SUMMARIES OF RESEARCH PROJECTS CARRIED OUT IN 1961

The Social Role of the Aging Ungulate

Margaret Altmann
University of Colorado
Project Number 77

Observations were continued on bison, elk, and moose. Some criteria used for recognition of the aged animals are body build and head type and carriage, duration of rest periods, speed and flexibility in rising up, participation in species interaction, position in relation to species group during rut, and rate of grazing. A report of the behavior of the aged animals of these three species will be forthcoming at a later date after data collected has been analyzed.

Assisted by John Milton, University of Michigan.
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Ecology and Behavior of the Yellow-bellied Marmot

Kenneth B. Armitage
University of Kansas
Project Number 82

Reproductive behavior was studied from April 25 until June 1. One male and five females were present. Mating was completed about two weeks after the first animal emerged from hibernation. Another male that appeared was chased away by the resident male. Antagonistic behavior among females was high. One especially antagonistic female caused two other adult females to leave the colony. These two females traveled between the colony and a nearby area all summer.

Further information was obtained on the establishing of dominance-submissiveness relationships among the young. The population of young was the lowest of the four years of the study. The yearlings were more numerous and the adults less numerous than in other years. Data on movements of all age categories were obtained and will be compared with similar data from other seasons to determine if a relationship between population density and movement exists.

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