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1953

Biological Station Summer Session, 1953

Montana State University (Missoula, Mont.)

Flathead Lake Biological Station

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NUMBER 447
JANUARY, 1953

University of Montana Bulletin



1953 SESSION

Montana State University

BIOLOGICAL STATION

FLATHEAD LAKE

BIGFORK, MONTANA

June 20 to August 15

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DR. PHILIP L. WRIGHT

Photos Courtesy of Royal Bruce Brunson

(Cover photo courtesy of Sumner Dow, Mammalogy Class in Glacier National Park)

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MISSOULIAN

THE BIOLOGICAL STATION OF MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY

Summer Session

June 20 to August 15, 1953

The Biological Station, a unit of the Summer College of Montana State University, is a field station for teaching and research in Botany and Zoology. The main station grounds are located at Yellow Bay on the east shore of Flathead Lake. The two nearest communities are Bigfork, 16 miles to the north at the north end of the lake, and Polson, 17 miles distant, on the southwest shore of the lake. The Mission mountains rise abruptly from the Station grounds to the east and south. The Swan range lies within easy driving distance east and north of Yellow Bay, and Glacier National Park can be reached by car in one and one-half hours.

Areas under the control of the station include approximately 70 acres at Yellow Bay and 40 acres in the bottom lands at the south end of the lake. Of the many islands in the lake, the station controls three small islands (Bird islands) off Finley point and 40 acres on Idylwild island. Permission has been granted Station personnel to carry on biological investigations on Wildhorse island, which has an area of approximately 2,000 acres.

Flathead Lake is an oligotrophic lake with a definite thermocline during the summer months. It is approximately 35 miles long with an average width of 7 miles. The maximum depth is approximately 300 feet. The shore line of the lake varies considerably from precipitous, rocky shores on the east side to a sloping, sandy bottom at the south end of the lake. The Swan and Flathead Rivers empty into the lake at the north end, and the latter river drains the lake at the south.

Within easy driving distance are mountain streams, temporary and permanent ponds, several smaller lakes and many mountain lakes in the passes of the Mission and Swan Ranges. Flathead Lake and the Station grounds are at an elevation of approximately 3000 feet. The Mission and Swan Ranges reach an altitude of about 10,300 feet, and the ranges of Glacier National Park attain an altitude of 12,000 feet.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDY AND RESEARCH

The variety of habitats and range of altitude offers unlimited possibilities for research in Botany in three major drainage systems. The greater part of the region lies in the Columbia River drainage. The

Mississippian and Hudsonian drainage systems have their headwaters in Glacier National Park and are accessible for study. The predominant vegetation types are those of the montane and sub-alpine forests. Also present are many fine representations of the coast forest, sage brush, grass land and tundra formations. Botanical research in this region to date has been almost entirely of the preliminary survey type. Thus, the possibilities for research in both the higher and lower plant groups are almost unlimited.

The possibilities for research in Zoology are equally as good. All of western Montana is practically unknown territory, particularly for taxonomists and ecologists. Seventy-five species of mammals occur in the area. Big game animals are common over the western part of Montana. Among these are the elk, moose, white-tailed deer, mule deer, mountain goat, Rocky Mountain big-horn sheep and grizzly and black bear. The National Bison Range, 40 miles from the Biological Station, supports herds of bison, elk, sheep and deer. Mammals peculiar to mountain ranges, such as the pika and hoary marmot, can conveniently be studied near the Station. Nearly 200 species of breeding birds are to be found in western Montana. Common nesting birds in the vicinity of the Station include the western tanager, Macgillivray's warbler, and the little-known Townsend's warbler. In Glacier Park, the rosy finch and the American pipit are common at high elevations and the white-tailed ptarmigan may be seen. At Nine-Pipe and Pablo Federal Migratory Bird Refuges, an hour's drive south of the Station, many species of water birds nest, of which the avocet and the western grebe are striking examples. A few species of amphibians and reptiles are known from western Montana. An unknown number of species of fish inhabit the waters of the region. Three species of trout, the land-locked salmon, Rocky Mountain whitefish, and many introduced species of fish are among those found in Flathead Lake. No estimate can be made as to the number of species (or genera) of invertebrates found in the region. There are many aquatic and terrestrial gastropods and an abundance of Sphaeriids. Fresh water sponges occur in several of the waters. Macro-crustaceans are rare, but at least two species of phyllo-pods are known to be present. The insect fauna is rich both in numbers of species and in numbers of individuals.

