

1937

## Field Notes from 1937

SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry

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**Observation:** Ruffed Grouse

**Observation Number:** 1

**Observer:** W.L. Webb

**Date:** 27 September, 1937

**Time:** 2:05 PM

**Location:** South Boundary

**Notes:** Flushed three ruffed grouse. Mr. Oja was leading the party and as he got to the south boundary he flushed a grouse. As I reached the boundary a second bird flushed and soon a third one flew. The approximate location of the last bird was seen as it was only  $1 \frac{1}{3}$  chains from me. This bird flushed from an area where the overstory was large beech and yellow birch, forming a dense canopy. Under these large trees was a dense stand of young maples about 10 feet high. The ground cover was very scattered, consisting of a few ferns and an occasional maple seedling. The area from which the first two birds flushed was a grassy swale  $\frac{1}{2}$  chain across, and quite wet, with the preceding type around the margin.

**Observation:** Muskrat

**Observation Number:** 2

**Observer:** R.T. King

**Date:** 28 September, 1937

**Time:** 9:30 AM

**Location:** Fishing Brook

**Notes:** Quite recent muskrat sign (droppings and clam shell middens) occurred frequently along the shore of Fishing Brook. No other evidence of muskrats was seen during the day on the several lakes examined and streams crossed.

**Observation:** Raccoon

**Observation Number:** 3

**Observer:** R.T. King

**Date:** 28 September, 1937

**Time:** 9:40 AM

**Location:** Fishing Brook

**Notes:** Fresh raccoon droppings were common in the road paralleling Fishing Brook but were seen at no other point during the day. Their most conspicuous feature was choke cherry seeds.

**Observation:** Military Lake

**Observation Number:** 4

**Observer:** W.L. Webb

**Date:** 28 September, 1937

**Time:** 10:00 AM

**Location:** Military Lake

**Notes:** The dam that controlled the water level of this lake is out, and as a result there is only a relatively small stream flowing through a large meadow like marshy area. Pondweeds were noticed in this stream, and in the drier area bulrush is the predominant species associated with some sedges and grasses, and blue flag. The bulrushes grow up to a height of  $3 \frac{1}{2}$  feet and form dense cover which looks like it should form ideal nesting cover for many species of ducks. However, the water area provided is relatively small and the food conditions are the factors which probably limit duck nesting. A raise of 6 inches to 1 foot might increase the food plants without materially decreasing the value of the surrounding area as nesting cover. The same conditions exist on several artificial ponds and beaver dams along this drainage where the dams have been destroyed.

**Observation:** Lake Adjidaumo

**Observation Number:** 5

**Observer:** W.L. Webb

**Date:** 28 September, 1937

**Time:** 11:00 AM

**Location:** Lake Adjidaumo

**Notes:** This is an artificial lake similar to the ones mentioned previously but it is considerably larger, and the water level has been maintained a little higher. There is a strip averaging about 1 chain wide from

the waters edge to the edge of the forest, where the bulrushes predominate as in the previously mentioned ponds.

**Observation:** Red Squirrel

**Observation Number:** 14

**Date:** 28 September, 1937

**Location:** Boat House

**Observer:** R.T. King

**Time:** 11:05 AM

**Notes:** One red squirrel at boat house. First one Oja has seen for a long time.

**Observation:** Deer

**Observation Number:** 6

**Date:** 28 September, 1937

**Location:** East shore of Lake Adjidaumo

**Observer:** W.L. Webb

**Time:** 11:20 AM

**Notes:** Along the east shore of Lake Adjidaumo the forest type consists of large maples, beech and spruce with a dense stand of young balsam and spruce so dense that there is no ground cover, but where these species are scattered such species as witch hobble, dwarf dogwood, and ferns are found. The witch hobble is badly browsed by deer. In this area was a small white cedar, the first small one I have noticed on the area, which has been repeatedly been browsed by deer. Evidently Adirondack deer will eat cedar if it is available. Later I noticed that cedar along the lake shores showed a definite "browse line," caused whither by deer or by self shading.

**Observation:** Beaver

**Observation Number:** 8

**Date:** 29 September, 1937

**Location:** Inlet to Catlin Lake (from Round Pond)

**Observer:** W.L. Webb

**Time:** 9:40 AM

**Notes:** Saw two occupied beaver houses at the inlet to Catlin Lake. There was freshly peeled bark, and several canals that proved that one of the houses was occupied. This inlet is a marshy area covered mainly with alder. Also seen were ferns, black alder (*Ilex verticillata*) Spirea, and arrow wood(?).

