

this knowledge has led to the formation of certain definite opinions as to the best way to conserve animal life in National Parks. These opinions have been arrived at gradually, and in some cases amount now to seemingly well-grounded convictions, the important ones of which I will proceed to discuss.

Since, by definition, National Parks are essentially preserves, for purposes of serious study as well as recreation, then the administrator's guard must continually be exercised against any pollution of the native fauna, any perversion of it from what it *was*, here in the West, up till somewhat less than a century ago. First and foremost, any and all *non-native* animals must rigidly be denied admission. Dogs and cats are now banned, and properly so, from, I think, all National Parks. Quite as proper is it to stand firmly against all suggestion that alien animals of any other sorts be introduced into National Parks. No non-native kinds of quail, or pheasants or wild turkeys, of beaver or deer belong in any park where such animals did not originally exist. For example, elk have no place in Yosemite.

This dictum I should apply quite as rigorously with respect to species and even sub-species which happen to be near-related to native ones. It would be a biological indiscretion to plant eastern squirrels, which are of other races, in Yosemite Park, simply for the reason that the native Grey Squirrel is, for the time being, at a low ebb of population numbers. According to well-known biological law, the introduction of any non-native species, if successful, is bound to be followed by disappearance of some native species with which, to be successful, the alien competes. No two kinds of animals of the same requirements for food and shelter can long occupy the same place; one of them will disappear. Not only one, but a series of native species may be affected by the establishment of just one alien species; the whole balanced inter-relation originally obtaining may be upset. A continental fauna is already *full*, in the sense that all the ecologic niches are occupied. To repeat, there is no possibility of adding a new animal without affecting the interests of one or more native ones.

The full native complement of animal life should be left absolutely undisturbed, save to the extent incidental to making the park accessible to the visiting public. I mean exactly this, that no so-called "vermin," such as wildcats, coyotes, weasels, hawks or owls should as a rule ever be killed inside of National Park boundaries. Within large parks such as Yosemite and Sequoia, not even the mountain lion should be disturbed. All these animals *belong* to the territory, have been there from time immemorial, as parts of the perfectly normal biotic complex.