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Investigation of Wildlife in the Pilgrim Creek-Hermitage Point Area,
Grand Teton National Park, Wyoming

Kenneth L. Diem
University of Wyoming
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Increased utilization of our national parks by the public has resulted in the expansion of existing facilities and construction of new developments under Mission 66. The effect of carrying out such a program on some of the basic objectives established with the founding of the national park system are in need of study. Construction of automobile access roads, boating facilities, horse trails, etc. have an impact on scenery, the plant life and the animal life which was to be preserved under the national park system. Consequently a study was initiated on the Pilgrim Creek-Hermitage Point area of Grand Teton National Park.

This area encloses approximately 5,200 acres and is unique for both the fauna and flora found there. No other place in Grand Teton National Park is comparable to it. The unique environmental characteristics of the area have favored the largest concentration of avian and mammalian species within the confines of the park. The 1959 aerial trumpeter swan census dictates that 58 percent of all trumpeter swans, Olor buccinator, found in Grand Teton National Park are found in this area. Also, the following are but a few of the species of animals which resided within or used part of this area for extended periods during this study in the summer of 1959: 600 plus Canadian geese, Branta canadensis; 18 sandhill cranes, Grus canadensis; and an estimated 30-40 moose, Alces alces shirasi, 50-60 elk, Cervus canadensis, and 2-4 black bear, Euarctos americanus.

Information was gathered in this study for the purpose of accurately evaluating the resources and potential of this Pilgrim Creek-Hermitage Point area as a wild area. This included investigation and evaluation of the various real and potential land use developments affecting the welfare of these animal and plant resources.

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