





Jackson May 1. 1911

Interviewed J.P. Pfisterer (Bondurant P.O.)
about 1000 or 1200 elk winter
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 some season closed.

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

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

Warden in the Hoback Basin

Is in favor of the Crestone
Reserve - to be under Federal
control

Male Deer winter in Hoback valley
in good shape

✓ Sheep & killed on Cliff Creek last
fall. Some are on Sawback. Have
seen sheep tracks on Ashcroft
Creek and toward Grouse Creek

✓ Wolves kill some elk but do
not bother domestic stock here

✓ A few moose in Hoback Basin
one seen near flow 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-grazing the
altered banks - the summits of Hoback
Basin in the South

May 4. Jackson.

Mr. Howler 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 never
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 has been removed apparently
while the animal was still warm.
Saw Golden Eagle with a still hawk
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 cleaned 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

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. Carters. The elk had entirely left that part of the valley and we saw none whatever on the hooding hills. Mr John Nelson 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 Lake we observed 2 blue grouse trotting 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 trotting 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 neck showing the pouches. These feathers would be sharply radiated away from the wing joints which is well inflated. The neck at a better distance is a black line 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 flaps 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
Arctic.

The Aspens on Shutes Peak seem
to begin to put out their leaves.

In the afternoon I made a trip
up the west side of the mountain
- I went on the hill, crossing
the gap which crosses the main divide
and then started the west side with
snow ready to change the snow
making the road very rough.

On the hill were several small
creeks of all sizes apparently in
good shape. One creek I saw near
the top of the hill. The
creek was fairly good. I saw some
even the tender tops of the sagebrush
a large brown plant with a
magnificent like brown leaves to be
a favorite food.

May 16. Jackson

L. R. Wilson of Alta. Thinks we have brought on an element that is attracted by the abundance of game and the opportunity for illegal killing for meat or skins. This has killed more Indians and hunters. Thinks we have decreased 50% during the last 2 or 3 years. Thinks there are now 12,000 or 15,000 wandering south of the Snake divide.

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

Is in favor of State control but thinks the work is getting so far and that the game will have to come under Federal control.

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

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

Gov. See page 14, 9 and 10. Commission game commission. Gov. has no interest in game or in fur. That is the reason.

the ultimate taking away of control by the Govt.

Would like to see the Game Preserve come to the State and thinks that conditions would improve eventually, but thinks that affairs would improve during the next 4 years. Thinks that conditions would improve later.

For many years since the settlers have been coming and it will be necessary to acquire a suitable one for a winter range.

Thinks the season should be opened Sept 1st. That was a common rule for non-residents. Some say that the old rule was to open Sept 1st. The calves left without wintering are well killed on the spot.

The early opening of the season attracts the non-residents who kill mostly bulls. The resident fur traders also kill bulls mainly. The settlers however who kill for meat kill cows mostly.

(R. Miller - file of Wilson is reported to
be wrong as a bridge, cannot be
fenced out and would interfere with
a better road like to see some
local ranch. State Game Warden
who would feed them in the winter
and allow anyone to kill them in
season up to 10 head at \$70 a head
I think a better idea is to
fence a better one is to

about 1000. The ranch is east of
the other range north of the pack trail
could be raised in 1897 (3000 - high expense)

Went from Boise about year ago
to Idaho line and back with
company taking the elk back into
Idaho to their camp

✓ 1000 head of elk summer on
the head of Big Creek in 1886

Mule deer are practically all gone
about Alta. In 14 years in the
western part of the same Province
saw only one deer track. Saw
1 at Alta last year and then one
5 near there

in 1892 there were at least 200
head crossed through the place
coming from the mt. to mountain
in Idaho.

In 189-90 a few wintered at Alta
and in Selma Canyon. Now there
winter there. Heard of a man going
wintering in Selma Canyon this winter

Wolves have increased ^{2 years ago} I killed last
August near Alta. None before for
20 years. Are a good many in the
western part of the same Province
between Squaw Creek and the Snake
line. Are some on Cottonwood Creek
(Bull Creek) and Jackpine Creek

Traps are scattered in the Park and
then help to stock the adjacent
country

Beaver are increasing on the west
side of the Game Preserve. Are
especially common on Conant Creek
and its branches the southern limit
how far in from the Park having
been trapped out years ago. For
about up till valleys and
in one place have built a dam
30 feet long and made a pond
a mile long and 1/2 mile
at the upper end of this basin
they have a dam 200 feet long
This is on Homeran that Creek a
tributary of Fall River

Marten are still present in small
numbers on mts near Alta. One
trapper caught 43 in fall of 1908
from Alta. Are not many on the
west end of the Game Preserve but
all all over.

Black bears were rather common
west. Game Preserve. in 1908

✓ Track 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 Wolverines in
fall of 1909 on Jackson Creek a
branch of Birch 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.

✓ Has never seen or heard of a
wolf. Tracks. 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

✓ Wild 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.
Can not think they winterkill.

Ruffed Grouse have increased greatly
to think many better trapping out of
the Mountains. Some have raised the
young in his garden.

Some grouse seen one spring
5 or 6 years ago

Blue grouse are common at
8000 feet and below.

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

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

May 17 Jackson
The day was cold and cloudy
with threatening rain. We went
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
during and during the evening.

