

SUMMARIES OF RESEARCH PROJECTS CARRIED OUT IN 1957

A Study of Social Behavior Patterns in Moose of Wyoming

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Project Number 77

In the framework of a long range comparative study of social behavior in free-living wild ungulates, the Wyoming moose, Alces alces shirasi, is being investigated. This study follows similar methods as our study of Wapiti behavior.

Behavior patterns of the moose and their changes at different seasons, ages, sex and habitat types are analyzed. The reactivity of the moose to disturbances is used as a testing device. These reactions reveal behavior not detectable under normal conditions and will supplement the previous factual data on moose behavior. In particular, the phenomena of aggression, yielding and evasion will provide information as yet untapped. The selected areas of study in Grand Teton National Park and in the adjoining U.S. Forest Service wilderness district are unique in moose population and lend themselves especially well for this study since moose habitats with and without "disturbance" factors are within easy reach.

It is expected that the results of this study will not only yield theoretical facts on group behavior but will provide some useful answers to questions of practical wildlife management as well.

As has been pointed out in our earlier Wapiti publication, our work on moose behavior is greatly benefited by the lively interest and friendly cooperation of the National Park Service personnel. To share the information and the results of our study with them seems a pleasant task.

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Ecology and Behavior of the Yellow-bellied Marmot (Marmota flaviventris)

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Project Number 82

The adult population increased from ten in August 1956 to 14 in June 1957. During the summer of 1957 there was some fluctuation in numbers as three yearlings left the colony, but would reappear from time to time. It was possible to identify all the adults as to sex except one. All were females except the unidentified one. This same animal has been observed for three years and is believed from certain behavioral characteristics to be a male. There were five litters of young with a total population of twenty-five. There were sixteen females and nine males.