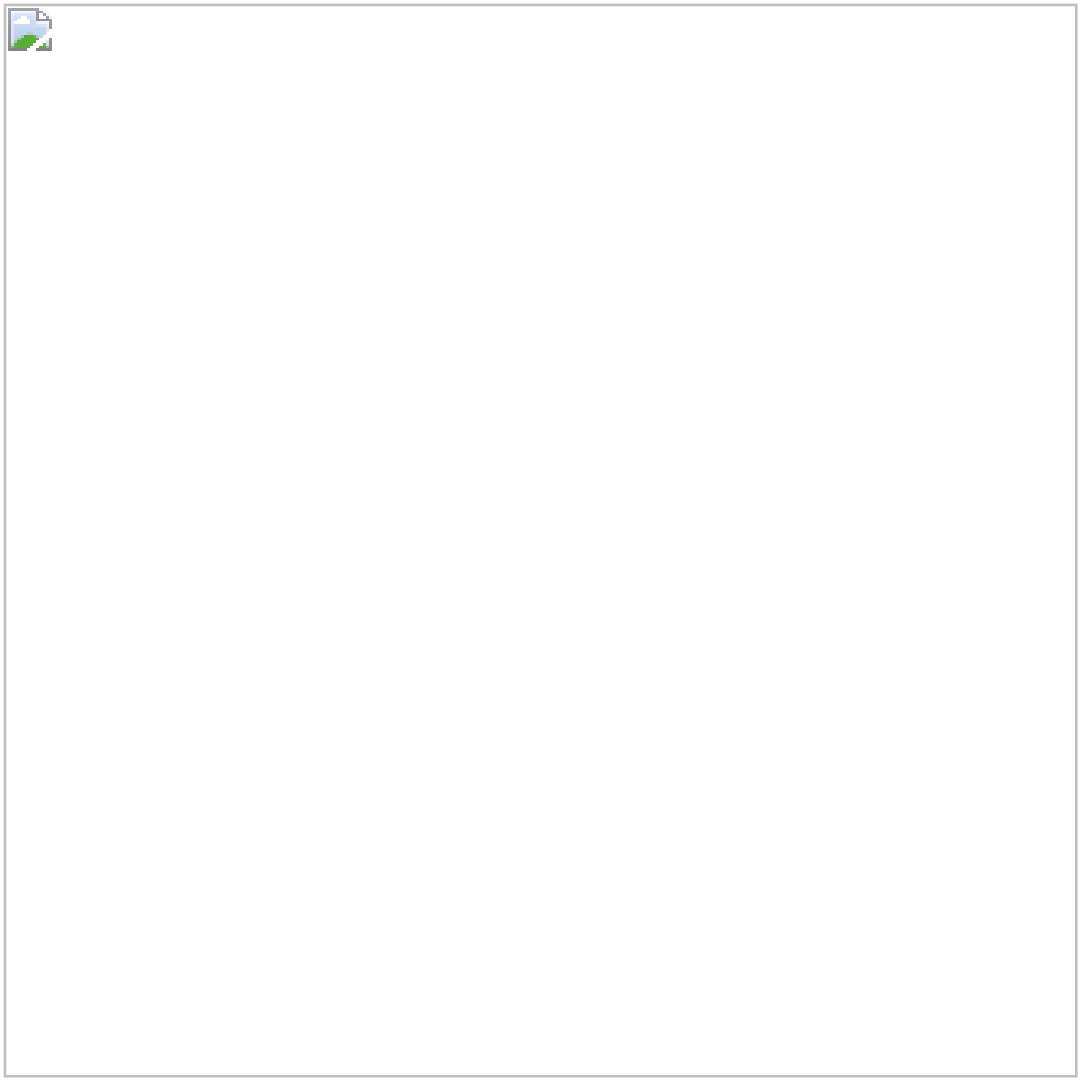

RABIES IN WILDLIFE AT FORT KNOX

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the Bunyamwera group antigen in deer from the Ripley area and that no HAI titers to the other groups in deer from both areas were found warrant further investigation.

The findings of this survey offer leads for further study of infections of white-tailed deer, especially those caused by rickettsiae, and viruses of the Bunyamwera group, infectious bovine rhinotracheitis, and bovine virus diarrhea. Ecological factors such as variations in the fauna, population densities of the deer and the relationship of these densities to range condition should be considered.

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RABIES IN WILDLIFE AT FORT KNOX

A rabies survey was conducted in the wildlife population at Fort Knox, Kentucky, during the months, February to May, 1965. This program was initiated after a child had been bitten by a rabid skunk. Another person had been bitten by a skunk which was proven rabid the previous April.

The Post Game Warden and the Land Management Unit trapped the animals and submitted them to the Post Veterinarian. Trapping was distributed over most of the Post but was more intensive near housing, recreational and maneuver areas. The veterinarian selected fifty heads of the most likely species that were in good condition. These heads were shipped to Fort Meade under dry ice refrigeration because decomposition by autolysis and bacterial growth are both stopped at this temperature. The common objection that freezing always makes tissue unsatisfactory for histological studies is not valid. Rapid freezing at low temperatures does not cause swelling and rupture of the cells.

The brains were examined for Negri bodies using Seller's stain and by the flourescent rabies antibody techniyue. The positives were further confirmed by mouse inoculation. The following results were obtained:

Species	No.	Neg.	Pos.
Fox	19	19	--
Skunk	18	12	6*
Raccoon	8	8	--
Opossum	3	3	--
Mink	1	1	--
Cat	1	1	--
	50	44	6

* Includes the February bite case.

Finding rabies in 6 of 18 skunks pinpoints an acute problem, particularly since many skunks seemed to be present in the area. The high rate of rabies among skunks and the absence of the disease in other species is significant. The degrees of avoidance and aggression exhibited by animals for each other are probably important factors in the transmission of rabies. No further cases of rabies have been found at Fort Knox since completion of this survey.

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ASPERGILLOSIS IN A COMMON LOON (Gavia immer)

Chute *et al.* (Maine Agric. Exp. Station Misc. Publ., 655: 1-120, 1962) listed five references which reported the occurrence of aspergillosis among loons (Gaviiformes); most of these cases occurred among loons being held in zoological parks. Hartman (Auk, 63: 588-589, 1946) reported a case of aspergillosis in an immature common loon collected in the wild near Everglade City (sic), Florida. The loon was swimming at the time of collection and when dissected was found to have an extensive mycotic infection of the abdominal and thoracic air sacs. Hartman reported that the lungs were grossly free of the infection.

Since 1963 rather extensive losses