





Jackson May 1. 1911

Interviewed J.P. Pfisterer (Bondurant P.O.)
about 1000 or 1200 elk wintered
in Hoback Basin above the
Canyon. There was practically no
loss from starvation. A few
were killed by wolves. There was
a fair proportion of calves. Most
of these were "Hoback elk". Many
summer and calves about the heads
of Granite & Horse Creeks and these
go into the Hoback Basin to winter.
There has been some killing for
meat since season closed.

Elk do not bother haystacks in the
Hoback Basin. They live mostly on
the ridges which have been blown
bare by the wind.

Some wintered on Cliff Creek ridge
Some go south up Bear Creek
in spring and several hundred
come back in
winter to the mouth of Hoback
Canyon. The region is much hunted
in fall by outsiders.
There is much need for a game

Warden in the Hoback Basin

Is in favor of the Gros Ventre
Reserve - to be under Federal
control.

Male Deer winter in Hoback valley,
in good shape.

Sheep 2 killed on Cliff Creek last
fall. Some are on Sawtooth Has
seen sheep tracks on Shosh
Creek and towards Granite Creek

Wolves kill some elk but do
not bother domestic stock there

Are a few moose in Hoback Basin
one seen near place last
fall

a few antelope come in in spring
but are seldom seen again until
fall.

Domestic Sheep are coming in to
Cliff Creek and are over-ranching their
allotted bounds - the summits of Hoback
basin on the South.

May 4. Jackson.

Mr Newell and I took trip up
on the hills east of town. Saw
a bunch of about 40 elk which
were feeding at the edge of the
snow, which covered all the
country back of the rim of the
first foothills excepting some
south hillsides. The elk did not
seem to be in very good shape but
were strong. They have now
become shy and it is not easy
to get near them. We found a
spike buck which had been killed
by wolves. Returning we saw a
skull of a Mountain Sheep it was
many years old. A very large bull
elk was lying at the foot of a
cliff and seemed to have been
shot but in decomposed condition
made it impossible to prove this. Its
tracks had been removed apparently
while the animal was still warm.
Saw Golden Eagle with a steel trap
on one foot.

May 9. Jackson

We went up on hill south
of Coche Creek nearly to the summit.
Many elk had wintered there and
had cleared up the foliage from
the spruces cut for lumber and
wood. Practically none had
died on the spruce woods among
the aspens. The elk had worked
a good deal gnawing the bark
from the trunks and browsing
on the smaller branches.
Took a fine blue grouse from
a spruce tree.

May 10. Jackson

I went up along the west edge
of the swamp for about 3 miles.
The elk have deserted the
swamp entirely within the last
2 or 3 days. Previous to this
time there have remained at least
200 from the winter herds. Some
of these have gone back and
forth between the hills and the
swamp when they have been
getting good feed. During the
past few days however the
swamp has softened a great deal
and this probably caused the
elk to leave. Until lately the
ground beneath the grass has
remained solidly frozen.
Found nest of Mallard with one
egg

May 12. Jackson to South Park & back

Mr Nowlin and I made trip on foot down through South Park to J. J. Easters. The elk had entirely left that part of the valley and we saw none whatever on the bounding hills. Mr John Wilson however told us that in the evening he still saw a few on the upper slopes. He said that the elk which were in the valley when we were last down (Apr 26) all left that evening and the next day.

May 13. Jackson

Mr Nowlin and I went up on the hills south of town and worked along to above Spencer's. Returning through the meadows along Flat Creek we observed 2 blue grouse hooting one at a distance of less than 20 feet. Both were on the ground. They stood with the head rather high and the feathers of the neck ruffled up. Sometimes the tail was drooping and only slightly expanded, sometimes at an angle of 45 degrees and partly expanded and sometimes upright or slightly forward and fully expanded after hooting several times the bird would walk slowly along usually feeding. The tail would then be held high and well expanded the other feathers drawn flat except the ruff surrounding the pouches. These feathers would be sharply radiated away from the orange pouch which is well inflated. The result ^{effect} at a little distance is a black bird with a large white patch on the neck. The white patch with a bright orange center. Once in a while a bird will leap a

foot or two in the air with several quick peeps of his wings and land facing the opposite way. This seems to be a challenge and is immediately answered in like manner by another male if one is within hearing. One of the birds performed on a bank of snow while performing they are plainly visible for a long distance if the ground is open as the contrast of black, white, and orange make a very conspicuous object.

