

"THE GREATER SANDHILL CRANE IN SOUTHEASTERN IDAHO AND ADJACENT AREAS"

By: Russell Hoffman, Bureau of Sport Fisheries
and Wildlife

The greater sandhill crane, considered a rare species, occurs in southeastern Idaho, northeastern Utah, western Wyoming and southwestern Montana. Greater sandhills migrate and distribute within this mountain country to nest in desirable places in late March and early April. Nesting sites always are associated with water--usually islands or peninsulas. Southern movement begins in early October. Concentrations vary according to seasons. Migrations are usually spectacular, particularly in fall.

Wildlife refuges provide habitat important in sustaining this species. Family ties are strong and survival is good. Problems result from these concentrations by depredations to cereal grains and other crops, particularly in southeastern Idaho.

Production figures and age ratios are available for refuge areas. Discussion includes some habits and population numbers of the greater sandhill crane.

"BEHAVIOR AND SOCIALIZATION OF PRONGHORN FAWNS"

By: Robert Autenrieth, Idaho Fish and Game
Department

The behavior and socialization of free-ranging pronghorn fawns were studied in the Upper Pahsimeroi Valley near Mackay, Idaho, from May 25 to September 24, 1965.

Parturition and early mother-young interactions were observed. A social bond between the doe and fawns is established within a few hours after birth. The onset and rate of socialization depend upon the maturation of the young at birth. In this respect, pronghorn fawns are relatively advanced when compared with other species.

The early responses of pronghorn fawns are generalized, uncoordinated and feeble. Strengthening of early responses occurs when the response made to a particular stimulus is successful. Fawns quickly developed the capacity for distinguishing other pronghorns from other species. Social independence increased as a result of maturation and learning experience.

2nd Technical Session

Radio-Tracking Miniworkshop:

"CONSTRUCTION OF RADIO TRANSMITTERS AND RADIO-TRACKING WITH WHITE-TAILED DEER."

By: V. W. Howard, Idaho Cooperative Wildlife
Research Unit

Radio transmitter packages weighing approximately 1.5 pounds were successfully constructed, water-proofed and attached to white-tailed deer.

Wire loop antennae produced slightly stronger signals while copper band antennae were more directional.

Transmitter packages with 14,000 MAH batteries performed well for 100 days or longer.

Transmitters had little or no adverse physical effect on white-tailed deer.

A large, directional quadrangular antenna greatly increased the performance of small portable receivers.

Radio-tracking was an effective method for determining many of the behavioral activities of white-tailed deer in northern Idaho.

"RADIO-TRACKING THE SAGE GROUSE."

By: John Mooney, Idaho Fish and Game Department

This is a short discussion of the general requirements of a radio-tracking system for birds, along with a description and demonstration of Markusen equipment. In 1968, three sage grouse hens were outfitted and followed for approximately five weeks. Each hen behaved differently from the others. Two of the hens did not attempt to nest. The third was assumed to have tried, but deserted, although the nest was not found.

Although preliminary, evidence was given to support the following hypotheses: (1) that breeding may not necessarily take place on the strutting ground, but may occur in the vicinity; (2) that breeding may take place prior to dawn; (3) that not all hens even make an attempt to nest.

"RADIO-TRACKING WITH BIGHORN SHEEP AND JACKRABBITS"

By: James Morgan, Idaho Fish and Game Department

This is a discussion of techniques and demonstration of equipment used in radio-tracking bighorn sheep and jackrabbits on research studies in southern Idaho.

"BURNING SERAL BRUSH RANGES FOR BIG GAME IN NORTHERN IDAHO"

By: Thomas Leege, Idaho Fish and Game Department

Large wildfires in the early 1900's created thousands of acres of browse-laden winter ranges where conifers formerly dominated in northern Idaho and adjacent areas in Montana and Washington. Big game multiplied and thrived until natural plant succession reduced carrying capacity. A cooperative state-federal research project began investigating the use of prescribed burning to retard succession on winter ranges in 1965. Results have been encouraging as tall shrubs provided abundant sprouts within browsing reach and numerous redstem ceanothus seedlings invaded the burns. Browse palatability and nutrients were increased in the new growth which followed the burning treatments. Erosion has been minimal because of the soil being moist when burning was done. The use of prescribed burning as a range rehabilitation technique is being accepted, and burning acreages have increased from 1,016 in 1965 to 4,652 in 1968. The goal is 7,700 acres for 1969.

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PROGRAM

REGISTRATION

8:00 a.m.

January 25, 1969

9:00 - 9:10

Opening of Session

9:10 - 10:30

PANEL DISCUSSION

Impact of the Wild & Scenic
Rivers Act on Idaho."

Discussion Leader: Elwood Bizeau,
Idaho Cooperative Wildlife
Research Unit

"What is in the Act?" by Bruce
Bowler, Attorney

"Implementation of the Act" by
Richard Harris, U.S. Forest
Service

"Possible Effects of the Act on
Idaho Water Resource Planning"
by Dr. Robert Lee
Idaho Water Resources Board

10:30 - 10:50

COFFEE BREAK

10:50 - 11:30

"Effects of the Act on Wildlife &
Recreation" by Dr. Maurice
Hornocker, Idaho
Cooperative Wildlife Research
Unit

1st Technical Session

Chairman: Thomas Leege, Idaho Fish
& Game Department

11:30 - 11:55

"The Dworshak Reservoir Story" by
Liven Peterson, Bureau of Sport
Fisheries and Wildlife

11:55 - 1:40

LUNCHEON MEETING

1:40 - 2:05

"Deer Winter Range Rehabilitation
Research in Southern Idaho." by
Dean Medin, U.S. Forest Service

2:05 - 2:30

"Who Needs Management?" by Levi
Mohler, Idaho Fish & Game Dept.

2:30 - 2:55

"The Greater Sandhill Crane in
Southeastern Idaho & Adjacent Areas"
by Russell Hoffman, Bureau of
Sport Fisheries and Wildlife

2:55 - 3:20

"Behavior and Socialization of
Pronghorn Fawns" by Robert
Autenrieth, Idaho Fish and
Game Department

3:20 - 3:40

COFFEE BREAK

2nd Technical Session

Chairman: Edward Tilzey,
Bureau of Land Management

3:40 - 4:40

Radio Tracking Miniworkshop

"Radio Tracking with Deer" by
V. W. Howard, Idaho Cooperative
Wildlife Research Unit

"Radio Tracking with Sagegrouse"
by John Mooney, Idaho Fish &
Game Department

"Radio Tracking with Bighorns &
Rabbits" by James Morgan, Idaho
Fish & Game Department

4:40 - 5:05

"Burning Seral Brush Ranges for
Big Game in Northern Idaho" by
Tom Leege, Idaho Fish & Game
Department

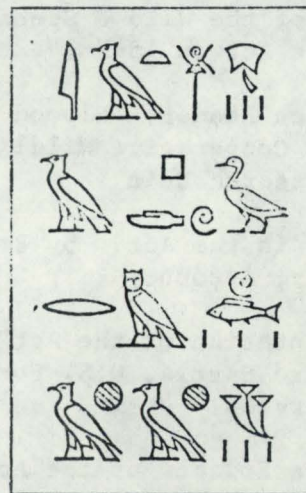
5:05

CONFERENCE APPRAISAL

Dr. Richard Knight
University of Idaho

IDAHO
LAND AND WILDLIFE
CONSERVATION
IN ACTION

1st Annual Winter Meeting
The Wildlife Society



IDAHO CHAPTER

Idaho Fish and Game Department
600 South Walnut St.
Boise, Idaho

January 25, 1969