rederal reservations and Estional Forests and investigations of the wild life on National Parks have been mode throughout the United States and Alaska. These include such invortent studies as those of deer on the Kalbab National Forest, Arizona, and in Pennsylvania, the elk of the Jackson Kole region including the hards of the Teton National Forest and the Grand Teton and Yellowstone National Parks, the more invortent wild life of the Yellowstone and Glacier National Parks, the Corlshad Covern, and the Grand Canyon National Park. Subjects of broader scope geographically include the antelone, mountain sheep, and moose, and the relationships of various predatory animals and rodents to the industries of agriculture and stock raising.

In connection with these explorations large collections have been obtained and these, with associated records, are of incalculable scientific value and afford the basis for determining the occurrence and distribution of forms which have highly important relationships to agriculture and forestry.

<u>Sconomic importance</u>: The information obtained has been of great help in the formulation of international treaties and other agreements looking to the protection of valuable species, in the conduct of many educational enterprises involving sound agricultural development and land utilization, and in the determination of administrative policies governing wild life management.

Estimated annual saving: The results are so largely fundamental and educational in character as a basis for wild life management and utilization that it is impossible to evaluate the work in dollars. However, the information obtained regarding the occurrence, habits, and distribution of species and the expert service of the personnel in identification affords an essential basis for guidance in wild life management plane of the Department and concerting agencies.

State experiment stations: A limited amount of such work, more or less local in character, is done by the agricultural experiment stations, but the Biological Survey is generally locked upon as the primary source and clearing house for information in this field.

Submitted April, 1933.

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Title of moject: Investigations of migratory birds.

Date begun: 1916.

- Date completed: The project is a continuing one since the status and habitat conditions of migratory birds, especially game birds, are continually changing, and critical conditions affecting their abundance often necessitate mrompt assembling of reliable and comprehensive information as a basis for effective action by the Department. Severate investigations are completed every year by a survey of meterford conditions in their breeding, migrating, and mintering ranges to secure information required as a basis for issuance by the Department, on expressed of the Predident, of regulations to govern open and closed seasons, bag limits, and other protective measures for waterford, as reaulted by the Figratory Bird Trenty Act of July 3, 1918, encoded to give force to the treaty with Creet Britain for the protection of birds migrating between the United States and Canada.
- iuthority: Annual appropriation acts of the Department of Agriculture, wording in this year's act, "for all necessary expenses for enforcing the pravisions of the Figratory Bird Treaty Act of July 3, 1918. (U. S. C., Title 16, Secs. 703-711), for conversion with local authorities in the protection of migratory birds, and for necessary investigations connected therewith."
- Cost of the work; Allotment for the fiscal year 1933, \$32,800; allotment for the fiscal year 1934, 532 400.
- Resulto: Extended surveys have been made of migratory birds, chiefly in the United States and Canada, and also to a limited extent in Mexico. " wast amount of information has been easembled, and reported cherts, and maps, have been prepared for use in connection with the annual meetings of the Advisory Board, Migretory Bird Treaty Act; for the suidance of administrative officials of the Bureau and of the Department, in working out regulations; and in the educational work of the Bureau with reformer to conservation needs. Many bulletins and articles have been published to make available for public use essential information regarding the sundance of waterfowl, conditions on their breading only wirtering ranges. and showing their migration routes; also the effect of drainage, pollution, drought, poisons, diseases, food shortages, and hunting practices. Knowledge of the flight routes foll we by migratory waterfowl is useful also in selecting areas that are favorably situated for leves ou purchase, or establishment on Executive Order, as refuges, and in withdrawing marginal or other land or water areas from agricultural use for waterfowl canctuaries. Recommendations have been made as to modification of the protected status of birds in view of their relation to agricultural each other interests. Then field investigation has shown damage to be serious recommendations have been made for orders of the Secretary permitting reduction of the numbers of the species concerned under suitable restrictions. Such changes so far have affected chiefly robins in fruit-growing ration and fish-eating birds in numerous localities.