FACILITIES FOR INSTRUCTION AND RESEARCH

The physical plant of the Biological Station includes a two-story brick building, which houses the office, supply room and space for recreation, and a four-room laboratory and three other one-room laboratories. Equipment includes boats, a launch, compound and dissecting microscopes and accessories, and other items needed in laboratory work.

In the zoological collections are skins and skulls of mammals; bird skins; a small collection of preserved reptiles, amphibians, and fishes;

and a collection of invertebrates. The botanical material includes a good representative Bryophyte herbarium and a small phanerogamic collection.



Limnology laboratory

GENERAL INFORMATION

Board and Lodging

Board is provided at the Station commissary. All people living at the Station are required to board at the commissary.

Students and faculty live in cabins. Each cabin is provided with beds, mattresses, pillows, chairs, table and minor items of equipment. Blankets, towels and linen must be provided by the occupants. Cabins are supplied with electric lights and electric (AC) outlets. One family or four students will occupy one cabin. Because of limited space, accommodations cannot be supplied to families of undergraduates. Groups of cabins are set apart in various areas of the Station grounds for men, single women, married students and faculty.

A combination bath house and latrine, centrally located, has hot showers in addition to regular wash stands. Washing machines and stationary laundry tubs are available for use in both men's and women's sections of the bathhouse. A small ironing room is also available. No irons are supplied by the Station.

Health

A nurse will be on hand at all times for treatment of minor illnesses. Several doctors in the vicinity of the Station are available for emergencies. Modern hospitals are located at Polson and Kalispell.

The drinking water comes from artesian springs and is piped to various parts of the Station grounds. The sanitary system includes both cesspools and septic tanks.

Recreation

Opportunities for recreation are many. Mountain climbing, hiking, swimming, boating and fishing offer the best means of relaxation. Some of the best fishing in western United States is to be found within a few

hours' drive of the Station. Fine catches of rainbow, cut-throat and Dolly Varden trout and landlocked red salmon are made the year round in Flathead Lake. Ideal trout fishing may be had in most of the streams and rivers in the community. There are excellent Forest Service and Indian Service trails in the Mission and Swan Mountains. There are also many fine trails with overnight accommodations at chalets in Glacier National Park. Weekly climbs into the Missions and community recreation will be planned for those in attendance at the Station.

Field Trips

Transportation will be provided for all regular class trips. All field trips are under the supervision of an instructor. Many of the field trips will be completed within one day, although at least one overnight trip in each course may be expected. Meals on such trips are supplied by the commissary. The Station cannot as yet offer transportation for independent research workers; however, space on scheduled field trips will be made available to them.

Post-Session Trip

The study of the taxonomy, distribution and ecology of the flora and fauna of the various mountain ranges is an extended research project of the Biological Station staff and investigators. To collect data for this program, a trip will be attempted into one of the primitive areas during the week of August 16-22. Interested students, who have demonstrated marked ability in their course work, and investigators are permitted to participate in this program. Students and investigators who may desire to take this trip are urged to indicate same on application blank when enrolling so that cost estimates can be made.

Scholarships

The Western Montana Fish and Game Association Scholarship for the study of fish and related problems in Flathead Lake—This Scholarship provides \$350.00 a year to a graduate student working for his Master of Arts degree at Montana State University. Application should be made to the director, Biological Station, not later than May 1, 1953. An application for admission to the Graduate School should also be filed with the Dean of the Graduate School, Montana State University.

FEEES AND EXPENSES

A student fee of \$50.00 is charged for both resident and non-resident students. This includes a cabin fee of \$10.50.