**Observation:** Deer

**Observation Number:** 9

**Date:** 29 September, 1937

**Location:** Catlin Lake

**Observer:** W.L. Webb

**Time:** 11:30 AM

**Notes:** As we proceeded down Catlin Lake we saw a spike buck swimming across the lake. In order to obtain some pictures we followed him with the outboard for some time, but as he began swimming in circles and seemed to be tired we let him swim back to the shore he started from. There was a second deer on the opposite shore, and it seemed possible that the swimming deer was going across to "visit." When the deer again reached the shore he seemed nearly exhausted, he walked slowly and did not seem in much of a hurry to get off the beach. The distance swum must have been over 1/4 mile.

**Observation:** Ruffed Grouse

**Observation Number:** 11

**Date:** 30 September, 1937

**Location:** 1/8 mile from the entrance to Oja's house

**Observer:** W.L. Webb

**Time:** 8:55 AM

**Notes:** Flushed a grey phase ruffed grouse from the side of the highway. Gravel available. Along the roadside there is strawberry, dewberry, grass and aster, and about 3 feet from the right of way there is dense cover of mountain maple and further back white pine, cedar and balsam. The bird flew across the

road and into a stand of white pine, spruce, and white and yellow birch. It was believed that this bird was out on the highway getting gravel. Where do the birds back from the road get gravel?

**Observation:** Ruffed Grouse

**Observation Number:** 12

**Date:** 30 September, 1937

**Location:** East side of Catlin Lake

**Observer:** W.L. Webb

**Time:** 9:20 AM

**Notes:** Saw two ruffed grouse along the trail. These birds were also beside the road as if they were getting gravel. There are large yellow birch, spruce and maple along the road in this area. These species form a dense canopy, and as a result ground cover is scarce consisting of violet, fern, grass and witch hobble.

**Observation:** Bittersweet

**Observation Number:** 16

**Date:** 1 October, 1937

**Location:** Belden Lake

**Observer:** W.L. Webb

**Time:** 9:30 AM

**Notes:** Along the shore of Belden Lake, just below the Rich Lake Dam there are several bittersweet vines. These are not in fruit this year. Maple, yellow birch, white pine, balsam, black cherry and white birch pole stand.

**Observation:** Ruffed Grouse

**Observation Number:** 18

**Date:** 18 October, 1937

**Location:** N/A

**Observer:** W.L. Webb

**Time:** 11:05 AM

**Notes:** Flushed and grey phase ruffed grouse at a distance of 11 yards. The bird flushed from straight ahead of me in an area where the ground cover consists of a few ferns some wood sorrel, and an occasional dwarf dogwood; the only brush is an occasional spear of witch hobble, and the trees are made up of a medium stand of large spruce and yellow birch with an understory of 10 foot spruces. As far as I could make out there is no reason for a grouse to be here unless he was just resting; there is no food unless he eats dead leaves or is already budding, no water, no gravel, no dusting scrape. Also in this area there is a dead maple that has stump sprouted profusely and deer have trimmed this back several times.

**Observation:** Deer

**Observation Number:** 19

**Date:** 18 October, 1937

**Location:** N/A

**Observer:** W.L. Webb

**Time:** 11:25 AM

**Notes:** Two deer, one a doe and the other undetermined, got up about 2 chains ahead of me. The wind was not blowing very hard, but was in general from me to them. The doe ran about a chain, and then when I whistled she stood and looked while I looked at her with my field glasses. In a stand of large birch and spruce with an occasional beech mixed in. There were also a few young spruce. The brush was badly browsed witch hobble present only in the openest places. Ground cover was very scattered consisting of ground pine, wood sorrel, gold thread, and lady fern.

**Observation:** Openings

**Observation Number:** 23

**Date:** 21 October, 1937

**Location:** N/A

**Observer:** W.L. Webb

**Time:** 9:05 AM

**Notes:** Located an opening in the woods which was evidently used at one time as a camp site. It is sodded in and provides a dense mat of clover, grass, strawberry, yarrow, pearly everlasting. There are several white pines and spruces in this opening with branches to the ground forming good cover. The opening is almost surrounded with 10 - 40 foot spruce and white pine providing good cover at the edges. Further back is a middle aged stand of aspen, yellow birch, and white birch. This area is right at the lake shore where gravel is available. However, there are no plants bearing fruit at the season, and there undoubtedly will not be any in the spring. It would seem like a good idea to get some species which would hold its fruit under snow until the critical season of spring. As if to prove the value of openings, I flushed a ruffed grouse from a white pine at the edge of this one. It can not be counted in the census. It flushed at a distance of about 15 yards, flew out over the lake, and then back into the woods when it rounded a point.