May 14 Jackson

Took a trip up on the hill south of town and took pictures of two blue grouse in the act of courting.

May 15. Jackson

Went over to Mr. Muller and got some notes on property in the Swamp.

The Aspens in sheltered places have begun to put out their leaves. In the afternoon I made a trip up the west side of the swamp and went on the butte, crossing up the gap which comes to near Fisher and then started the west side north road nearly to Cherry then across reaching the road near Batcher.

On the Butte some several small bunches of elk all apparently in good shape. and well. I saw very few dead ones on the butte. The elk were eating every green thing even the tender tops of the sagebrush a large leaved plant with a sunflower-like flower seems to be a favorite food.

May 16. Jackson

L. R. Wilson of Alta. The elk have brought in an element that is attracted by the abundance of game and the opportunity for illegal killing for meat or traps. The first settlers were trappers and hunters. Think elk have decreased 50% during the last 2 or 3 years. Thinks there are now 12,000 elk wintering south of the Park divide.

Thinks the Game Preserve is a good thing but should be patrolled. Thinks the western boundary should be the summit of the range, unless a Preserve should be established in Idaho.

Is in favor of state control but thinks the matter is getting worse and thinks the game will have to come under Federal Control.

Does not think that Federal and State cooperation will be feasible.

If Govt should appropriate money and turn it over to the state he thinks it would result in dissatisfaction and

Gov. Sec. of State, & auditor compose game commission. Gov. has no interest. Former was after position of tax commissioner.

the ultimate staying power of control by the Govt.

Would like to see the Game Preserve ceded to the state, and thinks that conditions would improve eventually, but thinks that affairs would retrograde during the next 4 years. Hopes that conditions would improve later.

For many elk come into this settled part of the country and it will be necessary ^{from the state} to acquire a suitable area for a winter refuge.

Does not think the season should be opened Sept 1st. That was a concession to the non-residents. Does not think this will interfere with the calf crop so long as there remain plenty of bulls. The calves left without mothers might as well be killed on the spot.

The early opening of the season attracts the non-residents who kill mostly bulls. The residents from a distance also kill bulls mainly. The settlers however who kill for meat kill cows mostly.

(R. Miller - side J.R. Wilson is opposed to
the ranch as a refuge. cannot be
fenced out and would interfere with
the settlers. would like to see some hard
headed ranches. State Game Warden
who would feed them in the winter
and allow anyone to take them in
season up to 10 head at \$20 a head
I would a license as a starter)

are about 150 or 160 ranches east of
the Teton range north of Hoback (where
crops are raised in 1900) (3000 in high as price)

Hunters from Idaho. camp just over
the Idaho line and hunt into
Wyoming taking the elk back into
Idaho to their camps.

✓ 1000 head of elk summer on
the head of Berry Creek in 1908

Mule deer are practically all gone
about Alta. In 4 years in the
western part of the Game Preserve
saw only one deer track. Saw
1 at Alta last year and this week
5 near there

In ^{autumn} 1892 there were at least 200
head crossed through his place
coming from the mts to winter
in Idaho.

In 1889-90 a few wintered about Alta
and in Teton Canyon. Now none
winter there. Heard of a very few
wintering in Teton Canyon this winter.