Resident and non-resident investigators, for whom research space and general laboratory materials will be supplied, are charged a fee of \$50.00, which includes the \$10.50 cabin fee.

Dependents of students and investigators must pay a \$10.50 cabin fee. However, there is no charge for children below three years of age.

Board at the commissary is \$15 per week* for the regular session. This must be paid at the time of enrolling.

Inasmuch as the Biological Station is a part of Montana State University, government educational benefits to veterans under Public Laws 16, 346 and 550 apply at the Station in the same manner as they do on the University campus. Veterans should indicate on the application blank the congressional act under which they will enroll.

Full subsistence will be paid by the Veterans Administration if enrolled for nine or more credit hours.

*Subject to the approval of the State Board of Education.

ADMISSION AND REGISTRATION

Students who have reached the junior level in college and who have satisfactorily completed necessary course prerequisites are eligible for admission. Students of sophomore standing with the required prerequisites may petition the Executive Committee for entrance. Applications for admission to courses should be made before May 1, using the blank provided in the catalog. Additional blanks will be provided on request. Applications will be reviewed on May 1 and notifications of acceptance will be mailed soon after. Applications made after May 1 will be considered in the order in which they are received.

Students who have not previously been enrolled at the Station must submit a complete official transcript together with recommendations from two instructors. Graduate students must first enroll in the Graduate School of Montana State University. Application blanks may be secured from the Dean of the Graduate School, Montana State University, Missoula, Montana.

A \$10.00 deposit must be included with the application for admission to the Biological Station. This will be refunded if the applicant withdraws his application before June 1. At the time of registration, this deposit will be credited to the cabin fee. Official registration will be held at the Station on Saturday, June 20. Classwork begins Monday, June 22, and extends through the full session of 8 weeks.

CREDITS

Credits earned at the Biological Station are transferable to other colleges and universities the same as credits earned in the Departments of Botany and Zoology on the University campus. Graduate credit can be received in all courses given at the Station. Undergraduates may take only those courses numbered below 200.

ADVANCED DEGREES

Qualified students who are officially enrolled in the Graduate School may take course work and do research at the Station toward a master's degree. Master's degrees are offered in both Botany and Zoology by the respective departments. Students interested in earning a master's degree through successive summers at the Biological Station should write to the chairman of the department of either Botany or Zoology for additional information.

Wildlife

With the establishment of a Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit on the Missoula campus in 1950, a student can now earn a degree of Master of Science in Wildlife Technology. It is possible for a student to do part of his work at the biological station. Students interested in this degree should write to the Leader of the Montana Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit or to the Chairman of the Department of Zoology for further information.



Hiking along Garden Wall Trail in Glacier Park



Station excursion—rest stop at Mission Falls

DESCRIPTION OF COURSES

Students may elect only those formal courses announced in the bulletin, but certain qualified students may elect work under 199 and 200. Credit is given in quarter hours. The recommended load for students is nine hours. Maximum load for any student is twelve and the minimum load is six hours. Only exceptional students will be granted permission to carry courses in excess of nine hours. A three-hour course meets one full day a week and a six-hour course meets two full days a week. Courses are so planned that additional work, such as preparation of reports, assigned readings, study, and conferences, occupies time outside of regular class days.

A student electing work in either Botany or Zoology S199 and S200 must secure the consent of the instructor in charge before action can be taken on his application by the executive committee.

GEOLOGY

Physiography—A non-credit course in the physiography of Western Montana will be offered to all interested students on Thursdays of the first four weeks of the session. Lectures and field trips will be conducted by Dr. K. P. McLaughlin, chairman of the Department of Geology, Montana State University.