**Observation:** Ruffed Grouse

**Observation Number:** 26

**Observer:** W.L. Webb

**Date:** 21 October, 1937

**Time:** 10:00 AM

**Location:** N/A

**Notes:** As I was retracing my steps to the camp to get an axe, I flushed 4 ruffed grouse. These birds flew up one at a time; there were 2 grey faces, one red and one undetermined. These birds were under a clump of 35 to 40 foot hemlocks along the lake shore. The lowest branches of these trees were 15 to 20 feet above the ground. Hemlocks are surrounded by a pole stand of maple and yellow birch. The brush consisted of a little short witch hobble. Ground cover a little goldthread and a few lady fern and the rest dead leaves. When I flush a grouse on this area I always wonder why any bird would live there. There doesn't seem to be any reason for their presence in the way of food. These again were near gravel on the lake shore, but I have been unable to see any good supply of food for these birds. Could they be budding at this season?

**Observation:** Deer

**Observation Number:** 30

**Observer:** W.L. Webb

**Date:** 23 October, 1937

**Time:** 10:50 AM

**Location:** Catlin Lake

**Notes:** Saw a fawn deer along the lake shore. We got within a chain before it started to run, and I saw it. I believe it was lying down in a stand of middle aged yellow birch and spruce about 40 feet tall. This stand was fairly open, and was on the edge of a pole sized stand of yellow birch and maple. The area was quite brushy with witch hobble, raspberry, and beech reproduction. Ground cover was quite dense; lady fern, wood sorrel, dwarf dogwood and grass.

**Observation:** Corner Pond

**Observation Number:** 35

**Observer:** W.L. Webb

**Date:** 25 October, 1937

**Time:** N/A

**Location:** Corner Pond

**Notes:** Notes on Corner Pond after a hasty survey of the south shore line - Corner Pond should provide good nesting sites for many species of ducks; some of the shore line is a steep bank covered with a dense growth of 30 foot spruce with a dense stand of seedling and sapling spruce coming up underneath the overhead canopy; the rest of the shore line is low-lying grassy marshland, evidently beaver flooded and filled with tall stubs. These conditions should provide good nesting sites for many species of ducks, but from what I could see along the shore line there is very little in the way of food plants in the lake. As far as food conditions go the area seems to be non-productive. No ducks were seen on the lake this day.

**Observation:** Ackerman Clearing

**Observation Number:** 41

**Observer:** W.L. Webb

**Date:** 25 October, 1937

**Time:** 3:40 PM

**Location:** Ackerman Clearing

**Notes:** This area was cleared as a homestead many years ago. It is about 300 feet long and 200 feet wide situated on a south facing hillside. There is very little brush present in this clearing in contrast to the preceding one. Where present raspberry forms a dense tangle, however, most of the area is a dense tangle of tall bracken fern, grass and aster, with quite a little goldenrod, thistle, pearly everlasting, strawberry, bedstraw. In the northwest corner of the area are two Crataegus bushes about 12 feet high bearing a great deal of fruit at this season of the year. The area is surrounded by a middle aged stand of spruce, white pine, maple, white birch and yellow birch; with a few tamarack and cedar also present. Along the edge of the clearing are a number of shrubby spruce and white pine providing good cover at the edge. Deer feces are in abundance now, seeming to indicate that deer have been using this clearing in the last few weeks.

**Observation:** Deer

**Observation Number:** 48

**Observer:** W.L. Webb

**Date:** 26 October, 1937

**Time:** 10:07 AM

**Location:** N/A

**Notes:** Found a place where a deer had been pawing over a considerable area. Later I noticed so many of these spots that I could not spare the time to record them all. In a dense stand of mature maple, yellow birch and spruce; with a fairly dense stand of 10 foot spruce forming an understory. A little badly browsed witch hobble is the only brush. Ground cover very scattered, lady fern, dwarf dogwood, wood sorrel, grass and violet.

**Observation:** Beaver

**Observation Number:** 55

**Observer:** W.L. Webb

**Date:** 26 October, 1937

**Time:** 1:30 PM

**Location:** Bracken area on the north boundary

**Notes:** This area is almost entirely open but there are occasional 20 foot aspen, spruce, balsam, and maple. There is also considerable aspen reproduction. The bracken fern is the predominant species, growing tall and thick. In addition there is quite a little dwarf dogwood, and some ground pine, goldthread, grass, aster and strawberry. I am interested in the aspen reproduction in this area, as much of this country has been logged by the beaver in addition to fire. I propose to take a count of the aspen reproduction along several strips, starting at the boundary and going uphill to the edge of the dense timber, to see if enough aspen is coming in to support beaver in the near future, and to see if the deer are nipping the reproduction very badly.