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Reconomic importance: The migratory birds constitute a most important economic and recreational asset. Reliable and comprohensive information regarding their abundance and migratory movements 12 Basential as a basis for proper guidance in conservation measures and in effecting cooperation with conservation departments of the States in formulating and putting into effect protective regulations and laws needed to concerve and properly utilize one of our valuable natural resources and to fulfill our obligations under the provisions of the Treaty with Great Britain for the protection of birds migrating between the United States and Canada. The work serves to conserve and protect a natural resource that has important relations to agriculture and forestry and one that supports large investments in recreational facilities, and in the manufacture of supplies and equipment, and that provide large financial returns to land and marsh owners, guides, and others, for services rendered sportsmon ongaged in hunting. State revenues derived from the sale of hunting licenses total between six and seven million dollars amually. In the Report to the United States Senate, of the Special Committee on Conservation of Wild Life Resources (Report 1329), dated January 21, 1931, attention was directed to figures showing that the value of sporting firearns sold to the public during the year 1929 emounted to \$21,970,367, and the value of emmunition was \$43,779,020, and that, including cost of equipment, transportation, wear and tear on automobiles going to and from shooting grounds, the total expenditure of the citizene of the United States in their quest for outdoor recreation in shooting and fishing elone during 1929 would doubtless amount to fully three-quarters of a billion dollars. A large part of this expenditure would be for waterfowl shooting.

Entimated annual saving: It is very difficult to evaluate the saving, as the work is concerned primarily with concervation and use of an important nutural resource. However, on the basis of normal values there is an estimated saving of '50,000 annually on crop losses; the protection of city mater subplies, and the safeguarding of evision fields, through permits to control Federally protected birds, are vital services but difficult to estimate in money values. The interest in this project of sportsmen, conservationists, and students of birds, is such that the Bureau receives cooperative services the value of which is estimated conservatively at \$150,000 annually.

State Experiment Stations: There is no duplication but some assistance is rendered by members of egricultural college and experiment station staffs through furnishing information and operating local trapping stations to mark birds for record in tracing migration routes.

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Title of project: Research in forest wild life.

Date begun: July 1, 1929.

- Date completed: The project is a continuing one since the act approved May 23, 1928 contemplates graduated increases in empropriations for this work over a period of 10 years and continuance thereafter as may be necessary of studies to determine the beneficial and harmful relationships of mammals, birds, and other vertebrate animals, to forest production.
- Authority: Agricultural appropriation acts, "for investigations of the relations of wild animal life to forests, under Section 5, of the Act, approved May 22, 1928. (U. S. C., Supp. V. Title 16, Sec. 501d).
- Cost of the work: Allotment for the fiscal year 1933, \$18,900; allotment for the fiscal year 1934, \$16,000.
- Resulte: Trained naturalists are now assigned to this work in four forest experiment station districts. Important collections of birds, mammals, and other scientific specimens have been secured as a basis for exact knowledge of species present, and as a result of detailed studies under natural field conditions and on experimental plots where control and check conditions are maintained a great many pertinent facts have been recorded regarding the life history, habits, abundance, and relations of the animal population to natural growth, to planted seeds and seedlings, and to forse production on forest grazing lands. Data have been obtained regarding the effects of burning practices and forest fires on various kinds of birds and manuals, and the effect of soil working by burrowing animals on coil fertility, erosion, and crop production. Many public addresses have been given relative to the work, some of which, along with other papers, have been published. Counsel has been given relative to forest and wild life management practices. As an example of ghat may be done to develop the potential value of a fur animal a colony of beavers have been planted on the Plagah National Forest to demonstrate methods of increasing fur production and the value of their activities in storage of water, the checking of run-off, and erosion, and improvement of conditions for fich production.
- Economic importance: The wild life of a forested area is of vast importance as a productive asset. The influence of birds, namuals, and other vertebrates, is very great, either for good or ill, as regards the control of insects, rodents, and other injurious species, actual injury to growing plants, and the consumption, distribution, and planting of the seeds of forest trees and shrobs. Investigations have already shown that the local wild life population is a definitely limiting factor in the planting of seeds and seedlings and in other silvicultural practices.

