National Heritage Team of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Oral History Program
Subject/USFW Retiree: Roy Tomlinson
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Interviewed by: John Cornely

Roy Tomlinson:
I was born in Detroit, Michigan in July 1931. I had one brother that was born 5-1/2 years later. We lived there for about 14 years, and it was a pretty good life but it was pretty tough during the depression, but my dad always had a job and we always had food on the table. But my mother had a bad case of asthma. She would wheeze, and it was really tough on her with the cold and humid weather in Detroit. To help her problem and get to a drier climate, my dad got a transfer with Sinclair Refining Co. to El Paso, Texas. And of course that thrilled me because I'd read things as a child about cowboys and Indians, and of course I envisioned that that was what it was going to be, cowboys and Indians you know! And you know to a certain degree it was like that when we got there [in June 1945]. El Paso at that time probably had a population of maybe of 130,000, something like that, and Juárez on the other side of the border was still quite small too. Kids came to school wearing cowboy boots and the uniform of the day was Levi's or Lee's and a tee-shirt, and we all had bullwhips and went out and popped bullwhips. We enjoyed that a lot. Of course there were a lot of rodeos [and other outdoor activities] that we went to. So in many respects El Paso lived up to my thoughts, but the thing that intrigued me the most about El Paso was that I heard people speaking Spanish. And I'd go down to the square downtown; you could just hop on a bus and go down even as young I was at 14. I could just go down there and do that by myself or with other kids. And all of these people were speaking Spanish and that really intrigued me, so I thought, "Boy, I've got to learn that language." [We lived in El Paso for 4 years.] So I went all through high school in El Paso, and I took 3 years of Spanish and enjoyed it a lot. When I finished school my dad's job was terminated so he had to get another job with the same company in Missouri, so [the family moved to Kansas City]. This was in 1949 just after I graduated from high school.

Oh incidentally, I do want to digress a little bit; my dad was essentially instrumental in getting me started in the wildlife field because we'd take walks [with our dog in the woods in Michigan and later in the desert in El Paso]. We didn't hunt much, although I do remember the first cock pheasant I shot in Michigan. But for the most part we'd take walks and he'd tell me about various plants and animals and things that we'd see out there, and it was really interesting to me there. So he's the person that got me interested in wildlife.

Well, when we moved to Kansas City I was enrolled in a small college called William Jewell College [in nearby Liberty, MO]. I was a very immature person and I'd never really learned how to study, so my first year in college at William Jewell was kind of a disaster, I flunked [the required course of] Religion and didn't make very good grades ; I did make a B in biology, however. And then in 1950, the Korean War erupted and so we had to... of course we were all worried about being drafted so I joined the Navy, and I was in the Navy for 4 years. And during that time I was trained as an aviation ordinance

man, which deals, of course, with bombs, rockets, machine guns, and guns of all sorts. I could take apart and reassemble a Colt .45 blindfolded. Then I was assigned to the aircraft carrier Antietam, a CV class - ESSEX class carrier, and we operated off of Korea for about 9 to 10 months. Fortunately we never were attacked but a lot of the planes that came back were badly damaged and we had accidents aboard the ship and people were killed [in the normal course of operation]. I do remember one time I was on mess duty and we had to break out the frozen foods from the reefers down below. A couple pilots had been killed the day before, and they were stored in the reefer. So I had to walk around these dead people in the reefers to bring the food up; that was kind of a strange thing. [During our regular work of loading bombs, rockets, and ammunition,] we worked 12 hours on and 12 hours off; sometimes we had the nightshift and sometimes the dayshift.

John Cornely:
What kind of planes, Roy, were flying off that carrier?

Roy Tomlinson:
[We had 4 aircraft units aboard, 2 jet squadrons, one Corsair, and one AD Sky Raider squadron.] The [Corsairs and] AD's were prop jobs, and it was said that they held the firepower of a cruiser.

John Cornely:
Those were some of the same planes that they were using in Vietnam as I recall.

Roy Tomlinson:
Yeah, I think maybe some of those were, yes.. And then there was the F6F, a Panther Jet it was called, and that was our main operating unit. There was another type of jet aboard but I can't remember the name of it, it was another jet, and those were the ones that flew the missions into and around Korea. And, of course, we went into Japan when we were there [to make repairs and take on provisions]. And they had what they called Cinderella Liberty, you would go out on liberty, but you had to be back by midnight, so that's what they meant by Cinderella! [Our liberties were enjoyable and the Japanese people were very nice and honest.] I didn't really like the service much at all because it was too much regimentation and it was just not my type of thing. I wanted to [work alone]. Of course I guess maybe many people prefer to work by themselves and not be regimented in something like the service. But the service did give me one thing and that was that I was able to go to college, I got the GI Bill. I might not have been able to if it hadn't been for the service, so that was the main thing that I got out of the service other than seeing foreign countries that I'd never seen before ,like Japan and the Philippines. And incidentally, the Philippines I thought was the hellhole of the world. It was hot and humid [and without air conditioning], and we would just sweat right through our mattresses at night it was so bad. Not much more to the military that I can recall at this point.

During my time in the military, I was thinking about what I was going to do in my life after I got out. I had always been interested in wildlife, and in fact when I was at

William Jewell I took an aptitude test that indicated forestry or wildlife was what I was most suited for. So my folks sent me a catalog from the University of Missouri [which described the wildlife curriculum that was offered]. At that time, I didn't know what the Wildlife Research Units were, but the catalog told about the wildlife unit there and they had undergraduate and graduate programs.

So I to the University of Missouri when I got, this was in August 1954, having spent nearly 4 years in the service. Of course I had the GI Bill, and I had {already completed} 1 year of college, so I had 4 years of compensation left to use. So during my first year I had to learn how to study all over again because I was... well I really never knew how to study before, I just never did much. So that was kind of tough at first, but I made good grades and I made the top grade in ornithology as a sophomore. Dr. Bill Elder was a professor there, he was well known personally in the wildlife field. As my sophomore year was ending, he approached me and said, "There's an opening for a summer position banding mourning doves for the Missouri Conservation Department." And he added, "Why don't you contact Howard Wight if you're interested." So I contacted Howard, who was a biologist with the Missouri Department of Conservation at the time, working on doves and rabbits.

John Cornely:
And this was Howard Wight that ended up in the Coop Unit out of Oregon State?

Roy Tomlinson:
Oregon State University, that's right. And he turned out to be my mentor. So I contacted him. My dad had already worked out a deal where I could work for the Wabash Railroad [during the summer]. We were living in Moberly, Missouri, at this time and the Wabash Railroad went right through Moberly. And I had an opportunity to work for them during the summer for $300.00 a month, and that was pretty good money in those days. So I had to make up my mind then and there whether I was going to go into this wildlife thing or not, and it paid $150.00 a month plus living expenses. And so I cogitated a short period of time and decided that wildlife's the way to go.

