



The 109-page report covers some 75 specific wildlife-pesticide studies and investigations, ranging from effects on plankton and oyster shell growth to pelicans, bald eagles, and mammals. The report also describes several new pesticide research techniques developed by Fish and Wildlife Service scientists.

Among the studies described in the report is a project to learn the effects of several kinds of bacteria on chlorinated hydrocarbons (DDT and related products) in water. The study showed that several bacteria appreciably reduced the concentrations of DDT in the water in 7 to 16 days--thereby suggesting the possibility that bacteria might be used to alter the toxicity level of certain pesticides so that hazards to fish could be reduced.

In a cooperative study with the National Audubon Society seeking to explain the apparent decline of the Nation's bald eagle population--in hopes of preventing extinction of the majestic national bird--investigators reported that only 3,807 bald eagles were found in a January 1962 survey that included all States except Alaska. The survey also disclosed a marked lack of breeding success in coastal areas--a fact that has led some people to suspect that these areas, which are frequently treated for mosquito control, are producing contaminated fish that make up a large part of the eagles' diet. Research is now directed at finding out the effects of DDT on eagle reproduction.

Copies of the pesticide report (Circular 167) are available from the Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, Washington, D. C. 20240.

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