**Observation:** Ruffed Grouse

**Observation Number:** 63

**Observer:** W.L. Webb

**Date:** 1 November, 1937

**Time:** 3:55 PM

**Location:** N/A

**Notes:** Saw three ruffed grouse, one was grey phase, and the phase of the other two wasn't determined. The first one seen was on the ground, and as I watched it clucking around I heard the others which were in the tree tops. The sun is very near the horizon already and it looked to me as if they were feeding (budding) but although I watched them for some time they didn't show as much interest in food as they did in my presence. In a dense pole stand of yellow birch, beech and maple. Brush dense maple seedlings about 6 inches high. Ground cover very scattered lady fern, grass and ground pine.

**Observation:** Snowshoe Hare

**Observation Number:** 67

**Observer:** W.L. Webb

**Date:** 4 November, 1937

**Time:** 8:45 AM

**Location:** N/A

**Notes:** Found the tracks of a snowshoe hare, but although I followed them for some time I couldn't see the hare. The animal had spent considerable time in this area because its tracks were almost a hopeless maze to follow. In a spruce, balsam and hemlock swamp about chain across. The trees were of pole size and formed a medium density covering. The animal, I afterwards discovered had been up on the surrounding highland to some extent. I looked to see what it had been chewing on, but could find no evidence of feeding.

**Observation:** Chipmunk

**Observation Number:** 69

**Observer:** W.L. Webb

**Date:** 4 November, 1937

**Time:** 10:35 AM

**Location:** N/A

**Notes:** Saw a chipmunk filling its pouches with dead beech leaves and run down a hole. Evidently he is "feathering his nest." In two minutes he was back after more. In a mature medium density stand of beech, yellow birch and maple, with some pole sized spruce mixed in. Medium density understory of beech, spruce, and yellow birch of both sapling and pole size. Brush dense with huckleberry with quite a few scattered spruce and beech seedlings.

**Observation:** Arctic three-toed Woodpecker

**Observation Number:** 71

**Observer:** W.L. Webb

**Date:** 4 November, 1937

**Time:** 11:40 AM

**Location:** N/A

**Notes:** Saw an arctic three-toed woodpecker (*Picoides arcticus*) pecking away on a balsam tree. I believe this is the first record of this species on the forest. In a mature fairly dense stand of hemlock and yellow birch, with a dense understory of sapling to pole sized spruce and balsam. Brush scattered with huckleberry and an occasional beech seedling.

**Observation:** Muskrat

**Observation Number:** 73

**Observer:** W.L. Webb

**Date:** 5 November, 1937

**Time:** 1:45 PM

**Location:** Catlin Camp

**Notes:** Saw a muskrat right off the dock at the Catlin Camp. It swam up to within 15 feet of me, dived and didn't appear again although I remained motionless.

**Observation:** Snowshoe Hare

**Observation Number:** 76

**Observer:** W.L. Webb

**Date:** 7 November, 1937

**Time:** 11:45 AM

**Location:** N/A

**Notes:** Saw a snowshoe rabbit. Animal still in summer coat, but seemed light on the sides. It was jumped from a form made under a 15 foot balsam with branches that hung very close to the ground on all sides. As the animal ran away it pounded its back legs on the ground as if it was angry at being disturbed. In a dense pole sized stand of white birch, balsam, cedar and black cherry, with a fairly dense maple reproduction and some scattered raspberry. Ground cover - medium density, ground pine, lady fern, and some twin flower.

**Observation:** Ruffed Grouse

**Observation Number:** 81

**Date:** 9 November, 1937

**Location:** Corner Pond

**Observer:** W.L. Webb

**Time:** 9:15 AM

**Notes:** Flushed a grey phase ruffed grouse. As I finished bailing out the boat at Corner Pond, I stood up and a grouse flushed, although I had been making plenty of noise before. The bird flushed from a dense pole stand of spruce, balsam, and hemlock. Very dense understory of sapling spruce and balsam 3 -10 feet high. No brush except spruce reproduction where possible. Ground cover scattered, twin flower, dwarf dogwood, and lady fern.

**Observation:** Fisher

**Observation Number:** 9

**Date:** 24 December, 1937

**Location:** N/A

**Observer:** O.W. Oja

**Time:** N/A

**Notes:** Found that a pair of fisher had followed along shoreline from direction of Cemetery Bay and, cutting across tip of Headquarters Point, proceeded toward head of Rich Lake. Tracks were examined far enough to satisfy myself that they were fisher and not fox tracks. Later found that tracks along the north shore of Rich Lake indicated the fishers had made circuit and returned into Sucker Brook section via north shoreline of Rich Lake with short excursions inland. Weather - fair to overcast. Temperature 6 to 36 degrees.