

HOT SPRINGS NATIONAL PARK

Listing of the Comments on IPM from the
Superintendent's Monthly and Annual ReportsFY Ended 6/1/1878

"Early in June, in consequence of the spread of yellow fever throughout the Southern States, I deemed it important toward preventing sickness here, that that portion of Hot Springs Creek running through the reservation should be thoroughly cleared out, so as to give the water a clear and swift passage. This I did with your approbation, at a cost of seventy-five dollars."

July 1915

"During the present summer trees and shrubbery in this section of the country have been heavily infested and damaged by caterpillars. To eradicate them on the Reservation, the Reservation was carefully and thoroughly gone over and caterpillars and nests destroyed by burning off with oil torches, thereby preserving many valuable and sightly trees and shrubs that otherwise would probably have been destroyed."

April 1919

"Web worms made their appearance on trees on Hot Springs Mountain. These were burned out for the protection of the trees."

14th "burned web worms from trees on Hot Springs Mountain" (maint. report)

April 1920

"During the month caterpillars made their appearance on the trees on Hot Springs Mountain. Prompt steps were taken to eradicate them by burning them out."

19th "Burned caterpillars from trees on Hot Springs Mountain" (maint. report)

July 1922

"Caterpillars, which were damaging trees in the Park, were burned out to prevent further damage."

July 1923

"During the latter part of the month two laborers were detailed to burning caterpillar worms from the trees in the park. These worms spread very quickly, and do a great deal of harm to the trees."

August 1923

"Caterpillar worms were burned from trees in the park."

April 1925

"Holes in magnolia, elms, etc. were cemented to prevent decay of the trees. Mosquito control work, by tiling and draining, was done in the gravel pit on Whittington Avenue."

FY Ended 6/30/1925

"Mosquito control work has been carried on in all parts of the park where they might have a tendency to breed. Particular care was taken to keep the public camp site free from mosquitoes."

December 1931

"On the mountains dead timber liable to cause disease of other trees was carefully removed."

January 1932

"Dead timber liable to cause disease of other trees was carefully removed from the mountains. Several permits to indigent persons to collect this timber for firewood were issued."

May 1932

"Several short leaf pines have been found to be infested with bark beetles and the trees have accordingly been cut down and the bark burned."

September 1933

"Park maintenance crews have spent several days during the month in burning out caterpillars on hickory trees throughout the park. There has been no major infestation of these insects."

October 1933

"Annual reports were submitted to the Berkeley office showing that no serious insect infestations are present in Hot Springs National Park at the present time."

April 1934

"The presence of so many semi-wild house cats in the park has made it necessary that some method of eliminating them in order to protect our bird life be used and also protect small ground animals. For this purpose a 410 shotgun has been purchased and we expect gradually to remedy the situation. Mostly these cats belong to no one and are of no value but are a distinct nuisance in our woods."

July 1934

"For the first time in years there is an infestation of caterpillars on the park trees, especially on those trees bordering roads and trails, and a large amount of time has been spent by maintenance crews throughout the park in controlling this infestation. These caterpillars are not the type which kill the tree but rather act to defoliate it during the year of the attack. By trimming and burning the trimmings, we have been able to keep the park forests in good condition and in their usual fine appearance."

Nature Notes for September 1934

"Monkey Business"

"Early in September, Jerry, a large Rhesus monkey belonging to the Happy Hollow Zoo, escaped from his cage, taking refuge in the adjacent wooded slopes of North Mountain. On September 9, employees of the zoo located Jerry asleep in an oak tree high up the side of the mountain. To facilitate the capture of the animal, the owners called upon the Hot Springs city police department for the use of its tear gas equipment. Accompanied by Rangers Wilson, Weldon, and Gregg, a squad of policemen headed by Captain Arch Cooper started up the mountain."

"Before Captain Cooper, who was bringing up the rear, being handicapped dually by the tear gas gun and surplus human poundage, reached the spot, the noise made by the others in the party awakened the monkey. After a moment of hesitant maneuvers, Jerry made about four leaps and was on the ground, moving with the speed of a whipper out of range of the tear gun, making good his escape."

"Hunting dogs of various stripe have treed squirrels, o'possums, rabbits, chipmunks, or perhaps lizards, but the monkey has defied their best efforts to re-locate it. Thus, as far as is known, Hot Springs enjoys the doubtful distinction of being the only National Park inhabited by a representative of the monkey family."

October 1934

"To date the program for eradication of stray housecats in the park has borne substantial results through the use of the .410 gauge shotgun purchased for that purpose. Twenty cats have been accounted for by the police force and 17 have been killed in the auto camp by the caretaker, a total of 37. Accepting Chapman's figures of 50 birds per cat per year, this campaign so far has assured the continued existence of 1850 birds that otherwise might have become victims of the cats."

May 1935

"A blight of the leaves of the winged elm trees in the park during the month has been quite widespread, but so far no great damage is visible. Scale insects in considerable numbers have been found upon some of these elms."

