JUL 26 1974

Chris --

These are my field notes which I typed up from the tape I made during our stay at the Jordan Crater lava flow. Excuse the spelling, etc. I think you can get the drift of it tho. Page #3 is a verbatum transcript of the history of the Batch Lake area - which, as I recall, your recorder failed to get.

Everything going well here - back to hot, dry weather. Pam is driving down today (Friday, 26th) to do a bit of work for Ed. She will then go out herping in a BIM rig.

Bob

Batch Lake Field Notes - Tour of Batch Lake/Ponds area with Chris Maser, July 9, 10, and 11, 1974.

Bob Kindschy, Wildlife Biologist

Background

Chris Maser, Associate Curator of the Musume at the University of Puget Sound, is currantly examining potential Natural Area sites within the Pacific Northwest. He is extremely interested in the Batch Lake and Jordan Crater area. The two of us spent three days and nights at Batch Lake examining the area, collecting plants, trapping small mammals, and observing reptiles and birds. Maser is an outstanding field biologist with an amazing familurity with the local fauna.

July 9, 1974 (from taped notes)

Arrived Batch Lake cabin 2 pm (MDT); weather rainy; temperature 54°F.; light wind. Cabin in good shape except for a portion of the roof which has suffered wind damage recently.

Observed least Chipmunk on edge of lavas also one near the cabin. Found remains of a Yellow-bellied marmot which was evidently killed by a large hawk or eagle. Found skull of Meadow vole (Microtus montanius). Pacific tree frogs (Hila rigidia) very common both on and off the lavas during this rainy week. Cliff swallows very numerous flying above lake. This appeared to be the only swallow species in the flocks.

Montaine meadow vole common in sedge meadows of marshes of Batch Lake and Ponds - a relative of the muskrat, which is also common. Meadow vole "sign" very much similar to that of the muskrat but on a demunitive scale.

Geese have been resting on lavas of South Bay, Batch Lake.

Observed a Checkered Flower Beetle on a plant at the water's edge, believed to be Sambucius or Elderberry.

Lady Ferm believed to be one of the ferns of the lavas; a number of different species of ferns now apparent - perhaps 6 to 8.

Very little wildlife activity due to the inclement weather.

Bobcat feces examined - a muskrat tooth identified therein.

Woodrat sign common in overhangs and small caves of lavas. This could be from either or both the Desert Woodrat or the Bushy-tailed woodrat. Urin deposited on sharp rock ridges causing a white stain with an area free of lichens immediately beneith the percipitate. Very evident when one knowns what to look for.

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July 9, 1974 (cont.)

Suspect occurance of the Canyon mouse (Peromyscus crenitus). On rare list for Oregon.

Bobcat fecus again examined which was 100% muskrat contents.

Jaw of a raccoon observed. Coyote fecus examined; muskrat remains likely within it.

Bobcat fecus from Near Ponds proved to be a diet of duck; 100%. Other fecus of bobcat had duck and grasses. Both cats and dogs often eat grasses to purge their systems.

Coyote dung with marmot fragments. Night hawk flushed from moss flat of lavas; might be nesting. Additional coyote dung showdd remains of cottontailed rabbit (foot pad hair).

Raccoon dung, fresh, showed a present diet of currants; the Golden Flowering currant is now in abundant fruit.

Between ~~XX~~ 90 and 100 white pelicans on Batch Lake. A big flight came in from the east, possibly from the Cow Lakes. Beautiful birds - very impressive.

Coyote dung near the Middle Ponds contained both cottontailed rabbit and waterfowl.

A species of Mimulus, unknown to me, was observed in the aquatic areas. Blue flower with a white and yellow center. Mat forming.

Coyote dung which was extremely large - deer hair near 100%.

Bat sign was observed in one collape hole cave. Impossible for human entry. This cave would be hard to relocate; it is in area between Near Ponds and Middle Ponds.

Young porcupine observed in a willow tree - about 10-ft. from ground - asleep. Cold rain falling.

Coyote dung with fish remains seen near South Bay.

Wapato duck potatoe observed in Middle Ponds area. May be more common than previously thought.

****End of First Field Hike****

A quote from Chris Maser: "...Batch Lake, the most fantastic area I have ever seen in my life. A incredible amount of animal habitat - the great deversity in the plants is really wild".

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The following is a verbatum discussion of the human history of Batch Lake by Bob Kindschy and Chris Maser during the evening of July 9, within the cabin:

Maser: "Okey, why don't you give me some of the history of this area?"

Kindschy: "Well, this cabin we are sitting in Chris, was built in the late 1930's, probably about 1937, by Clarance and Thelma Anderson. It's built out of the native basalt lava. The walls are from 20 to 30 inches in thickness. A two room cabin. It was built as headquarters for a fur farm - muskrat - in fact they brought muskrat in from the Lake Superior area - black muskrat. Of course the local muskrat were probably here and they have pretty well bred out by now - just spitting in the genitic ocean.

"They had obtained a permit for furfarming from the Federal government. We didn't get out that far, but on out in the area of the ponds around North Lake, there are still some old signs of wood that can be read when the angle of sun illuminates the weathered surface. The paint had protected the wood under the letters and they are now slightly raised."

Maser: "Sure an ideal location for it" (fur farm).