Howard Wight was my boss during the summers, so I banded doves the first summer and did a good job, and then I did that again the next summer. And we decided suggested that maybe there was something here as far as a master's project was concerned, and so this is how my master's evolved. I continued to work with banding doves and it turned into my Master's Thesis, which was *Migration and Local Movements of Mourning Doves in Missouri*. For awhile I was dually enrolled in the undergraduate and graduate schools at Mizzou. I got my master's in 1959; I had gotten my bachelor's in '57. During my graduate years, I obtained an assistantship under Tom Baskett. Incidentally, he was another one of my mentors. Tom Baskett was the unit leader at the University of Missouri. And between the two, Howard Wight and Tom Baskett, they guided the early parts of my career. So I was able then to finish out both my bachelor's and my master's with plenty of money. I was living high in the hog, I was double dipping there for awhile! So that's where my experience with Mourning Doves started, I had essentially worked with Mourning Doves for 4 years before I even got a job.

So let's see, was there anything during that period of time that was... Oh, tornadoes were pretty extensive during 1957 and 1958 when I was doing work at Fountain Grove Wildlife Area, which was near Swan Lake National Wildlife Refuge. And 2 or 3 tornadoes came through and they really, really scared the heck out of me! For one of them I was in the [FG office] building, and I had a small place where I stayed at night in the office. IT was also the place where they stored vehicles and it had a tin roof. A tornado came through one night and just missed the building, but it seemed like it was going to hit it [the building] because that roof would go boom-boom up and down, and I thought at anytime the roof and me and everything else was going to go. Two or 3 other times tornadoes came very close, and I had an unreasoning fear of tornadoes during that period of time and whenever one would come , if there was someplace to go, I went!

Well my first job then after I got out of school, I had really liked the Southwest so I tried to send my job applications to places in the west and southwest as much as possible. Texas was one place and New Mexico and Arizona, with Game and Fish Departments, mainly. There was one in Texas that had to do with deer and their eating habits which was offered to me but I decided I wouldn't take that because there was this job in New Mexico that came along, and it had to do with evaluating Chukar Partridge releases in the state. So I took that job and I moved the first year to Las Vegas, New Mexico, and I was there a year. Later, I came here to Albuquerque and lived here [for 3 years]. And we placed game farm Chukar Partridges in many parts of the state, really not knowing exactly where the best places were to put them. [The Chukars were raised at the state game farm in Carlsbad and transported to the sites.] We just opened up the crates and the birds would fly and out they'd go. So my job then was then to determine whether or not they were adapting to the environment or not. This was my first indication that artificial breeding and reintroduction, or introduction into the wild in places where they weren't necessarily viable locations doesn't work. Because, just like in later work that I'll go into later, the birds were usually dead within 2 months, and there are 2 or 3 reasons for this. As far as Chukar's were concerned they originally came from India and Turkey, and that's a Mediterranean-type climate which gives you winter rainfall and summer drought, and of course this area here is just the opposite, it’s summer rainfall and winter drought. And the areas in which they had become established in Oregon and Washington and Nevada did have somewhat more the different type of weather pattern, and they had cheatgrass that the birds really adapted to. We had very little cheatgrass at that time, there's more here now but in those days there was very little. And the other thing is not only were they not environmentally suitable, but just taking birds that were raised in an enclosed environment and then all of a sudden throwing them out is kind of ridiculous when you stop and think about it, because they don't know anything about hawks and coyotes and how to find food or anything. So they did hang on for a little while up in the northwestern part of the state, and I wrote a paper called *Is New Mexico Climatically Suitable for Chukar's?* And I gave it at [a meeting of the] Western Association, and I concluded that they really weren't except for the possibility of that northwestern corner. As it turns out, they didn't make it.

Then I worked with blue grouse for a while, which was really interesting because that's high country stuff, and I worked in the Jemez Mountains and up in the northern mountains around Chama, New Mexico and places like that.

John Cornely:
And were the blue grouse, native blue grouse in those areas?

Roy Tomlinson:
Yes, those areas up there [the northern high country of NM was excellent habitat for blue grouse] and with pretty good populations. You didn't see them very much they were there. And they have a reverse migration; they migrate up in the winter and migrate down in the summertime.

And then my boss at the time, his name was Howard Campbell, who just died about 6 months ago, a very good biologist and I enjoyed working with him a lot. He thought that perhaps we might be able to restore, not restore, but put birds [Blue Grouse] into southern parts of the state that didn't have them, and see if we couldn't establish them in those areas. So we did some of that, we'd trap birds in the northern part of the state and release them in certain parts of the southern part of the state. Unfortunately poachers got into a bunch of them and that pretty much ended it, it was pretty hard to trap them. [I wrote and published a paper on a method to drive-trap the Blue Grouse families.]

But at any rate, during that time they [a representative of the Missouri Conservation Department] called and asked me if I wanted to become the refuge manager for the state park [section] of Swan Lake National Wildlife Refuge. They had a state park and a federal park. [They were separate state and federal management areas and they wanted me to run the state section]. Since I really hadn't given New Mexico a chance at that point, I didn't feel like I could just up and leave them after a year or so, and so I turned that down. But after having worked here [for the New Mexico Game and Fish Department] for about 4 years, and having some problems with politics; we had some commissioners that didn't want to release your reports the way you wrote them, they wanted them modified, and of course if you modify them you're not being truthful. So that bothered me, so I decided that after getting a job offer from Howard Wight who then had taken a job as the Chief of the Migratory Bird Section at the old Migratory Bird Population Station at Patuxent with the Fish and Wildlife Service. And he called me and asked me if I would be interested in taking a job analyzing the banding data for mourning doves throughout the United States. So I decided well that might be a pretty good thing, it would get me away from this political situation.

And so I was hired by the Fish and Wildlife Service; this was in June 1963. I moved to Laurel, Maryland and Howard was my boss and the Migratory Bird Population Station at that time was run by the director Walt Crissey and the assistant director was Al Geis. And they were pretty much hated by the Game and Fish Departments because they argued against some of the seasons that the states-y wanted on waterfowl and other birds.

Both Geis and Crissey were very smart individuals who were able to use data to prove their points, and they did it most of the time. They didn't, in my opinion, look at the data to find out what it was [what was necessary for proper management]; they used the data to make their points [further their own agendas]. And so this is what made the Game and Fish Departments really uptight about them. My personal problem with Al Geis was that I couldn't stand the son of the gun!

John Cornely:
You don't seem to be alone in that.

Roy Tomlinson:
Well, that's right. And as a matter of fact, his way of doing business there caused the demise of the Migratory Bird Population Station, and he was eventually relieved of his duties there,well Crissey was too, eventually. And then the old Migratory Bird Population Station became, or was changed from research then they formed a new organization called the Office of Migratory Bird Management, and John Rogers was the one who came in as the chief of that office. I can't remember exactly what year that was, but that was after I left [in 1967] because I was so upset with Geis that I looked pretty hard then to get out of there after 4 years. But during that time, we did, I think, a lot of good work in the Migratory Bird Population Station. And Howard Wight moved then, he got an offer to be the Unit Leader at Oregon State University, and he moved out there. So that was the last time I had any direct dealings with Howard, everything was indirect from that point on. But then Geis was my direct supervisor because I became the acting chief of the section of migratory upland game birds, and we continued to evaluate the things and do banding analysis and things like that. And we were instrumental in getting a program started and I can't remember the name of it nowthe ARP Program, it was the early part of the ARP Program; Accelerated Research Program was what ARP was. [It was established to provide funding for migratory upland game bird research. It became a highly successful program and a lot of good research was funded by it.] And so that was one of the things that I helped get started while I was there. [I think that all of us that participated in the formation of ARP did a good job.]

