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BIOLOGICAL SURVEYS IN THE MARGARET CANNON HOWELL WILDLIFE REFUGE

Three college biology teachers under a Research Participation Program, sponsored by the National Science Foundation at the Highlands Biological Station, have been conducting studies of the Margaret Cannon Howell Wildlife Refuge and some adjoining tracts. Those engaged in the studies are Professors Curry Haynes, J. D. Spooner, and John A. Cheek. Senior consultants are Thelma Howell, R. K. Godfrey, Robert E. Gordon, Stanley B. Mulaik,

R. M. Schuster, and R. M. Sargent.

The original forest of the Southern Blue Ridge Mountains was an oak-chestmut The removal of the chestmut community. trees by the blight created a condition in which a different forest cover is emerging. Forest ecologists are interested in determining what is replacing the chestmut. Because of extensive lumbering operations in the past, study tracts are difficult to find. However, H. J. Oosting and W.D. Billings of Duke University, were able to study the former Primeval Forest or Ravenel's Woods in 1939, before that magnigicent forest of virgin hemlock was destroy-In 1953 Dr. Catherine Keever was able to study replacement of the original oakchesnut association in seven tracts near Highlands.

The Margaret Cannon Howell Wildlife Refuge was given to the Highlands Biological Station in 1948 by Mrs. Margaret Cannon Clarkson. It has been selected as a study area because it is near the tracts studied by Oosting, Billings and Keever, and yet different enough to warrant a detailed study. Some interesting things are being discovered in the present study.

A total of 25 families and 48 species

of plants have been listed to date. Thirty-six species of birds have been listed, and five species of salamanders. Further studies are planned in the Refuge.

ANNUAL "SHOW-ME-TRIP

The Highlands Forest Rangers will hold their annual "Show-Me-Trip" this August 10, showing forest service activities in the Highlands area and surrounding territory.

The tour will depart from the Highlands work center at 8:30 a.m. to begin the tour, traveling over graveled and paved roads, all improved. People attending the tour are asked to bring their own cars.

Stops will be made at various intervals and talks made on the activities centered there---timber sales, road con-struction, recreational improvements, fish and wildlife reserves, fire preventives, etc.

The tour will end at 4:30 p.m. Attendance is limited to 24 and those interested in the trip are asked to make reservations. To receive further information, call the Ranger's office, Phone 3845. There is no charge for the tour.

These annual trips provide the opportunity for the Highlands public to see the Forest Service activities and improvements in the area.

HIKING CLUB MEETS

The Highlands Hiking Club met last Friday night, July 22 in the Magruder and O'Brien Office. Slides of previous trips made by the club were shown. There were six guests present, the president, Hoarce Williamson and the Sec-Tres, Ellison Magruder. A trip for August was planned.

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