BOTANY

- S160. Systematic Botany.** 6 credits. **Prerequisite:** One year's collegiate laboratory course in botany or equivalent. Identification and classification of vascular plants and their ecological distribution. Principles of nomenclature, methods of collecting, mounting and preserving plants. Three two-day trips are taken into alpine habitats as well as one day trips to aquatic habitats, typical palouse prairie, western white cedar-western white pine and yellow pine-Douglas fir forests and several mixed habitats. Approximately 120 species in forty families are studied.
Botany Laboratory. Monday, Tuesday, Saturday. Harvey.
- S163. Aquatic Flowering Plants.** 3 credits. **Prerequisite:** One collegiate laboratory or field course in systematic botany. Identification, classification and ecology of higher aquatic plants. The Flathead Lake area is particularly rich in aquatic flowering plants. Geographically, it is a meeting ground for aquatic plants characteristic of the lakes and streams of the Pacific Coast and the Rocky Mountains, some of the Pacific Coast species being probably relics of the ancient redwood forest flora which inhabited the region about twenty-five million years ago in Miocene time. Furthermore, most of the wide-ranging northern aquatic species characteristic of the Great Lakes region reached their western limit in Northwestern Montana. Since the Mission Valley was glaciated in Pleistocene times, numerous small lakes and ponds occur among the glacial debris, and these provide varying local habitats suitable to a wide range of species.
Botany Laboratory. Friday, Saturday. Prescott.
- S164. Agrostology.** 3 credits. **Prerequisite:** One collegiate laboratory or field course in systematic botany. Identification, classification and ecology of grasses, sedges and rushes. Two two-day field trips are taken to alpine habitats and one to the mixed prairie east of Glacier National Park. One-day trips are taken to typical palouse prairie and various marshy areas where sedges and rushes are numerous. Approximately 50 species of grasses, 10 rushes and 20 sedges are studied.
(Omitted in 1953.)
- S174. Fresh Water Algae.** 3 credits. **Prerequisite:** One year's collegiate laboratory course in botany or equivalent. Identification, classification, distribution, life histories and limnological relationships of the algae of the Northern Rocky Mountains.
Botany Laboratory. Wednesday, Thursday. Prescott.
- S176. Bryophytes.** 3 credits. **Prerequisite:** One year's collegiate laboratory course in botany or equivalent. Taxonomy, ecology and morphology of the mosses and liverworts of the Northern Rocky Mountains.
(Omitted in 1953.)

- S199. **Special Problems in Botany.** 3 to 9 credits. **Prerequisite: Advance written consent of the instructor.** Students whose needs are not satisfied by the formally announced courses may secure advanced work in the several fields represented by the members of the teaching staff. Open to undergraduates and graduates. Staff.

Opportunities are available for problems in the taxonomy and the altitudinal or ecological distribution of plants in areas studied in all habitats mentioned under S160, S163, S164 and S174 above.

- S200. **Advanced Botanical Problems.** 3 to 9 credits. **Prerequisite: Advance written consent of the instructor in charge of the work.** Directed research in any of the fields covered by the staff. Written report required. This may be converted to a form for publication if the results of the problem so warrant. Students wishing to enroll for this course should consult or correspond with the staff member under whom they wish to do their work as soon as they have been notified of their acceptance. If the problem requires special equipment, the Director should be notified by May 15 so that arrangements can be made. Staff.

ZOOLOGY

- S108. **Ornithology.** 3 credits. **Prerequisite: One laboratory course in vertebrate zoology.** Life history, habits, identification and distribution of birds.

Weekly field trips are taken to a variety of habitats extending from the marshlands of the Flathead Valley, the islands of Flathead Lake to the alpine region of Glacier National Park. The course will be divided into two sections for most lectures and field trips in order to emphasize different aspects.

Section A, designed for game managers and biologists, will emphasize life history and population studies, including statistical and observational methods.

Section B, designed for teachers, will emphasize identification and behavior, including exercises for instruction of students. Mammalogy Laboratory. Wednesday, Thursday, Davis.

- S109. **Mammalogy.** 6 credits. **Prerequisite: Comparative vertebrate anatomy.** The life history, habits, identification and distribution of mammals, with particular reference to those of the Rocky Mountain region.

Four two- or three-day collecting trips are taken into representative mammal habitats. One of these trips will be taken to the National Bison Range and two to Glacier National Park. The small mammals of a plot on the Station grounds are censused annually by the live trap method.

Mammalogy Laboratory. Monday, Tuesday, Saturday. Wright.