So I cast out and I had job offers from Missouri and also from the Atlanta Realty Division down there; a guy by the name of [Vic] Schmidt was down there and I'd always liked him and he liked me so he offered me a job [in Federal Aid]. But the one that was really interesting to me had to do with the Endangered Species Program; there were two jobs open, one in Hawaii and another one in Arizona. The one in Hawaii was with endangered small birds there and the one in Arizona was to deal with Masked Bobwhites, Yuma Clapper Rails, Mexican Ducks, and Sonoran Pronghorns. So since I'd had some experience with Spanish and, in fact, I had taken some in college Spanish courses as well as in high school, and the only Masked Bobwhite that remained were in Mexico, I thought maybe that would be an interesting thing to get into. So I took that job and we moved to Tucson in the summer of 1967.

Oh, one of the main things I've got to talk about here is that when I was at Patuxent Wildlife Research Center I met my wife. She was a teacher, a grade school teacher

there[Riverdale Hills, MD]. In the apartment where I lived in Laurel, a couple lived in the apartment just above mine. [I had taken them arrowhead hunting a few times and gotten to know them.] The wife was a student teacher with my wife, and so she asked me one time if I wanted to meet somebody and I said, "Well yeah, sure." So I met my wife there, her name was McLean, Regina McLean, and she was called Jeannie at home. She came from a background very similar to mine, in the Baltimore area; she went to the University of Maryland there. And so during the time we were there we got married and we had our first child while we were at Patuxent, and of course that was very important to me, I almost left that part out.

And so then when the job came up in Arizona, she was pregnant again, and we moved to Arizona in 1967. And this was just before the Endangered Species List came out, there was a term for it and I can't think of the name of it right now, but I think it came out in 1973. But in 1969 there was a predecessor to that list.

John Cornely:
Like a Red List or one of those?

Roy Tomlinson:
Yes, and in fact it was the Red List to begin with and then it turned into another, it's the one they are using today, The Endangered Species list.

John Cornely:
Yeah, well Threatened and Endangered List basically.

Roy Tomlinson:
Yes, that's essentially what it was. And the Masked Bobwhite, which is a subspecies, was on that list. Some people didn't think that was right since many other subspecies of bobwhite were doing very well, and still are. At any rate, it was on the list. So that was one of the main species that I was told to work on.

John Cornely:
And where was your office when you moved to Arizona to work on this?

Roy Tomlinson:
My office to begin with was in a shopping center. I went to GSA, and this was a spot that they found for me, just made room for me in the back of an insurance office. And so that is where my first office was, and this was in Tucson, And then my second office was in conjunction with the Motor Pool, the GSA Motor Pool And they came in and they put in walls and provided a desk and so forth for me. It was a very good location; I was by myself. [I had access to Motor Pool facilities. I had no secretary and had to write my reports with an old upright mechanical Royal typewriter, but it suited me perfectly.]

Let me say right now, that started my period of working by myself with my boss no closer than 2,000-miles away, and for 27 years I was like that in this job and in succeeding jobs, so you could hardly beat that. And I'm a loner anyway, and so being

able to just plan my own work and working my own plan was very enjoyable for me. And I think maybe many biologists are like that, that we're not as people-oriented as maybe other people are. Now there are some like Dave Sharp, for example, and people like that, and David Dolton is also a kind of a people-oriented person. But just get me out into the field by myself and I'm happy.

John Cornely:
In this job in Tucson where was your supervisor? Back in Maryland?

Roy Tomlinson:
Yeah, my boss was Ray Erickson and he was at Patuxent Wildlife Research Center. And at the time Gene Dustman [Dusty] was the Director of the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, and I had known him for some time through Howard Wight. I think Dusty was the guy who really got me the job. I interviewed not only with Erickson but with Dustman as well. So anyway, Ray Erickson was my boss, and he had a propagation program there at Patuxent to raise various species, endangered species, with the view of reintroducing them to areas that had them at one time. So I first started to go into Mexico then in the fall of 1967, well I guess I actually made my first trip in July or August. And I had a trailer; it was one of these trailers that had a refrigerator in it, it was a small, little trailer that you pulled along, and it had a place for about 2 or 3 people to sleep, and it had a gas stove in it. It was pretty nice but I had to pull it along behind the truck. And that was bought by Fish and Wildlife Service. So my first trip down there, I drove down and I hadn't been down there over a day or two; incidentally, getting into Mexico was very difficult as a biologist or as an official because you have a passport that was not a personal passport, it was an official passport. Perhaps you've had one yourself. And when I'd go down there, at the border they'd look at it and they'd say, "What are you?" Are you a diplomat?" And I'd say, "No, I'm an official." And they couldn't figure out what that was, they had no way to deal with it. If you were a tourist, okay; if you were a diplomat, okay; if you were an official, "No, we can't work that out." And so sometimes I'd be stuck at the border for 2 or 3 days trying to get across. Most of the time it took maybe 3 or 4 hours to get across, which was bad enough I guess.

John Cornely:
Because most of them were high official passports and so on, and it seems like in more recent times it has facilitated entrance and exit from various countries over what the tourists were having to go through. So that's very interesting to hear that, yeah.

Roy Tomlinson:
Except that I went in conjunction with the Fish and Wildlife Service here just last year, or it was this year, and we had some problems also. But that's another story.

So anyway, I'm pulling this trailer behind me on this first trip down there, and I have a flat tire and I realized I don't have a spare for this flat, poor planning! So I unhooked the trailer and left it by the side of the road, and I drove down the highway until I got to a little, old service station there. And there was a guy there who examined the tire; I had

taken the tire off the trailer. He didn't have any new tire tubes for it but he had some old tubes that weren't quite the right size but he thought he could make it work.

John Cornely:
And this in Mexico?

Roy Tomlinson:
This is in Mexico; this is in Sonora, Mexico, the state immediately below Arizona. First of all when I got there I told him I said, "I've got a neumático desinflado." And he kind of understood what I was talking about, but little did I know that "llanta baja" is what you use down there for a flat tire. So I knew some Spanish but I didn't know the idioms. Well anyway, while he was fixing the tire I was kind of telling him in my broken Spanish at that time all the things I needed, and finally he looked at me and he said, "Usted necesita la mano de dios/you need the hand of God." And I thought that was very apt, I sure did. Well anyway, I bought a spare tire for that thing [when I got back to Tucson] and I kept it in the trailer for the next 7 years and never used it once. That was interesting.