✓ Moose have increased. 2 ^{2 years ago} killed last
August near Alta. None before for
20 years. Are a good many in the
western part of the Game Preserve
Between Squirrel Creek and the Park
line. Are some on Cottonwood Creek
(Butch Creek) and Jackpine Creek

✓ Moose are protected in the Park and this helps to stock the adjacent country

✓ Beavers are increasing on the west side of the Game Preserve. Are especially common on Conant Creek and its branches the southern limit. Have come in from the Park having been trapped out years ago. Have dammed up timber valleys and in one place have built a dam 50 feet long and made a pond a mile long and $1\frac{1}{4}$ wide. At the upper limit of this pond they have a dam 200 feet long. This is on Winegar's Hole Creek a tributary of Fall River.

✓ Marten are still present in small numbers on mts near Alta. One marten caught 43 in fall of 1909 from Alta. Are not many on the west end of the Game Preserve but all all over.

✓ Black bears ~~was~~ rather common west of Game Preserve. in 1908

✓ Found of one grizzly seen on head of Conant Creek in 1908.

✓ Never saw a wolverine track on the west end of Game Preserve

Has seen tracks of 3 Mt Lions in fall of 1909 on Jackpine Creek a branch of Bitch Creek. Never saw any evidence of them having killed game.

✓ Never knew bears to kill any elk or other large game. or any domestic stock

✓ A few Lynx are found.

✓ Was never seen or heard of a wolf track there.

✓ Coyotes are plentiful but do not kill much game

✓ Mink are quite plentiful

✓ Bones used to be plentiful but
are now rare

✓ A bobcat was killed on Teton Creek
in the ^{Teton} canyon 15 years ago or more

✓ Mt Sheep A few along the Teton
Range. A year ago last fall
saw tracks of 6 rams near the
head of Leigh Creek which heads
near Glacier Creek tributary of Jenny L.
Do not think they winterkill.

Ruffed Grouse have increased greatly
the timber owing to the tapping out of
the Western. Some have raised their
young in his garden.

Saw a B. grouse here one spring
5 or 6 years ago

Blue grouse are common at
9000 feet and below.

A Pteromys was seen last year
in the valley of Teton Creek at 6400
feet.

✓ Antelope used to be common near
alta. 22 years ago; listed about
2 years. None now

May 17 Jackson

The day was cold and cloudy with threatening rain. We made a trip down the S.E. side of Flat Creek. A number of birds were seen for the first time today.

May 18 Jackson

Made a short trip around the valley observing a number of birds. Raining and snowing in evening.

May 19. Jackson

Two or three inches of snow on the ground this morning and on the hills about the snow was deeper and deeper. On the summit of the Teton Pass a foot and a half fell.

May 20 Jackson to Bierer's (Lower Gros Ventre)

Mr. Newlin and I left Jackson about 8 o'clock to make a trip to the Gros Ventre. We walked up the east side of the Flat Creek Valley through the "Gap" and then across the flat crossing Flat Creek below McBride then up Dry Hollow. On the hills east of the valley were several bunches of elks aggregating a few hundred. None had horns. Only a few calves were left among the bunches. They were working northward along the foothills.

From Dry Hollow we cut across the spur of the hill and descended to the valley of the Gros Ventre near Greenough's claim. where there are a few acres in grain. Thence we followed a rough trail up the south side of the Gros Ventre to Bierer's claim where we stopped for the night. My aneroid set at 6200 feet for Jackson registered 6700 at Bierer's.

May 21 To Simpson's Ranch on Crystal Creek

We left Bierer's rather late and kept on up the south side of the valley. We kept close to the river to Redmond Creek and then ascended the hills past a deep clear lake evidently formed long ago by a land slip on the hill near the lake the aneroid registered 7300 feet. About here were several small bunches of elk. We kept along high up in the hills not far below the snow line far above Turpin's Place and descended to Crystal Creek which we crossed at the Simpson Ranch. Here we stopped for the night although no one was at home. On the hills on both sides of Crystal Creek were several bands of elk.

