## UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

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FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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NEW WILDLIFE-PESTICIDE REPORT RELEASED BY INTERIOR DEPARTMENT

Added evidence of the complex effects of pesticides on wildlife and the environment are disclosed in the official wildlife-pesticide research report for 1961-1962 just released by Secretary of the Interior Stewart L. Udall.

The Fish and Wildlife Service report reveals that among samples of adult and young ducks and eggs taken north of Canada's Great Slave Lake, the eggs and immature ducks contained more pesticide residues than any adult sampled. Scientists postulate that the adult ducks were exposed to pesticides somewhere on migration or wintering areas and passed the residues along to their progeny in a yet-unexplained manner that apparently concentrates the chemical residues. All the specimens were collected more than 500 miles north of any known insecticide application.

The report notes that 75 percent of the United States has never been treated by any insecticide and that only about 5 percent is treated each year, but adds that "contamination of wild forms is widespread."

"For example," the report says, "25 of 26 specimens of bald eagles analyzed by the Service contained DDT; and of 2,300 specimens of birds and mammals from 22 States and 3 Provinces of Canada, 75 percent contained residues when analyzed."

The report added that, "Also, marine fishes from different oceans of the world have been found to contain DDT. Special collections of woodcock from northern and southern portions of its range have been made, and during 1961 and 1962 some 190 of 280 contained heptachlor epoxide when analyzed and 129 of 220 contained DDT."

Commenting on the scientific report, Secretary Udall called attention to the "glaring inadequacies in knowlege about wildlife-pesticide relationships," and again urged passage of legislation now before Congress that would lift the present \$2,565,000 appropriation limit on Interior Department pesticide research and spur development of effective new pesticides that would be free of the hazards accompanying use of many compounds now available.

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The 109-page report covers some 75 specific wildlife-pesticide studies and investigations, ranging from effects on plankton and oyster shell growth to pelicans, bald eagles, and mammals. The report also describes several new pesticide research techniques developed by Fish and Wildlife Service scientists.

Among the studies described in the report is a project to learn the effects of several kinds of bacteria on chlorinated hydrocarbons (DDT and related products) in water. The study showed that several bacteria appreciably reduced the concentrations of DDT in the water in 7 to 16 days--thereby suggesting the possibility that bacteria might be used to alter the toxicity level of certain pesticides so that hazards to fish could be reduced.

In a cooperative study with the National Audubon Society seeking to explain the apparent decline of the Nation's bald eagle population--in hopes of preventing extinction of the majestic national bird--investigators reported that only 3,807 bald eagles were found in a January 1962 survey that included all States except Alaska. The survey also disclosed a marked lack of breeding success in coastal areas--a fact that has led some people to suspect that these areas, which are frequently treated for mosquito control, are producing contaminated fish that make up a large part of the eagles' diet. Research is now directed at finding out the effects of DDT on eagle reproduction.

Copies of the pesticide report (Circular 167) are available from the Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, Washington, D. C. 20240.

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