So I conducted research then on Masked Bobwhites down there, trying to determine where they were, how they were doing, and whether or not the population was good enough to continue to work with. And so I spent many, many, many, many hours going all over what I had determined to be the historical habitat of Masked Bobwhites. A little historical information, Masked Bobwhites were in southern Arizona and Sonora up through about 1885, and between 1885 and 1900 they put millions of cattle down there, and they had a [severe] drought at the same time, and so there just wasn't any food left for the birds in southern Arizona. And we're almost positive that that's what caused the decline of the birds. By 1900 there were no Masked Bobwhites left in the United States, they were left in Sonora, Mexico. Stokley Ligon, have you heard about Stokley Ligon?

John Cornely:
Yes.

Roy Tomlinson:
Stokley was a biologist that worked for the state of New Mexico for a long time and also worked for the old Biological Survey. And he had gone down and he had trapped a bunch of Masked Bobwhites in the 1950's and had released them in southern Arizona and southern New Mexico, which was not in the historical habitat, and they didn't make it. At that time, 1940 through the 1950's, the populations apparently were in pretty good shape. But Mexico also began to have a huge population of cows in the area, and they also had a series of droughts, so the populations of Masked Bobwhites shrank. When I got there we only knew of 1 population, and from what I could gather that population was in an area about 35-miles square. And then I found another location east of there that was smaller and that was probably only just a remnant population at that time, and it's since declined completely.

At any rate, during that time I banded birds and I was trying to determine what their status was in these various ranches where I was working there. But Ray Erickson was more interested in trapping birds for propagation, to take to Patuxent for propagation and then reestablishment, so he asked me to trap birds for that purpose. In 1969, I trapped I think it was 30-some birds, 33 or 36 birds something like that, and then got them in a crate that they provided me, it had some rubber on the inside there to keep them from bouncing all over the place. And I flew from Hermosillo, Sonora, which is the state capital, to Mexico City. And then I spent 3 days trying to get the permits to send these birds to New Jersey where there was a quarantine station. Of course I had to feed them and provide water during all this time, but I was successful finally in shipping them off. And then the next year I got 20 more birds. So I think all together there were somewhere between 50 and 65 birds that I provided them, and the second time I was able to take them to Arizona and ship them from there. At any rate they all survived, not a single bird perished. And those are the birds that are still being used; I mean that the offspring of the original birds that I provided are still being used to put birds out in places in Arizona at this time. [None of the propagated birds that have been released have succeeded in being established in the wild, even on a wildlife refuge specifically obtained for masked bobwhites (Buenos Aires NWR).]

I also had some hair-raising experiences when I was working down there, and incidentally this stuff is in that narration that I wrote for my grandkids; it's about a 35-page narration, and a lot of these stories are in there. One time I was camping out while doing work on my main study area. But one day it had rained the night before, it was a Sunday and I'd gotten up and had some coffee and took off [to run a call-count route] and Instead of going the back route, which I knew was going to be washed out, I had to drive down to the highway, which was about 7 or 8 miles.. And I was driving along I came to this vaquero's house (and incidentally that vaquero's wife was pregnant every year for those 7 years that I was there, one year after another she was pregnant!). But at any rate, they didn't own a car and there was a car there that night, or this morning, early in the morning. And some people were lying on the car and around the car, and I thought maybe it was a big wing-ding the night before and they were just sleeping it off. And so I just continued on, and it was still dark, it was 4-something in the morning, and I got almost to the highway and I saw lights behind, car lights. And so I got to the road, and there was a bridge being repaired right there and so there was only one lane and I had to stop for traffic coming across it. And all the sudden this car wheeled around behind me, next thing I knew a guy had a cocked-45 in my face! And he says, "Adónde va/where are you going?" And I said, "Voy, Voy/I'm going, I'm going," I really couldn't stammer out what I was doing at the time. And so there were other people there and they had carbines and other weapons pointed at me, and so then I finally started explaining that I was a biologist and I was studying birds in Sonora and so forth. And all the time I was trying to edge towards the back of my vehicle so that I could get my papers, and yet I didn't know, they were dressed just like you and I are, they could have been banditos, they could have been cops, they could have been anything. I did hear this one guy say, "Capitán, es un biólogo norte-americano/he's an American biologist." So I got my papers out, fully expecting maybe if I opened that door they might shoot me. But I got the papers out and gave them to them and they gave them to this little Captain and then he looked at them,

and after awhile he gave them back to me and he gave me my keys and he said, "Okay, you can go," this is all in Spanish. So I started to get in the car and he said one word in English, he said, "Sorry." So I drove and I did my call count route that I was going to do. When I came back after completing my route, they were still at the vaquero's house and the owner of the ranch was there with them. They were drug enforcement agents who thought they had stopped a drug runner, me, that morning. So I came up and stopped and I kidded them a little bit about all the guns pointed at my head --- oh, on the way after they first stopped me, my leg shook so much that I could hardly drive the car down the road! But I was able finish it and everything. There were a lot of things that happened while I was down there.

You had to be careful because where tourists were at the gas stations and in restaurants, some Mexican people were always open to trying to see if they couldn't pull something over on you. One little trick was if you came up yo a service the pump hadn't been properly returned back to the settings, and as soon you'd get there, if you didn't pay attention, they'd stick the hose in your vehicle with maybe 10-gallons already on the pump. The next thing you knew you were charged for 40-gallons and you only got 30-gallons. And so I caught them on that one time. I learned early on that when you paid for something that required change to make sure you used pesos instead of American dollars because it was too difficult to do the exchange rate in your head. So you'd t give them some money, maybe you needed some change, so they'd go into the office and they'd come back and they'd give you your money, and if you didn't count it, they always had something stuck in their upper pocket see, so if you counted it you'd say, "Well, where's the..." They'd say, "Oh, I forgot." And they'd pull it out of their pocket and give it to you. Most Mexicans are very honest and I didn't have many problems with them, but in certain places where tourists were, they did take advantage of you. So you had to watch out for that.

Another time Steve Gallizioli, who was a biologist for the Arizona Game and Fish Department, had come down with me and we were staying in my trailer. It must have been 2 o'clock or 3 o'clock in the morning and all of the sudden somebody was yelling at us outside the trailer. So I opened up the door and a boy was on a horse and it was one of the sons of the vaquero that I'd told you about, from the house down the road, and he said, "My sister's sick and we don't have any way to get her to the hospital." So I told him I'd be down there as soon as possible. I got into the truck and drove down to their house and they brought this girl out. She was very sick and had been throwing up and other things quite badly. We drove to Benjamin Hill and I got her to a clinic. They all (mother and brothers] went inside with her and then they left her there. They got back in the car, and as they got in the boy closed the door on the mother's hand and I knew that had to hurt awfully, but she didn't even whimper. I never did find out what happened to that girl, but I assume she survived, but she was a sick, sick cookie.

And a few other things happened. One time, after checking into a hotel [in Cananea], I got a beer at bar to drink a beer and I was just reading. I was going to have dinner after I drank a beer, and so I was sitting there and all of a sudden I heard these guys talking about: "Well there's a rich gringo over there, what are we going to do?" So I didn't make

any indication that I could understand what they were talking about, I finished my beer and got up as quickly as I could, because I could tell that what they were doing was planning on robbing me. So I didn't eat any dinner that night!