May 19. Jackson

There are 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 boat and a half full

May 20 Jackson to Bierer's Landing
Mr. Newton 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 the bridge
then up Dry Hollow. On the hills east
of the valley were several bunches of
elks aggregating a few hundred
have had horns. Only a few calves
were left among the bunches.
They were working northward along
the foot hills.

From Dry Hollow we cut across the
spur of the hills and descended to
the valley of the Gros Ventre near
Greenough's claim. There 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. Just a
deep clear lake evidently formed
long ago by a land slide on the
hill near the lake the aneroid
registered 7300 feet. About here were
several small herds of elk. We
kept almost high up on the hills
not far below the snow line
far above Simpson'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 as it goes down
where it leaves the river is perhaps
a half mile in width. It is
5 miles long. The bed of the Goose
River 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 cutting
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 or
three Cottonwood Creeks come in
on the North side. A stream here the
lower course descends into Fish
Creek and lower course 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 200 to the official
elevation as stated by Lafferty.

Lafferty raises only a few head
of stock. Potatoes do not ripen

17
Tracks of mule deer seen near
Lafferty's.

May 23 To Robinson's Ranch

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

We kept on down on the North
side.

We crossed 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.
All Sheep sometimes winter on
the bluffs near the Robinson Ranch.

May 24 To Bierer's

Left Robinsons early and went
on down the north side of the
valley. A few miles below
Robinsons is the Callier Ranch
160 acres now the property of
Pederson who bought it for
500 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
heavy rank sage brush. The brush
I have seen in the region. Some
of the bushes are 8 feet high.

Below here we found a elk, a
cow and a calf, which had
been killed by wolves within
a few days. Below here we
descended 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.

which are washed for mineral.

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

Stall Creek comes out of the
hills through a pine forest
and from its valley a low
pass connects with the valley
of the Gros Ventre. East of the
rough hills which border the
Gros Ventre.

From the mouth of Stall Creek where
we reached we went on down
and crossed the Gros Ventre by the
Bridge at Turpin. This is near
the corner of Township 18.

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

17 miles Bierer was just putting in oats
Turpin planted oats about the 21st or 22nd

May 25 To Jackson

Left Biviers 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 Centre.

We saw no elk when 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 Centre.

We reached Jackson in the middle of the afternoon

All the time till we had the news 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 there is 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 swamps.

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 Kane to Zenith near the junction of the Gros Ventre and Snake. Had an interview with Mr. Robert Nelson from whom I obtained some data regarding holdings in the Flat Creek and Gros Ventre regions.

Stopped also at O. F. Bickel's 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. Johnson 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. Mr. 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 used several head of cattle eating.

We had dinner at Nelson's and drove up past Mallie and took the road up the Buffalo Valley.

We saw a number of elk in the meadows below Blackrock.

Went on up to Rudolph's Homestead where we found him at home. He tells us that he has seen deer wintered about here, other up to about 10 but 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 the winter.

About 6 moose wintered there. He says 20 wintered on Snake River.

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A number of moose deer are seen
on the hills opposite the ranger
station. These were called that
to know of. Usually some
of the calves are killed by coyotes.
Coyotes usually common but
seen on them more. The winter
months some birds on the ground
are seen.

Trappers hunt on Spanish Creek
and to have some knowledge of an
area in the high part of the
same Preserve. They go out
the San Juan in summer and
live mostly on the game. They
usually kill some there but follow
the game up and back in the
fall. They are new to the country.
One 200 lb. cow was killed with
a mile of the other. But this
spring about the middle of April
Winters are fairly plentiful
Trappers
Trappers are numerous. About
half a dozen were killed in
the region. They come down down

than usual.

Beaver have increased greatly -
Have not been increased until
lately. Real well interested the
beaver control program. It also
kills a good many elk. He has
killed elk for me - (Wool) on
the frontier and has greatly
increased the number of beaver
during the last 3 years.

Wolves are fairly common along
the Buffalo. They go higher
up the river and more common
in the fall to the lower country.
Lynx are not very common.
The bobcat, rabbit is not seen
when last in the Preserve
as - prairie, but I have seen
by the coyotes.

Jackrabbits come up the
Buffalo as far as Indian Place.
They are found of course down
and it has helped them to
increase and spread.

Muskbeats are fairly common

Sheep are found about the
head of Buffalo. They winter
about the head of the Shoshone
and the head of Snake River
A buffalo bull came down from
the north and wintered on the
Buffalo Plateau near 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 teeth
in the Hills near McPond's 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 Everett 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 Grand 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 mostly on
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 for a few
miles west to the Upper Bridge.
We crossed and continued
to Fort Washburn. At the
crossing place on the north side
is a fine meadow a wet
grassy meadow bordered by
the usual sagebrush flat.

After looking over the path we
turned back and drove to
Allen's Bend 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 gentle
ridges and sagebrush flats
partially shaded by some
growth - timbered forest.

A few elk were seen on
the fine openings.
Julian Creek is crossed a few
miles above Moran. The lower
part near where it enters the
lake is bordered by an extensive
willow swamp.

Photographed several hours near Allen's
Mr. Sheffield tells me that this
is the fall used to cross mainly
below the outlet but last fall
crossed through the lower end of
the lake. They have sometimes
crossed back over the same route
in early summer.

A bunch of 5 or 6 antelope was seen on
the flats near Grosvont about 9 a.m. (July 4)

June 5 To Jackson

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

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