

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

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FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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RESULTS OF PESTICIDE-WILDLIFE STUDIES REPORTED IN
INTERIOR DEPARTMENT'S ANNUAL REPORT

Significant results from research on pesticide-wildlife relations are reported by the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife in the Department of the Interior's Annual Report for 1963.

A large portion of the research is being done at the Biochemistry-Wildlife Pathology Laboratory at Patuxent, Maryland, the first Federal installation constructed specifically for studies on the effects of pesticides upon wildlife.

Tests at Patuxent showed that reproductive rates in pheasants, quail, and mallard ducks are lowered by some pesticides in their food supply. Far less than lethal quantities of certain pesticides markedly inhibited reproduction and caused increased mortality of these game birds, according to the report.

The chronic effects of pesticides on fish also are under study at other laboratories of the Department's Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife. Of special concern are the effects of pesticides on future generations of fishes.

According to the report, evidence is increasing that pesticides used in wide-scale pest control are concentrated in sump areas by runoff and irrigation water. Pelicans and other fish-eating birds have been poisoned on the Tule Lake National Wildlife Refuge in California.

The report discusses the seriousness of the accumulation of pesticide toxins in living animals. Ducks, geese, bald eagles, deer, fish, and other wildlife species are known to hold pesticide residues in their body tissues. Following forest spraying with DDT in Montana, Colorado, and New Mexico, some mule deer killed by hunters showed pesticide residues in the meat.

Other developments reported by the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife were the authorization of nine new waterfowl refuges, and the addition of 22,857 acres to eight existing national wildlife refuges; and the approval of construction of recreation and other facilities on 18 refuges, under the Accelerated Public Works Program.

During fiscal 1963, Secretary of the Interior Stewart L. Udall was authorized by Congress to develop and manage national wildlife refuges, game ranges, national fish hatcheries, and other conservation areas for appropriate or secondary public recreation use, where that use would not interfere with the primary purpose of the area.

Several new national fish hatcheries were built or further developed during the year.

The National Fisheries Center and Aquarium was authorized by Congress in October 1962. This center, to be located in Washington, D. C., will have facilities for research in fisheries and for display of fresh water and marine animals and fishes. Cost of building and maintaining the Center will be repaid from visitor and user fees.

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