I also did work on Yuma Clapper Rails when I was down there, we were the first ones. Dick Todd, a biologist for the Arizona Game and Fish Department, worked with me. Bob Jantzen was the director [of Arizona Game and Fish] at that time, and he assigned Dick to work on them also after asking me if it would be okay for him to work with me and I said, "Well sure, it'd be fine." Dick was a kind of strange guy whose arm that had been blown off; he had been hunting and he was in a vehicle and a gun discharged and blew off his left arm, and so he was a one-armed person, but he was a real good man to work with in the field. And we were the first ones to get taped calls and do taped surveys of the birds along the Colorado River. There was some discussion as to whether the Yuma Clapper Rail was actually a Yuma Clapper Rail or if it was one of the clapper rails that came up along the coast of Mexico. So we decided maybe in order to solve that problem we should collect some birds, both in the United States and in Mexico. So Dick and I collected a series of birds, I can't remember how many now, about 15 I think, along the Colorado River from Needles [California] to the border. And then about a week or so later we drove into, or we were going to drive into Mexico and collect birds in Mexico. I had a little over-and-under .410/22 gun [shotgun/rifle], and I had a collectors permit from the office [of wildlife authority] in Mexico City who'd been giving me permission to collect birds. So I got to the border, we went through all the entry requirements until they said, "Well, go to the militia headquarters and get your permit for the gun." So we went over there [to the Campo Militar] and I handed them my collectors permit. Finally they ushered me into the office of the comandante and he said, "Well, I can't give a gun permit because it's not during the hunting season." I said, "Well yes, but I have permission to collect them even though it's not the hunting season." And he said, "Well I'm sorry but those are my directives, I can't give you a permit." And he said, "I would suggest that you cross the border to the Mexican consulate in Nogales, Arizona, and tell them about your problem. So we went back across the border and I went in and the consul was a woman and she was acting, and I told her my problem and she said, "Well, it's not during the hunting season." I said, "I know, but I've got a permit to collect them." And she said, "Well, we can't do it because it's not during the hunting season." So I said, "All right." And of course at this time I was thoroughly ticked off. So we drove down the road and I said, "Dick let's hide that gun in my bedroll and don't say anything about collecting when we cross again." So we did that, I took out the bedroll and it was one of the big old bedrolls with a lot of kapok and what have you in it, a big heavy thing. It wasn't one of these ones that can fold up into nothing like they do today. And so I broke the gun down and hid it in there and we went across and went through the proper procedures, and when the guy asked me, he said, "Armas?" And I said, "No, no armas/there aren't any guns." And he felt around in my bedroll and various places and said, "Okay, go on." So we went down, and Dick was just petrified, he thought we were going to be jailed.

So we went down and we collected the series of birds along the coast all the way down to Nayarit. Nayarit is about the third or fourth state below the border, and we collected also

in Sinaloa and in Sonora. And then when we'd get done, in the afternoon or night we would skin them and put salt on them to keep them in good shape, and then we would take the gizzards and the livers and put them in formaldehyde and sometimes we'd spill formaldehyde in the hotel room and it would stink pretty bad! So I remember being in Mazatalán and that hotel really stank by the time we left; I don't think we would ever be welcomed back to that hotel! But at any rate, we were able to collect a series of skins and and we sent them back to the National Museum in Washington, D.C. Dick Banks [the museum ornithologist] took them and had them made up into study skins and then analyzed them. They determined that there was a difference, that the Yuma Clapper Rails were actually different than the Sonoran Clappers and the other clappers farther south. So that was kind of an interesting thing. And incidentally, while we were there collecting those birds they had Morelet's Crocodiles in some of the waters that we were in. So it was a little interesting going out and wading out to get the birds after you shot them, but we didn't have any incidents.

I did not do very much work on either the Mexican Duck or the pronghorn while I was there, I did some surveys and what have you, but didn't do an awful lot of work on them. Towards the end [of my Tucson assignment] I was told to write up my work. They didn't have any money for travel, for gas or anything I had really written up most of my work at that time and published and so forth.

And so I was called by, I think it was Milt Reeves, who was working in the Office of Migratory Bird Management then for John Rogers, and he said there's going to be a job on White-winged Doves opening up and we'd like you to apply if you'd like to. So, since I wasn't able to do the field work that I loved, I decided that maybe I'd take that job when it was offered. So I took that job and, my wife [young children] and I moved from Tucson to here in Albuquerque, and that started a 21-year period working with the Office of Migratory Bird Management. I became known as the "Southwest Dove and Pigeon Coordinator." And of course that kind of signifies a guy standing there saying, "Okay, you [doves] go this way and you go that that way and so worth." But it was a very interesting job and I spent like I say 21 years doing that before I retired. As with Masked Bobwhites I had to do a considerable amount of work in Mexico working on White-winged Doves because the population in Texas was a kind of an extension of the populations that were in the state of Tamaulipas, Mexico, and Tamaulipas is the northeastern most state of Mexico. So when I worked down there I worked with the Texas Parks and Wildlife very closely, and Gary Waggerman, who now is a retired biologist with the Texas Parks and Wildlife. I started going to Tamaulipas in 1974, surveying the populations and determining how they were. Just as with Masked Bobwhites, White-winged Doves.... Well let me go back; White-winged Doves are, in many cases, a colonial nesting population, they nest in huge colonies and in Mexico they nested in what we called brush, it was a kind of a thorny scrub area, and these trees were probably no more than about 15-feet high and the thicker and thornier the better. Some of the populations numbered in the millions, and if you go into one of those colonies it would just be a roar, it would be *whoo-whoo*, you couldn't pick out an individual dove at all, that's how [loud] they were calling. It was just amazing the roar of these birds that would be calling down there, and of course this was during the nesting season. Mainly

we would go down there during the nesting season in June and survey them as well as we could. Call count surveys didn't work at all because there were just too many of them. So what we would do is we would do nest transects, and these were, I've forgotten the measurements now, but it was a certain distance that you walked in and you'd take a string and then you would count the numbers of nests on either side of the string within 15-feet, so you'd have 30-feet. Later we modified this to meters.

John Cornely:
A kind of a line intercept survey?

Roy Tomlinson:
Exactly, yes. So we'd go into a colony and we would run say 8 or 9 of these surveys and then we'd determine how large the colony was, and then we'd determine approximately what the breeding population was. And it worked fairly well, it was more complicated than that, but it worked fairly well. So we did that for many, many years there. Now like Masked Bobwhite, White-winged Doves depend a lot on habitat, obviously, and in fact I guess all wildlife depends on habitat, and in this case it was thorn scrub. Well, Mexico was working on a program called La Revolución Verde/the Green Revolution, and in Tamaulipas, the State of Tamualipas, if they bulldozed out all of the brush in many colonies and got rid of it, it made good arable land for crops such as sorghum, mainly sorghum, some cotton, corn, and beans and things like that. And so they had this program of clearing brush, they'd take bulldozers in there and they'd just completely demolish these brush areas. And that was okay at first because it was so full of brush that there were many, many areas that the birds could [move to]. If they were disturbed in one, they could go to another area, and not only that but when the farmers grew their crops, this provided food for them. Sorghum was a main crop that they really liked to feed on. And in fact it became so bad that the farmers called them la plaga/the plague because they'd go in and unlike Mourning Doves, Mourning Doves feed on the ground. White-winged Doves would go on top of the head and eat all around the top of the head. So before the farmers had the chance to reap the crop a lot of it was gone because the birds got it.