- S110. **Ichthyology.** 3 credits. **Prerequisite: Comparative vertebrate anatomy.** The classification, natural history and distribution of fishes, with special reference to those of the region.

Fisheries Laboratory. (Omitted in 1953.)

- S161. **Limnology.** 6 credits. **Prerequisite: Elementary Zoology and one Collegiate course in Chemistry.** Ecology of lakes, streams and ponds, with emphasis on the physical, chemical and biotic factors which determine their biological productivity. Stress is placed on Flathead Lake but studies are conducted on reservoirs, high altitude lakes and glacial waters of Glacier National park.

Although most of the work is done on Flathead Lake, a three-day trip is taken to some mountain lake and a complete limnological survey is made of that body of water. The last field trip is one to a glacier in Glacier National Park where students observe the history of the water through a succession of lower lakes to the valley floor.

Limnology Laboratory. Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday. Brunson.

- S164. **Natural History of Invertebrates.** 3 credits. **Prerequisite: Invertebrate Zoology.** The ecology, taxonomy and distribution of the invertebrates of the Rocky Mountain area. Although all invertebrates other than insects and helminths are studied, emphasis is placed upon the molluscs of the region.

At least three overnight trips are taken. The Mission, Whitefish and Cabinet Mountains and Glacier National Park are visited to secure representative invertebrate types. About 30 species of molluscs, 5 species of sponges and the red Hydra are included in the forms studied.

(Omitted in 1953.)

S165. **Entomology.*** 6 credits. **Prerequisite:** Two laboratory courses in Zoology, including invertebrate zoology. Introduction to the morphology, physiology, taxonomy and ecology of the Insecta. Invertebrate Laboratory. Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday. Castle.

S166. **Aquatic Insects.*** 3 credits. **Prerequisite:** Zoology 14ab (Elementary Invertebrates) or equivalent and consent of the instructor. A study of the insect fauna, both immature and adult, of aquatic habitats of Western Montana. Invertebrate Laboratory. Friday, Saturday. Castle.

S199. **Special Problems in Zoology.** 2 to 6 credits. **Prerequisite:** Adequate background courses in the subject and advance written consent of the instructor. Opportunity is available for students to pursue work under the guidance of the instructor in the field of interest. Staff.

Mammalogy—Opportunities are available for study of distributional, taxonomic and life history problems of mammals. Live traps are available for problems involving censusing of small mammals. There are sizeable populations of flying squirrels, chipmunks, red-backed mice and shrews on the Station grounds or in the immediate vicinity. Arrangements may be made to carry out special problems either with small mammals or the big game species in Glacier National Park. Wright.

Ornithology—The Station area offers opportunity for the study of life histories, local distribution and ecology of resident species. Live traps are available for banding studies. Problems of broader scope may be pursued in adjacent areas. Davis.

Entomology—Western Montana offers almost unlimited opportunities for taxonomic, ecological and life history studies of insects. The immature stages of many aquatic forms which occur in the area are practically unknown. With a wide variety of habitats available, ecological studies of many groups are possible. Castle.

Fisheries—There are excellent opportunities for studies of distribution, migration, feeding habits and age and growth of the fish of Flathead Lake and surrounding lakes. Gill nets, seines, trap nets and boats are available for use. Brunson.

Invertebrates—Possibilities are unlimited for ecological, life history and taxonomic studies of all the invertebrates. These studies may be made independently or in conjunction with the Invertebrates class. Brunson.

S200. **Advanced Zoological Problems.** Credit variable. **Prerequisite:** Advance written consent of instructor. Opportunity is given graduate students with sufficient preparation and ability to pursue original investigations. Staff.

S261. **Limnological Methods.** 3 credits. **Prerequisite:** Graduate standing, limnology, and at least one year of collegiate chemistry. A course which provides field and laboratory practice in standard procedures employed in limnological investigations. Brunson. (Omitted in 1953.)

*Enrollment demands will determine which of these two courses (S165 and S166) will be offered in 1953.



