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UNITED STATES FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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PATUXENT RESEARCH REFUGE REPORTS SOME WILDLIFE FINDINGS

According to Assistant Secretary of the Interior Ross L. Leffler, the Patuxent (Md.) Research Refuge of the Fish and Wildlife Service reports that ---

Minute dosage of several new insecticides have been shown to seriously reduce reproductive rates in game birds, but other materials useful for insecticides are less hazardous to them ---

A technique has been developed for checking mourning doves for a throat ailment which might seriously deplete dove populations ---

Preliminary studies show that a repellent can discourage blackbirds from pulling corn sprouts ---

Service research in cooperation with industry has developed a repellent remarkably effective in protecting stored food and military supplies from rodent attack.

Results of wildlife research, as in other research, are usually an accumulation of minor findings over several years which eventually lead to conclusions, Secretary Leffler explained. In land-use studies, especially, patience and time are the essence of good work, for many times conclusions are modified as more and more observations are taken and more facts are recorded.

Cooperative research in Delaware and New Jersey has demonstrated promising results in reducing pest mosquito production in the tidal marshes. This control is accomplished by manipulating the water levels to expose mosquito larvae to drying sun and winds. If continued study proves that this method is successful it means, Wildlife Service officials say, that waterfowl habitat may possibly be preserved or improved and the mosquito pest controlled at the same time.

Other research has demonstrated that waterfowl impoundments in swampy places have resulted in mosquito control. This has been made possible by the introduction

of the gambusa, a small fish which preys upon mosquito larvae. Before the impoundments the marshes were wet enough for mosquito reproduction but not sufficiently wet for the gambusa.

Another phase of the research on blackbirds has shown that among 12 varieties of field corn tested some varieties are much more resistant to the blackbird attacks than other.

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