So they did all kinds of things like put out pesticides, and they would put firecrackers out and they'd get guys cracking bullwhips; they'd put white strips and pie plates [on poles] to make them shimmy in the wind to scare the birds off, and sometimes it worked fairly well but most of the time it didn't. So what they did was, "Well where are they? They're nesting over there, well we'll get rid of that brush and then they won't bother us anymore." So they did that, and we also found poisoned birds down there. They actually killed them, they'd put out bait usually with pesticides in it and they'd kill them like that. So as this continued, of course the population started to get lower and lower and lower, and this is what occurred in Texas prior to that. Texas had huge populations of White-winged Doves in the 1950's and 1960's; and you probably will recall all the big hunts down in south Texas on White-winged Doves. And they'd come from all over the United States to hunt doves there. And then they started clearing the land there and the populations started going down. In Texas they grew citrus, mainly grapefruit, and those trees provided very good nesting habitat for the birds, and so for many years the White-

wings did quite well because they also had sorghum nearby [for food]. But then they started getting rid of the citrus trees too [to provide housing for the growing Valley human population]. But in Mexico, although they had some citrus, it didn't fill the same bill as the citrus in the United States. So as of right now there's only one big population left, one big colony left, and that's probably maybe 2- or 3-million birds, and as soon as that goes that's going to mean the end of the colonial nesting white-wings in Mexico. There will still be a lot of white-wings, but nothing like the colonies that used to exist. And we tried, I wrote report after report after report trying to get people to understand what the problem was, and if they wanted to save that economic resource, which Mexico took advantage of, then they were going to have to stop the destruction of the habitat. Well it didn't occur, and so there are very few left now and I feel sad to think that I spent all that time trying to get some information to save the birds and it didn't work.

John Cornely:
Well these white-wings that are now expanding and nesting in urban areas, are they more like solitary? I haven't heard of the big colonies like were in the brush country and in the citrus, but there's more and more birds like in San Antonio and Austin and places like that are nesting in the cities where obviously they're not being shot and things like that.

Roy Tomlinson:
Well as a matter of fact that's the colonial aspect, they go to the cities where there's more vegetation and growth.

John Cornely:
So they're still colonial nesting even in that environment?

Roy Tomlinson:
That's right. And say like in San Antonio for example, that population is now huge. There were a few White-wings there when we first started our study down there [in the Lower Rio Grande Valley], but very, very few. And then when the birds were displaced from other places, they began to find whatever they could, and these various cities like the southern cities and even mid-Texas cities now have real big populations. Here in Albuquerque we didn't have any white-wings in this area when I first moved here. About 20 years ago I heard one calling out at the golf course over here and I thought, boy that's strange, and now we've got white-wings all over the place here. But the last few years, in the last 3 years, I heard a Eurasian Collared-Dove calling out here, and then I saw one , and now I have as many Eurasian-Collared Doves out here at my feeder as I do White-winged Doves. So they're now taking advantage also in the same [way of suburban areas], and they are moving all over the country also. But no, I would say that maybe they're just keeping with their colonial habitat or colonial habits by doing that.

John Cornely:
You were the southwest dove and pigeon coordinator, and I assume that the pigeons were maybe the Four Corners Band-tailed Pigeons, how much did you have to do with them? And were there other pigeons that you dealt with in your job?

Roy Tomlinson:
No, we didn't deal with anything but Band-tailed Pigeons, I mean I didn't for the most part because first of all there is a pigeon problem as far as the Rock Dove is concerned, but I was never asked to look into that all. I'm kind of glad because that's a kind of mess; you know it's a very difficult problem in certain areas. But you might expect that I would work more closely with the Four Corners Population, but in reality I spent more time doing work on the birds out on the west coast. And in fact I wrote the management plan for the West Coast Band-tailed Pigeon Population along with other people, I was the major writer but people had input into in and so forth. I did also do some work getting started on the management plan for the birds here in this area and the Four Corners area, but I didn't really too much with it because, I guess, just because there wasn't too much being done on it and I just didn't get around to doing more on it. So I did mainly work with the Band-tailed Pigeon there on the coast. And of course I, in conjunction with other people, got the hunting regulations reduced so they weren't slaughtering them. Band-tailed Pigeons are considerably different than other columbids in that they nest only once or twice a year and they only have 1 egg per nest, so if any disturbance occurs they don't have the capacity to regenerate themselves as other doves do. Mourning Doves for example nest 3 to 5 times a year and they have 2 eggs per nest; white-wings have 2 eggs per nest and they nest at least 3 times a year, at least 2 and sometimes 3, and so they have a much greater capacity to regenerate the population than the Band-tailed Pigeon does. So the Band-tailed Pigeon on the west coast was really hammered, and so I'm not sure what the regulations are now but I know it's a short period of time and you can only get a few birds per hunter per season; and so I was instrumental in helping them get this changed. And they also had a problem with habitat, but not quite as much as others, they clear cut forested areas and so forth and so habitat would get lost. And so the combination of over hunting and habitat loss really knocked that population down considerably. I think it's fairly stable right now.

John Cornely:
It seems to be hanging in there at least. I first met you, I'm pretty sure, in conjunction with flyway meetings and regulations meetings, so I'd like you to talk a little bit about some of your experience and what your role was in going to some of these meetings through the years.

Roy Tomlinson:
That was a role that I didn't enjoy too much; as I said before I'm a loner and I don't get along with people as well as I would like just because I just don't feel comfortable with people. So I didn't do as good a job there and I must admit that that was a real negative aspect of the job that I did. Get me out in the field and writing results of the work and I did real well, but I had problems working with people. But, at any rate, my job was to work with biologists from the various states. I worked with 2 different groups; we had the Central Management Unit Dove Committee they used to call it, and then the Western Management Unit Dove Committee. And they worked in conjunction with but separately from the flyway meetings, so there were 2 different committees [one for waterfowl and one for migratory game species other than waterfowl]. I worked on each one for the Central and the Western, and of course these are composed of biologists from each of the

states who represent that class of birds; doves, snipe, rails, even sandhill cranes in some cases we dealt with. And so I would help develop hunting regulations with the game and fish representatives from each state, and then we'd bring that up to the regulations meetings in Washington D.C., and then that would be voted on. And so I did have a lot to do, particularly in Texas. I had a lot to do with regulations for both white-wings and Mourning doves, and in Arizona I spent a lot of time working with Arizona biologists. I remember in Texas I worked closely with Jimmy Dunks to begin with, who was replaced by Ron George, and we had a good working relationship with all of them. And then I worked with Phil Smith from Arizona, who died about a couple of years ago. I enjoyed working with these people, and one on one I worked very well but when I got into a meeting I was uncomfortable and didn't work as well as I could have. So I really do regret not having been more efficient in that type of thing, and it showed on my annual evaluation and I'd be graded down on that type of thing. And it was right; I wasn't good at that type of thing.