Aneroid registered 7100 feet at Simpson Ranch

May 22 To Lafferty's Ranch

There was quite a heavy frost in the night. We left the ranch about 7 o'clock and crossed the hills east of Crystal Creek. Saw many elk on the hills among which were a few calves of last year. At the highest point we reached near the present snow line the aneroid registered 8100 feet. Five miles or more from the Simpson Ranch we reached the slide which we crossed about half way up. This slide started in the spring of 1909. We did not see its extreme upper end but it is said to start in a narrow valley near the extreme head of Alkali Creek at the summit. It gradually increases in width and at the fork where it dams the river is perhaps a half mile in width. It is 4 or 5 miles long. The bed of the Geos Centre is dammed by the slide and a lake about 2 miles long is formed. At the dam the river has cut away large portions of

the north bank, which is formed by a steep mountain side.

Beyond the Slide we descended to the road which we followed except for an occasional cut-off across the hills to Lafferty's.

Above the Slide when the valley is very narrow, the valley gradually widens out into sage-brush flats a few miles above here two so called Cottonwood Creeks come in on the North side. Above here the Gros Ventre divides into Fish Creek and Gros Ventre, Fish Creek being the larger.

We reached Lafferty's in the late afternoon. Lafferty put up each year about 100 tons of hay. The Aneroid registered 7775 feet which is close to the official figures as stated by Lafferty.

Lafferty raises only the most hardy root crops. Potatoes do not ripen.

1 Tracks of mule deer seen near Lafferty's.

May 23 To Robinson's Ranch

We left Lafferty's early and went down to Lloyd's a mile and a half where we crossed on a fence.

We kept on down on the North side.

We waded Cottonwood Creek about 11 o'clock and shortly after noon reached the lower Cottonwood where we caught a good mess of fine trout. Had some of them for dinner and after catching some more trout went on to Robinson's Ranch where we stopped for the night. Robinson had put in about an acre of barley, Wb Sheep sometimes winter on the bluffs near the Robinson Ranch.

May 24 To Bierer's

Left Robinson's early and went on down the north side of the valley. A few miles below Robinson's is the Callier Ranch 160 acres now the property of Pedersen who bought it for 800 dollars. It is now abandoned virtually. Fences down and nothing being done to it. Below here we passed through a long stretch of sloping benches grown up to very rank sage brush. The heaviest I have seen in the region. Some of the bushes are 8 feet high.

Below here we found 2 elk, a cow and a calf, which had been killed by wolves within a few days. Below here we followed along the base of the cliffs close to the Gros Ventre.

There is a long stretch of very rough country here. Tracks of several Mt Sheep were seen near the base of the cliffs.

From which are washed for several

miles by the river. We looked over the cliffs with some care but were unable to see any sheep. We had dinner at the mouth of Slate Creek, which empties into the Gros Ventre in a series of low falls.

Slate Creek comes out of the hills through a pine basin and from its valley a low pass connects with the valley of the Gros Ventre. Back of the rough hills which border the Gros Ventre.

From the mouth of Slate Creek where we lunched we went on down and crossed the Gros Ventre by the Bridge at Turpins. This is near the corner of Township 118.

We then kept on down to Bierer's crossing the hills from Turpins to Redmond Creek. Saw a few elk and 3 small deer on the hills. Reached Bierer's between 5 and six o'clock.

Mr Bierer was just putting in oats. Turpin planted oats about the 21st or 22nd.

May 25. To Jackson

Left Bierers quite early and took the trail down the south side of the Gros Ventre. Saw tracks of a good many elk which had been coming up from Dry Hollow and the adjacent hills and had crossed the Gros Ventre.

We saw no elk while coming down Dry Hollow and it is evident that the bulk of those we saw on the way up have gone northward across and up the Gros Ventre.