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- Estimated annual saving: The rabidly increasing interest and activity in the natural production of valuable species of game and fur-bearing minuls on forested lands has been stimulated, guided, and developed, through the dissemination and paliction of results accomplished under this project. Improved mlanting methods or vent destruction of mlanted seeds of forest trees and provides a basic for natural or artificial prevention of damage to growing trees and for maximum production of came and fur-bearers by use of otherwise wasts food products.
- State: In Arizona and Minnesota the work is conducted in convertion with a limited amount of relate: work by experiment station workers, the undertakings being coordinated to avoid duplication and to effect a well balance: program of investigation of wild life problems.

Title of project: Muskox investigations.

Date begun: July 1, 1930.

Date completed: Investigations are conducted at the Bursau's Experiment Station at College, Lasks, to carry the young animals brought from Oreenland to breeding age, to afford them required protection until established, and to determine practical means of management in their development as an important game or domesticated resource, and to what extent it is practicable to employ them as a means of utilizing forage resources. Eventually these entrals will be taken to the northern port of Laska to establish themselves.

authority: Agricultural a propriation gets for the fiscal year 1931, and succeeding years.

- Cost of the work: 340,000 was appropriated for use during the fiscal year 1931, in securing and establishing these enimals in plasks. The allotmant for the fiscal year 1933 for their maintenance, care, and study 311,520; the allotment for the fiscal year 1934 is \$7,820.
- Result: Thirty-four muskowen were secured in Greenland during the summer of 1930, and were successfully transported and established at the Experiment Station at College, Elneka. Five of these animels have been lost by accident, disease, and medatory animals since that time. The remaining twentynine enimals are in excellent condition and have used a most satisfactory growth. They are proving to be more readily handled and managed than reindeer. For the most wart the animals are handled in large pastures under fonce for protection, but are correled as required for closer examination and other purposes. Beeding experiments have been conducted in cooperation with the Bureau of Animal Industry to determine the extent to which these minule can utilize the native forage and food products red sod on Alacka farms. One article in the Department yearbook and a few other papers these eximals.
- Economic importance: Muckoxen were exterminated shortly before European occupation of the Corritory, and the present effort is to restore them as one of its attractions and productive resources.
- Estimated annual saving: Establishment of muskowen in Alaska is a productive undertaking deal and be establish another important meat producing an imal adapted to production in this rigorous elimite and to utilize profitably the native forage.

Similar work at State Experiment Stations: No similar work is conducted at State Experiment Station

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Title of project: Reindoer investigations.

Date begun: 1920.

- Date completed: The investigations are still in progress as much remains to be done through breading, feeding, and management experiments, and the investigation of forage resources as a basic for the allotment of grazing lands to herd owners, and management practices essential to success with these animals and maintenance of a sustained yield of forage.
- iuthority: Agricultural appropriation act for 1921, and subsequent years, "for investigations experiments and demonstrations in the stablishment, improvement, and increase, of the reindeer in Alecke "
- Cost of the work: The allotment for the fiscal year 1935, 519,170; allotment for ficanl year 1934 316,370.
- Recults: Necessary buildings have been constructed and equipped, and 8,559 acres of land have been provided and fenced for the Experiment Station, with 25 miles of fance erected for corral and pasturage purposes. A deep well has been drilled and equipped, and other improvements mode.

Investigations have been conducted at many points throughout the coastal and interior regions of Alaska, and at the Maindeer Experiment Station at College, Alaska, in cooperation with the Alaska College of agriculture & School of Mines. These show the character and suitability of the various areas for reindeer production, their carrying capacity, and the grazing conditions under which sustained yield can be maintained. Extended experiments have been conducted in working out the triation feeding, hendling, and memperant practices. Argeriments in cross-breeding reindeer with caribou have been conducted successfully with a herd established on Munivak Island and on a sore findled scale at the Experiment Station. Crossbred enhands have been developed which reproduce readily and average about fifty counds greater in weight, and which have better conformation For meet readduction purposes than either of the parent forma.

A closs and important advicery relationship has been maintained with the Department of the Esterior, including officials of the Corritory of Alaska, and reindeer evenes.