John Cornely:
Who did you work for as the Southwestern Dove and Pigeon Coordinator?

Roy Tomlinson:
I worked originally for Milt Reeves; he was the chief of that group, which included the flyway reps. In fact it was the 5 of us that always went to the meetings together; it was the 4 flyway reps and myself. And Milt was our boss until he retired and Mort Smith came into Washington from Patuxent and then he was my boss for most of the time until he retired and then Bob Blohm became my boss. So when I retired Bob was my boss.

Something else that I would like to get into; I did some other things that weren't necessarily those things that I was assigned to do but things that I felt that I should do in my job, and some of that involved writing various things. There was one major publication, the Dove Book.

John Cornely:
The Wildlife Management Institute...[dove book published by Stackpole].

Roy Tomlinson:
Right... And Tom Baskett was the senior editor. [The title of the book was *Ecology and Management of the Mourning Dove* and it was sponsored by the WMI.]
There were 3 other editors including myself; we were not only authors, but we were editors of the book. And I was instrumental in writing at least 3 or 4 of those [chapters], and then did a lot of editing on the rest of the book. And so I feel real good about that, and it took a lot of time too. And you've seen this pink book, the book that was put out by the International [International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies], that has to do with the management of all the migratory webless species? [*Migratory Shore and Upland Game Bird Management of North America]*.

John Cornely:
Webless species, yes; upland shore and game birds...

Roy Tomlinson:
I did a lot of writing for that book, both for the Mourning Dove chapter on which I was senior author; and on the White-winged Dove chapter on which I was second author. I also did some work on other chapters on that book too. And then I put together a book called *Native Names of Mexican Birds*, and this was a compendium of all the native names of all the birds in Mexico and it gave the scientific name, it gave the accepted American or English name, and then it gave all the names that we could find that were used by Mexicans for those birds in Mexico. My coauthor was Lillian Birkenstein; she was a little old lady in tennis shoes that lived in San Miguel de Allende, Guanajuato, Mexico. I had started the work and somebody told me that maybe I should contact her and I did and so she gave quite a few names as well, and so we did the book together. In fact, she was a little uptight when I was calling myself the senior author so I let her be the senior authorship, but I actually did the all work on the book and put it all together, and it came out under the Fish and Wildlife Service.

John Cornely:
Right, as a resource publication...

Roy Tomlinson:
Resource Publication 139. It's been out of print now for a long time but I know it has been used by a lot of people. And I've also published a lot of other papers too; peer-reviewed papers and so forth, probably 25-30 of those as well. And so it wasn't all just management work, even when I came over to the Office of Migratory Bird Management.

John Cornely:
Before we started this recording, I talked a little about interviewing Mike Bogan a couple of times. He told me of his work in Mexico, mostly on bats with the Smithsonian Bird and Mammal Lab, and with Clyde Jones and others. And he mentioned in passing and some agreements that started maybe in the '70s, I'm not sure when they started, but with Mexico and perhaps with Canada. And I know you have some background in that and know something about that and went to some meetings and I'd like you to talk a little about what you recall about some of those kind of official agreements. I mean many of us have done a lot of semi-official or just based on personal relationships with Mexican biologists and so on, but to this day I know the Migratory Bird Division, which is what we call the Office of Migratory Bird Management now, are still very centrally involved in meetings each year that we call the Tri-Lateral Meetings with Mexico and Canada. So tell us a little bit about what you know and what you're involvement in those kinds of things was.

Roy Tomlinson:
Okay, let me preface that by another thing that got started; when I started working with White-winged Doves I realized that the population was a multi-national population because it bred in southern Texas and northern Mexico, and then it migrated down through Mexico into Central America. And if you're going to have a healthy population, you had to know a little about things down in the south as well as in the northern

breeding areas. So I started contacting people in Nicaragua, Guatemala, El Salvador, and other Central American countries as well as Mexico. And I formed a program called the White-Winged Dove Council, and it consisted of the United States, Mexico, and the 5 Central American countries, not including Panama. So we had a series of meetings and annual meetings, most of which were in the United States, the first one was in the United States but then we also had one Mexico, or maybe a couple in Mexico, and one in El Salvador. And we didn't get people from each country each time we had the meeting, but we had a pretty good representation, and we would discuss what their problems were and how we might go about solving their problems and so forth. That council finally died just because I couldn't keep it going, for some reason. I just didn't have the negotiating powers that I could have had and so it eventually died.

But at any rate, that work with Mexico with White-Winged Doves eventually got into what we call the U.S.-Mexico Joint Agreement on Wildlife. And that started probably in 1976 or '77, somewhere in that era, and I was asked to work in that as much as I could, and I did, I went to various meetings with them. I think the first [FWS] director who was associated with that was Lynn Greenwalt, and then Bob Jantzen was very interested in it as well. And so the White-Winged Dove Project in the U.S.-Mexico Joint Agreement was one of the big projects that they started off with. I don't know where that stands today. But the meetings were held in various places; I think it was held in Tuscon one time, it was held in Merida, Yucatan Peninsula, one time, I attended that, I think it was held in Monterrey, Mexico, one time. This was before the Canadians were brought into it, and just before I retired in 1994, they called it the Tri-Lateral.

John Cornely:
And that's when the 3 countries came in.

Roy Tomlinson:
Yes. I think we did have some participation of Canadians earlier, but it was kind of an unofficial category.

John Cornely:
Based on my discussions with Mike [Bogan], if we're talking about the same meetings and I think we are, there was a definite research component in discussions that went on, I'm not so sure that I told him I was going to check into this because it's an interesting question. But it seems to me that it's almost exclusively maybe management in survey and monitoring-oriented whereas I think it may have had a stronger research component back in the '70s.

Roy Tomlinson:
Well they did have, yes. I can't recall just exactly now which ones there were but there was something about Matape, in Coahuila researching the native tortoises, they did research on that. Money was gotten for various research projects as well as management, but management of course was I think one of the main considerations. But did we get money for research on White-Wings? I think we did, I think banding studies were done, but of course that was towards management, it wasn't specifically...[research].

John Cornely:
But management-oriented research could be called as well.

Roy Tomlinson:
Yes, but I can't think of any specifics right now. One project that we did that I had a lot to do with was put elk down into the mountains in Coahuila. We got them from Wichita Mountains [NWR], we got elk from them. I think we put out 20 cows and 5 bulls the first year, and then we augmented that with 15, two or three years later. And this is a place near Múzquiz, Coahuila in the mountains, I think it was the Burro Mountains. And the man who owned that was one of the richest men in Mexico, he owned many, many things down there including breweries and what have you, David Garza-Laguera, and it was on his ranch down there, and as far as I know those animals are still doing fine. So that was one project we did [under the Joint Committee].