INFORMATION FOR 1953 SESSION

Enrolling

The size of each class will be limited so as to make the most efficient use of materials and equipment. **Therefore, when applying for admission, each student should show a first and second choice of schedule of courses or problems.** Although a six-hour course normally meets two days a week and a three-hour course meets one day a week, all classes are scheduled an extra day each week to reserve time for two-day trips. Enrolling permits, showing whether first or second choice is granted, will be mailed as soon as action has been taken by the Executive Committee.

Equipment Needed

The student is responsible for supplying his own bedding, linens, toilet articles and proper clothing. As a rule, summer rains will come the last week of June and the first week of July. However, local showers occur in high altitudes, so that rain equipment that is light to carry is desirable. Nights are cool, and temperatures are low at high altitudes. Therefore the student should be supplied with warm clothing, preferably wool. Since many of the classes will do mountain climbing during the course of the summer, students are strongly advised to have adequate foot wear. Regular mountain boots are advisable for climbing. For those intending to do aquatic work, tennis shoes or hip boots will probably be the best type of foot wear. Recreational equipment should be supplied by individual students.

Inasmuch as many overnight trips will be taken, back-packs and sleeping bags (such as the inner bag of the arctic type) are recommended.

Books and class supplies can be obtained from student book store.

Since the Station area is a game reserve, dogs and other pets are not allowed. Firearms may not be brought on the premises without advance written permission from the Director. All guns will be kept in the gun room.

Remunerative Work

Opportunities for work are not numerous. Graduate assistantships are available in most of the courses. To be eligible for one of these assistantships, a student should have had the course or its equivalent in some other institution. There will be opportunity to work by the day and by the hour at janitor work, day labor on the Station grounds, and driving trucks. Applications for work should be sent to the Director.



Exploring Thunder-Bird Glacier

APPLICATION FOR ADMISSION

MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY
BIOLOGICAL STATION

Missoula, Montana

SUMMER SESSION, 1953

Name Age.....
Last First Middle

Mailing Address

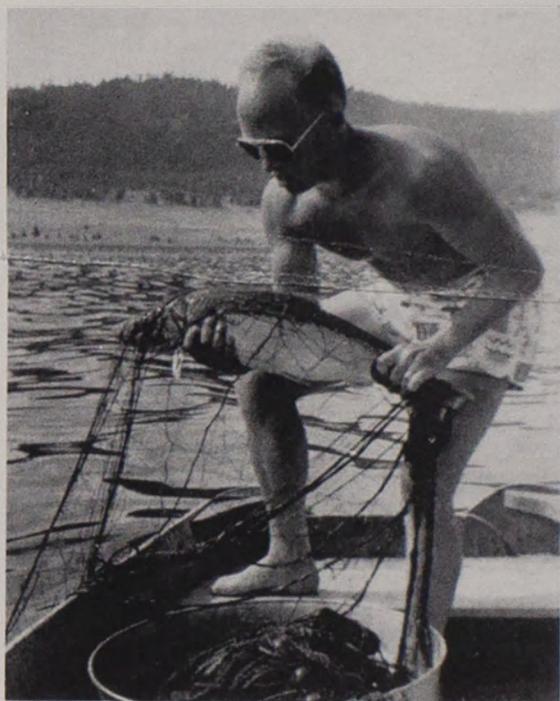
Graduate..... Undergraduate..... Year..... Major Field.....

Institutions previously attended (with year of graduation) :

College or University.....

Degrees with Dates.....

Veteran ; PL 16..... ; PL 346..... ; PL 550.....
(Continued on next page)



Investigator
in
fisheries

If a member of some instructional staff, give status:.....
.....

Schedule of courses desired:

First Choice:

Second Choice:

If Research Work: (a) Independent....., (b) Under Supervision.....

If under supervision, with whom or in what field?.....

Are you interested in taking post-session trip?.....

Cabin requirement:

Roommate preferences

If married, will wife or family accompany you?.....

If so, give number and ages of children.....

(Instructions for arrival and other pertinent information will be mailed
to applicants.)

(Additional bulletins may be obtained by writing to the Director.)

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The Mission Race