The following publications have been issued by the Department: Department Bulletin Do. 1000, Seindeer in Aleska; Department Bull tin Mo. 1423, Progress of Reindeer Grazing It's figurines in Aleska; Department Diruler No. 92, Improved Reindeer Handling. Two manuscripts entitled "Inici-Reindeer in Aleska" and "Progress of Reindeer-Coribou Cross-Greeding Exactions to Harina Jeld", Aleska", have been submitted for publication, and several other remarks of more nopulated references have been sublished in cutside periodicals.

Sconwic importance: The rabidly increasing herds of reindeer present new and pressing woll affect the animals themselves, the conservation of the grazing ranges, and the sconwic and welfare of the native and white population of Alas's. Investigations of the Piclogic 1 (1990)

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Economic importance (cont'd.)

eiding both untive and white owners to cove with the diseases and parasites of reindeer, to adopt improved methods of herding and range management in utilization of the vest forage resources of the Territory, and to improve the quality of the animals for meat production purposes by proper care and selective breeding.

Estimated annual saving: This is a constructive project designed to improve and increase reindeer production and to utilize profitably the enormous annual forage growth of plasks. The importance of the industry as a basis for the conomic and social development of the Territory fully warrents its continuance. Foreover, deaths and suffering in the herds are being lessened as berbarous methods of branding and castration at roundup times are being supplement by modern practices and the insuguration of sanitary methods results in better quality meat products. Improved practices in herding and utilization of the grazing press conserves the slow-growing lichen and other forage.

Similar work at State Ameriment Stations: No similar work is conducted at State Experiment Stations.

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Title of project: Commercial fur Production.

Drite bogun: 1931.

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- Date completed: This project although not completed will be discontinued art r 1933 as funds for its maintenance were cut out of the 19 4 appropriation act.
- Authority: Agricultural Appropriation Act under item in the appropriation for the Eureau of Biological Burvey "For investigations, experiments, demonstrations, and cooperation in connection with the production and utilization of fur-bearing animals raised for meat and fur, in the United States and Alaska.
- Cost of work: Cooperative aroject. Biological Survey, 61,500 annually; University of Paryland, 11,000 ensually; and Conservation Department of Paryland, \$1,200 annually.
- Results: On January 1', 19'S, the Bureau antered into a cooperative agreement with the National Association of the Fur Industry for the purpose of establishing an organized system for collecting and film information on the distribution and conservation of flur mimals of North America; laws for their protection; and on mucual market offerings of polts. The results of this varianization prolished in the 1925 yearbook of the association. On October 5, 1930, the Bureau entered into a cooperative agreement with the University of Maryland and the Maryland Conservation Department for the purpose of enducting experiments with muskrate under natural and controlled conditions in the State of Maryland. During the past two years valuable information has been obtained on raising muskrates in pens. Studies were also made of the food preferences of muskrate in captivity and data has been obtained regarding their breeding holts. Considerable data has been added to our files on the numbers and kinds of fur animals taken annually in the various States and the Territory of Alleba . It requires constant attention to keep these files up-to-date, but the State Game Commissions are berianing to realize the value of these statistics and many more of them are keeping date on the arrow
- Economic importance: Now fast the fur animals are being depleted is not known. The numbers and origin of fur animals trapped annually in the United States is not available. Financially alone this lack of definite information has been highly detrimental to those engaged in the fur industry. For unwarranted and unnecessary expansion and contraction of bank credits result when by it estimated likeking. With the importance of the fur industry not generally appreciated because of the loc of statistical background, uncertainty and indequacy of support unovail. The need for a complete study of our fur resources and for assembling, filing, charting, and interpreting tatistical has formation of value to concernationists and to fur tradearan is felt universely.
- Estimated ennual saving: Beavers are no longer available in commercial quantities and it is they now occur prohibit their boing trapped. Fartens and fishers are now extinct in use is former range. A keeper appreciation of conditions would be possible if the work user the

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Setimated ann.el saving (cont'd.)

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could be expanded instead of discontinued; it would have the result that a greatly increased quality of welts with fur of superior quality would reach the markets, thus increasing the financial result to the transfers and at the same time allowing increased numbers of breaders to remain in the covert

Similar work at State Erneriment Stations: No similar work is being conducted at State Freedment

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