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SPECIAL REPORT
ON
STATUS DESERT BIGHORN
IN ZION NATIONAL PARK

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IN
STORAGE

Handwritten notes:
JH 12/6
~~Mr. Cahalane~~ ^{VAC}
~~Pres~~
~~Board~~
M.M.

Submitted: October 27, 1938

Joseph S. Dixon
Joseph S. Dixon
Field Naturalist

ON MICROFILM

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SPECIAL REPORT
ON
STATUS DESERT BIGHORN
IN ZION NATIONAL PARK

Submitted: October 27, 1938—J.S. Dixon

On October 17, 1938 in company with Ranger Schiefer, I made our third census of bighorn in the area extending from Bridge Mountain to Stevens Wash, and also near the upper tunnel on the Mount Carmel Highway. We had together made similar surveys in this region in 1933 and again in 1935, so that we had a good background on which to base our comparison.

Because of the fact that considerable rain and snow had fallen the day previous, so that all of the sandy stream beds in the area had been covered by flowing water which had dimmed or obliterated the recent bighorn tracks, it was difficult to judge the relative age of the bighorn tracks which we encountered, so that our most reliable evidence consisted of droppings which had been left by the bighorn in protected rocky locations. From this sign and from plants which had been browsed by the bighorn, it was our conclusion that the bighorn flock had increased slightly - about twenty percent - since the time of our last visit when we had covered approximately the same identical area.

This conclusion was substantiated by the findings of the local mail carrier who had reported having seen within the year eight individual bighorn at one time, adjacent and just east of the highway, near the portal of the upper tunnel. Three bighorns had been seen by this same mail carrier at this point on another occasion. Our investigations indicated that the bighorn were now using the area east of the highway in the vicinity of Deertrap Mountain.

Another item of interest was the finding of numerous Indian petroglyphs which had been carved in a red sandstone wall in this locality. Such signs I have found to be dependable evidence as to the former abundance of bighorn in such areas.

Altogether, our investigation indicated that the Mount Zion bighorn are in flourishing condition and that their numbers have increased about fifteen or twenty percent over that which obtained in 1933 and 1935.