February 1936

"The elimination of stray dogs and cats has been carried on. One cat was killed on the park, and at the Transient Camp, adjacent to the park, seventeen dogs and one diseased goat were disposed of."

March 1936

"Tent caterpillar infestation of the wild cherries in the park has been noticed in increasing frequency, and it may require some control measures within the next week. The Itinerant Tree Crew, under Mr. Baker, spent most of the month here doing surgical and insect damage correction work on trees in the park."

April 1936

"There has been no serious increase in the prevalence of tent caterpillar infestation of wild cherry and persimmon trees within the park, but this situation is being kept under observation."

"A scale, noticed last spring on the winged elm in the park, appeared pretty generally upon these trees again this month, and while it apparently has done little to harm the hosts, it might be well to have determination of the pest made, and any steps necessary taken to prevent incipient menaces to the elms."

November 1937

"One house cat was destroyed on park property."

August 1938

"Ragweed (Ambrosia), which has sprung up during the current growing season along the road sides of West Mountain's road system, has been destroyed, since such vegetation is not native to the mountain and prevalence of such foreign pollen-bearing weeds would, undoubtedly, cause visitors allergic to such pollen to suffer from hay fever, etc."

"Two house cats were destroyed in the park."

October 1938

"Two mountain lions escaped from a local zoo and were at large in the mountains of the park for several days. The semi-tame lions did not like the thick woods, but preferred the open trails and roads. When it was apparent that the animals were a menace to persons in the park, a hunt was organized. One of the lions was shot by Ranger Lindahl and the other was later killed outside of the park area."

March 1939

"By the use of the CCC detail, a small insect control project was initiated and completed, requiring the cutting of approximately fifty pines for the control of the infestation of ips on West Mountain."

"Mild infestation of beetles (Ips) occurred in pine trees of several small areas in the park. On March 1, Mr. L.F. Cook, Assistant Chief, Branch of Forestry, and Mr. W.W. Yeager, Acting Regional Forester of Region III, who were visiting the park in connection with the second annual Fire Control School conducted here by Mr. Jack Barrows, Acting Chief Forester, were assisted in making a survey of these infested areas by Ranger J.C. Lindahl. Subsequently, Ranger Lindahl supervised removal of the infested trees. Specimens of the beetles obtained by Lindahl were forwarded to the Regional Forester for identification."

May 1939

"A survey of the tick infestation on the estate of Harvey C. Couch was made and control measures sought through correspondence with various authorities."

FY Ended 6/30/1939

"A mild infestation by beetles (Ips) occurred in the pines on West Mountain in March (surveyed by Ranger Lindahl, with Assistant Chief L.F. Cook, Acting Regional Forester Yeager and Acting Chief Forester Barrows assisting). Control measures, consisting of cutting, peeling, and burning of infested trees, were carried out by a CCC crew under supervision of a park ranger."

January 1940

"Two predatory cats destroyed by park rangers."

February 1940

"Two predatory cats destroyed on the park property by rangers."

April 1940

"Three predatory cats have been destroyed by rangers on patrol within the park."

January 1951

"Nine cats were eliminated, one dog taken to the Animal Shelter, and several other dogs chased outside park."

February 1951

"Four dogs and one cat were disposed of during the month - all of the dogs being turned over to the local Humane Society."

April 1951

"Four cats were killed, and one dog removed from the park. Owners of two other dogs, found annoying wildlife, were advised concerning eventual disposition of these animals if they were not kept on leash or out of the park."

May 1951

"A total of ten feral house cats were killed, five dogs removed to Hot Springs Humane Society property, and several other dogs chased out of the park - in the Arlington Lawn and Bath House Row sections."

June 1951

"Three dogs removed from the park were turned over to the Hot Springs Humane Society for disposition; nine feral cats were killed; a total of 73 pigeons were killed on the Promenade after complaints from visitors indicated that some action was desirable, and 24 others were wounded badly enough that it is believed they died later. The last week of the month only an occasional pigeon could be seen in this section of the park."

July 1951

"Six cats were killed, as was one sick dog found in the campground; one other dog was turned over to the Humane Society. A four-foot specimen of an alligator in the bed of Whittington Creek was captured. From newspaper reports it appears this individual may have been one escaped from a carnival two years ago."

August 1951

"The dry weather has caused elms, oaks, and hickorys to turn early and lose leaves. We have watched diligently for oak wilt which is reported to be prevalent in the state but to date nothing positive has been found. Caterpillars have been trimmed from the roadways where they were unsightly, but there has been no epidemic of them this year."

September 1951

"No insect control work was done this month other than cutting the few scattered caterpillar webs that occurred and were unsightly along roads."

October 1951

"No insect control was necessary in October."