John Cornely:
Well we've covered a lot of ground here, but if there's time for any other stories or things that you'd like to relate, let's make sure that we get down the year that you retired from long-term Southwest Dove and Pigeon Coordinator position.

Roy Tomlinson:
I retired in 1994, I was 63 years old. And you know a lot of people when they retire they're bitter, they can't wait to retire. Something's happened in them, usually in a regional office someplace they've gotten crosswise with somebody and they just hate it. But you know I was never like that, I really enjoyed my job always, I just really enjoyed it, and I probably wouldn't have retired when I did except that they had the buyout option where you got $25,000.00, and I took advantage of that. But I think I would have gone at least 2 or 3 more years if it hadn't been for that. I think I would have gone until I was at least 65 or 66, something like that. But I still keep my hand in, like we've conducted 2 surveys down in Tamaulipas, Mexico on white-wings since I've retired, and I've participated in those. And then just this year in February and also in August I went down with Buenos Aires National Wildlife Refuge Staff to Sonora, Mexico to do surveys on the Masked-Bobwhite. Unfortunately, it looks like that population might be gone, and that's very [disappointing] there are just a very, very few birds left and that's really disheartening. I hate to see that.

John Cornely:
One of the things that maybe you can relate some things about because this person who I never met is gone now. But you were here in Albuquerque, and at one time the Central Flyway Representative Office was in Albuquerque. Did you know Ray Buller and is there anything, since he can't speak for himself anymore, is there anything that you could relay about who he was and any recollections you might have of Ray?

Roy Tomlinson:

Ray Buller first and foremost was just a real gentleman, a really nice guy, I liked Ray a lot. And he was a very efficient flyway representative, who was active during the time of... The man who just died in Minneapolis?

John Cornely:
Art Hawkins.

Roy Tomlinson:
Art Hawkins... He worked at the same time as Art Hawkins in the Mississippi Flyway, and Ed Addy in the Atlantic, and I can't think of the Pacific guy's name right now [John Chattin]; but they were the flyway reps at that time. And he [Buller] was a very good waterfowl man and I think he did a really good job. I think he was somewhat overshadowed by Art Hawkins because Art Hawkins more or less kind of ram-rodded that group, he was kind of a leader of the group. And Ed Addy was a very quiet person and he followed somewhat too. So I would say Buller did very well as the Central Flyway Representative; he was replaced by Harvey Miller.

John Cornely:
Right. And of course when Ray was here as the flyway rep, at least for most of that time there was no Region 6, no regional office in Denver. And then I assume that about the time that Harvey came along was about the time the position moved to Denver, I know that Region 6 was formed like in the mid-70s about.

Roy Tomlinson:
That's right, and I think Harvey came on just almost about that time.

John Cornely:
Yeah, and I wonder... Do you have any idea why then the office was moved to Denver? Was it because Harvey preferred to be there or do you have any idea?

Roy Tomlinson:
You know I think that might be it, I think Harvey... Well first of all, it was more centrally located in the flyway, and so that was one reason, and the other one is I'm pretty sure that Harvey probably wanted to be there. I'm not exactly sure about that, but I think he did.

John Cornely:
Well I'll ask him too, we're going to do a video recording session of the original joint venture coordinators in about month, in fact exactly a month, out at the training center and we're going to take Harvey back with us to talk about they flyways joint venture. But he's agreed to do an interview like this that kind of spans his whole career and so on. So I'll pose that same question to him.

So anything else that comes to mind Roy that... I mean I know that we have a copy of your paper that you wrote for your grandchildren back in the archives, so we've got a lot of neat information, both on recording and on that paper, but if there's anything else that comes to mind that you'd like to talk about? That's why I'm here.

Roy Tomlinson:
Well the only thing I can say is that it seems to me that after all the work that all of the biologists have done, we're still arguing the same questions over and over and over again. That discourages me to think that we can't settle something once and for all and get over it. Now I realize that a lot of strides have been made, a lot of the things that are being done starting with the fellow at Patuxent... I can't think of his name now and I can't even think of the name of the program. But things aren't changing year after year, in other words you don't say, "Well let's have 2 ducks this year and not have so on and so on..." In other words, the regulations stay the same for awhile.

John Cornely:
Right, we have the stabilized regulations, right.

Roy Tomlinson:
Stabilized regulations, yeah.

John Cornely:
And now we're into something that's different but this adaptive harvest management where part of is to agree upon some things up front and not move around too much and so on. But one of my observations in going to, and I'm a lot like you, probably one of the least things that I like to do is even though I like the people and the one on one stuff is wonderful, but I've never really enjoyed the meeting parts of the flyway meetings and the regs meetings. I mean like you that's been part of my job and it's been more of the one on one and so on that I enjoy. But one of my observations in a lot of the new people you know that we still argue about a lot of stuff, but what I've seen is that it's not near as acrimonious as when I first started in the mid- to late-80's. We had stabilized regulations just before that period, but we would just go to those regs meetings and it was just a state-fed argument and nose to nose and not very nice. And we still find time to argue about a lot of things but we seem to be arguing about smaller issues on the fringe of things, and some of the more central things we've kind of settled a little bit. But at the same time, and you've seen this earlier than I did, but one of the things that even once the biologists kind of agreed on some rules and were doing things, why then the politicians got involved and basically trumped what we were trying to do like with framework extensions that really most of the biologists, whether state or federal or university, had no interest in, just politically we got pulled. And those things are still in place and have really complicated our surveys and calculations and relationships and stuff.

Roy Tomlinson:
Well you know discussion and argument is good, you <u>should</u> have an exchange of ideas. But I think starting from the Geis-Crissey era, that got the state-fed contretemps going, and it continued and continued for years and years, until at least until I retired. As soon as you'd walk into the room... you know if you'd walk into a bar or something, I remembered when I worked for Geis and Crissey I'd go down to the Southeastern Association, and you know how they were, I'd go into a bar and they'd all be sitting there talking, these state biologists, and they just stopped talking as soon as I'd walk in. I'd

come up and I'd talk to them for a few minutes, they wouldn't offer to have me sit down or anything. And I finally got so I was kind of friendly with some of them although it was difficult because they just didn't trust me and I didn't either.

Now another thing, you're talking about the politics of it. You know I went to school with John Rogers, and I love him dearly, he's a really nice guy. But you talk about a politician in the back rooms, he did more dogone, "Okay, I'll pat your back if you pat my back" type of thing than anybody has ever done I think.

John Cornely:
This is John P.?

Roy Tomlinson:
John P. Rogers, who was the Office of Migratory Birds chief; yeah, I think it was John P. We went to the University of Missouri together, he was older than I was being in the service and he worked for awhile before he went back to get his doctorate. But he's a really nice guy and very smart, but he pulled some things, and I'm not exactly sure what they were now, but he pulled some really good ones I think politically, and maybe not for the betterment of wildlife.

Well, I really can't think of anything much more right now...

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