Kindschy: "Well it was, and as you probably saw from some of the drags in the area, Mr. Anderson trapped coyote, bobcat, beaver, and otter - all of which are quite numerous in this area - we saw quite a bit of sign today of bobocat and coyote plus remainents of muskrat in the feces of both the bobcat and coyote. I don't know if raccoon were in the area at that time (late 1930's) or not. He did did trap beaver too, if I hadn't mentioned it; in fact on the back of the bedroom door there is the nail pattern from streatching a small beaver.

"They (Andersons) lived out here until about 1944, of course that was in the throws of World War II, and times were tough. They then, evidently moved into Jordan Valley for a time. They then wenti into Idaho and ranched - Clarence Anderson died while in Idaho, I'm told. Mrs. Anderson, I believe, is still living in Jordan Valley. She returned, and went into the school system.

"Going back further in time, this area, Batch Lake, is a contraction of the word batchelor. There was a market hunter here by the name of Batchelor that shot waterfowl and other game to take to the mines in Idaho - Silver City, Ruby City, and DeLamar.

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July 10, 1974

We left the Batch Lake Cabin at about 7:30 MDT (A.M.) and hiked the Near Ponds area, going through the Near Ponds area and along the lava margin. We made plant collections of some of the more obvious plant species and recorded notes on Chris's tape recorder. The specimens were then pressed and will be analysed at Oregon State University; they will be deposited in their herbarium and also at the University of Puget Sound (Tacoma, Washington). A checklist of these plants will be submitted to the Vale District.

The wildlife scene at this time included mule deer, white pelicans on Batch Lake proper, some Canadian geese coming from the ponds along the south lava shore and flying to Batch Lake or North Lake; turkey vulture, cliff swallow, Canon Wren and other species.

During the early afternoon of July 10th, Chris and I made an inspection of the perimeter of the lavas from the cabin to the west. We examined some of the caves and vegetation of the area. We found some Sambucus glacus, elderberry, and some reproduction from it and collected two species of ferns - one a type of licorish fern and one somewhat akin to the Madienhair fern but without the black midribs. A rooster and hen Chinese pheasant were flushed from the sagebrush near the edge of the lavas and flew out toward Batch Lake - they have been herd calling in the mornings. It was observed that the Canon Wren is the most conspicious bird of the lavas both near and apart from the Batch Lake proper; (it was later determined at a similar wren, the Rock Wren, makes up a significant portion of the wren population - viz. two wren species, the Canon and the Rock).

A blue racer snake was observed along the lava margin, off the flow proper. A very fast moving snake that typically travels in a streight line. It feeds principally on deer mice which it crushes with powerful jaws. A non-poisonous species - Coluber constructum mormon.

July 11, 1974

Last evening - a very rain soaked and wet one - we placed out about five traps within the lavas for the wood rats. We believe a coyote got clipped on its nose by one during the dusk hours! We also placed a small number of traps off the lavas in the area where Dwart Terry removed earth to make the fill on the lavas for his pump. There is kangaroo rat denning on some of the higher ground there. We had observed a moderately large Great Basin Rattlesnake yesterday evening in the lavas between the cabin and Terry's earth fill. We observed large in flights of Brewer's blackbirds in the evening - and outfligts in the early morning. These birds evidently spend their nights at the lakes and their days either on the desert to the south or around the ranches along Cow Creek and Danner.

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July 11, 1974 - cont.

Last evening I obsered a good deal of muskrat activity on Batch Lake plus the tail splash of one beaver. Two families of coyotes were quite vocal at dusk very near the cabin and on the lavas.

Chris now, after a couple days here at Batch Lake, has become even more enthuased about this area for Natural Area status. He has repeatedly stated that this unique area must be protected. This is, of course, my thinking too. I have disliked the possibility of the publicity and increased human use of the area that Natural Area status would bring but this sacrifice should likely be made to afford the complete protection of the area for all time. A change in District Managers or my absence from the scene at some future time, could endanger the present informal policy of status quo. Provisions may be made in the Natural Area designation which will limit the amount of human visitation and disturbance. This should be done for the Batch Lake Area.

Weather Notes: High temperature since May 23, 1974: 94°F.
Low " " " : 40°F. (July 10)
Low prior to last night : 44°F.

It has been cool during this entire visit with highs of 55° to 57°. This has restricted much of the activity of bats, birds, and reptiles.

Trapping results: 1 bushey tailed woodrat (Neotoma cineria) from lavas in Near Ponds area; plus 2 deermice (P. maniculatus). Two additional deermice were caught on the desert just out from the cabin. Soils very muddy. Kangaroo ~~xxxx~~ rats using Terry's canal for denning as protection from excessive soil moisture.

We then left the cabin and proceeded west around the lavas to the main crater. In route we determined that the Rock Wren was quite common and seems to occupy habitat similar to the Canon Wren.

Chris was very impressed with the crater and spatter cone area. We collected three Long-eared bats from lava flow tube caves there. They were in a tupor due to the low temperatures (see Chris's later letter). We caught and collected a Fence Lizard which was unlike other fence lizards which Chris was familiar with.

Chris now believes that the entire Jordan Crater lava flow should be designated as a Research Natural Area. He will be down in August to meet with George Gurr, Dist. Manager, to inform BIM of the proceedures to follow in obtaining this designation.

B. L. Kinsey