November 1951

"No new insect infestations or tree diseases were noted. A report received from Dr. T.W. Bretz, Pathologist of the Bureau of Plant Industry, U.S. Department of Agriculture at Columbia, Missouri, indicated that leaf specimens sent to him for testing revealed no evidences of oak wilt. A rather widespread blighting of leaves in this area caused some apprehension, as oak wilt has been prevalent in this section during the past year."

December 1951

"No insect infestations were reported this month."

"Several stray cats were killed along with a number of common pigeons that have become a nuisance along the promenade in the park. Stray dogs that could be caught were turned over to the Humane Society."

1951 Annual Animal Census Report

"The new housing project of fifty new homes recently built one-half mile northeast of the park and numerous new structures built elsewhere around the park boundary, have not helped wildlife in the area. These new residents have brought in pet dogs and cats that soon learn to prey on wildlife. Another factor noted is that people are prone to feed squirrels and birds around their home, which is unnatural. The wildlife becomes partially domesticated, and ceases to fear predators, including man, and many are killed by automobiles while crossing roads or city streets. More gray squirrels are lost this way than any other wildlife."

"Rangers have done an excellent job of eliminating dogs and cats from the park. In most cases they were able to get the dogs to the Humane Shelter, but it was necessary to kill several strays that could not be caught. In the case of cats, it was necessary to destroy most all of them, as they work at night. There were 55 cats killed, and 19 dogs either taken to the Humane Shelter or destroyed to date this year."

"Many times predation continues as rangers are very careful not to shoot an animal in an area getting heavy public use due to the hazard to human safety; also it has been noted that some people resent killing of dogs and cats, even though they destroy park wildlife. In every case possible, the owner of dogs are requested to keep their dogs out of the park. In most cases, these personal contacts have been gratifying."

"The common domestic pigeons became so numerous in the park this year that it was found necessary to destroy 120 of them. They were eating hackberries, mulberries, small acorns, and other seeds to the extent wild animals and bird life had to move out of the Promenade area. The unsanitary conditions created by droppings from these birds in this area brought numerous complaints from park visitors. The mess created by other people who would feed them caused extra work for the maintenance crew crew to clean up."

"Two leopards, one black and one polar bear were shot, and three Rhesus monkeys were captured near the park last month. In explanation of the above, a trailer truck belonging to a circus overturned and released the animals in a thickly-populated area and shooting was necessary to protect human life."

January 1952

"Several trees were taken out and replacements made along the heavy-use areas of the park, where dead and dying timber seemed hazardous. No indications of unusual disease or insect infestations are evident."

"Ten stray dogs were given the Humane Society this month. Several stray cats were destroyed along with 12 common pigeons that were giving trouble along the promenade."

February 1952

"All magnolia trees on Bathhouse Row were sprayed."

January 1967

"On January 28, a man was bitten by a dog while walking on a trail on West Mountain. The dog was located on January 30 and determined to have had a valid inoculation against rabies."

April 1967

"The magnolia trees on Bathhouse Row were sprayed during April."

CY Ended 12/31/1977

"During the spring 1977, seven raccons were destroyed throughout the park when it was determined they were suffering from distemper. Contact was made with local fish and game officials and veterinarians in the area confirming a like problem throughout a two county area."

CY Ended 12/31/1981

"Prescribed Burn - In December, a 2-acre prescribed burn was conducted to lower fuel levels, control exotic plants, and for training of park personnel. The burn was successfully completed partly due to assistance from the USFS Fire Management Office."

CY Ended 12/31/1982

"Responsibility for the Integrated Pest Management (IPM) program was assigned to the resource management ranger. Several minor pest problems were dealt with via IPM techniques. A renewed attempt was made through increased contact and education to curb the years-old practice of feeding squirrels and pigeons on the Grand Promenade. This practice has probably increased the Grand Promenade area rat and pigeon populations. Some improvement has been noted in visitors not feeding the squirrels and pigeons."

"Several individuals volunteered during the summer months researching various aspects of the park's natural history. Results of this work included...discovery of a new species of exotic clam (Corbicula sp.)...."

CY Ended 12/31/1983

"A coordinated effort with the State of Arkansas Department of Health was established to curb the continuing problem with pigeons and rats. This problem has seen introduction of methods to educate the public; however, there is a need to implement other techniques for pest reduction."

"Asian Clasm (Corbicula) Distribution: With the assistance of V.I.P. efforts, data on the Corbicula is being sought on the Bull Bayou watershed. The question on density of distribution is an important consideration since Corbicula tend to favor warm water. This inventory is expected to continue into 1984."

"The oldest basswood tree (Tilia relictata) in Whittington Park fell as a result of rot."

CY Ended 12/31/1984

"Paper wasps at the Hot Springs Mountain Observation Tower again were an annoyance to late-summer visitors. Trapping with bait has been unsuccessful. This year, an early cold spell in September minimized the problem."

"Asian Clasm (Corbicula) Distribution: Monitoring will be an on-going process with spot checking on all surface waters. Donna Harris is no longer available for the VIP program, but did contribute 20 hours toward the project in 1984."