We reached Jackson in the middle of the afternoon

Checked to find

All Austin tells me that he saw a young calf in the Hoback valley a day or two ago

May 26 Jackson

Snowing and drifting in the night and forenoon and all the hills are white above 7000 feet and thin or some below that altitude

May 27. Jackson

The day was bad and it was impossible to do much

May 28 Jackson

Made observations on migration along the creek below town and about the swamp

May 29. Jackson

Made observations on birds along the creek. Weather fine

May 30. Jackson

Weather fine, but very few birds along the creek bottom. Probably they have all gone up the valley

May 31. To Zenith & return

We made a trip with team to Zenith near the junction of the Gros Ventre and Snake R. Had an interview with Mr Robert Neilson from whom I obtained some data regarding holdings in the Flat Creek and Gros Ventre regions.

Stopped also at O. F. Bikes near the same place. He told me that when he first came here about 17 years ago white-tail deer were numerous along Snake River near his place. They disappeared about 1897, the last having been killed by Coyotes.

We saw a few elk on the west Gros Ventre Butte, and Mr J. W. Egan told us that on May 28 he saw about a hundred. Some of these had crossed from E Gros Ventre Butte a short time ago. West Gros Ventre is much higher and larger than the other, and is more suitable for a early summer habitat

June 2. Jackson to Mt of Blackrock

We drove up from Jackson by the road on the east side of the valley. Ray McBride told us that there are about 10 miles in the foothills near his place, and that they have killed several head of cattle lately. We had dinner at Nelson's and drove up past Maffei and took the road up the Buffalo Valley. We saw a number of elk in the meadows below Blackrock. Went on up to Rudolph Kromerans where we found him at home. He tells me that 60 or 75 deer wintered about here, other in Spruce. About 150 bull elk wintered along the Buffalo above here about 200 bulls 100 cows and 50 or 75 calves wintered on Blackrock. He knows of only one calf dying this winter. About 6 moose wintered. Thinks 20 wintered in Spruce Creek.

Sheep are found about the
head of Buffalo. They winter
about the head of the Sturgeon
and the head of Snake River.
A buffalo bull came down from
the park and wintered on the
Buffalo Plateau at the head
of the South Fork of Buffalo in
1908-1909. He saw him in
October of 1909.
Winters winter in the same place

A bull elk killed for its tusk
in the Hills near McBrides a week
ago or so had new horns
about 8 inches long. (McBride)

R.H. Old tells me that he saw
a young calf elk near the
Buffalo near Ewells Place June 2

June 3. To Jackson Lake via upper
Bridge of Buffalo

We left the Forest Ranger cabin
on the Buffalo and drove back
across Birch Rock Creek to the
Buffalo Bridge and then up
the Buffalo on the north side to the
upper Bridge 12 miles above.
We saw a few elk usually 2
along the Buffalo on both sides.
Many had crossed the Buffalo
into the Game Preserve.

On the north side of Buffalo
is a good road just as far
as we went - to the Upper Bridge.
Here it crosses and continues
on to Fort Washakie. At the
crossing place on the north side
is Turpin Meadows a wet
grassy meadow, bordered by
the usual sagebrush flats.

After looking over this path, we
turned back and drove to
Allen's Ranch near Moran where
we stopped for the night.
Saw an elk or two near Allen's

June 4. To Upper end Jackson Lake
and return to Moran

We left Moran fairly early and
drove up the east side of Jackson
Lake to examine the country. It
consists of a succession of gravelly
ridges and sagebrush flats,
partially clothed with second
growth lodgepole pine.

A few elk were seen in
the pine openings.
Pilgrim Creek is crossed a few
miles above Moran. Its lower
part near where it enters the
lake is bordered by an extensive
yellow swamp.

Photographed Beaver House near Allen's.
Mr Sheffield tells me that the
elk in fall used to cross mainly
below the outlet but last fall
cross through the lower end of
the lake. They have sometimes
crossed back over the same route
in early summer.
A buck of 8 or 9 antelope was seen on
the flats near Grovont about June 1. (Loopy)

June 5 To Jackson

We left Moran and drove back
down to Jackson. We saw
lots of interest along the way. The
city all coming left the Coding
hills.

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