

May 14, 1942 #1

WJK42-05-14-01

A. M., Taos Co., Two Pecos, La Junta Creek.

Fred W. Johnson and I scimed La Junta to tag and fin clip fish for census studies. Snow banks occurred along the stream at frequent intervals. The stream was very high but not nearly as turbid as last year when the high waters were largely due to rain instead of snow. Temperatures: A. 48° W. 36° T. 8:05 AM; A 48° W 38° T. 9:25 AM; A 42° W 39 T 10:15; A - W. 46 T. 3:40 PM.

The trout ^{were} taken almost entirely from quiet waters, such as in beaver dams, behind stumps, trees etc. While no effort was made to seine in the main channel, which was too deep and swift for us to work, most of the hauls made in strong current were blanks. We gained the definite impression that the fish were restricted to the quiet waters and that there was a lack of there ^{places} in the stream. There are several beaver dams along the stream, but there are not in the best of repair probably because a great many animals have been trapped here during the past weeks in order to reduce the population. There also appear to be a lack of places for small fish. The growth appears to be slow especially in the first year, judging from the size of the fish that

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undoubtedly represent last year's young.

A few of the males were just beginning to ripen. None were fully ripe. The females were all "green". The fishing season opens tomorrow ~~the~~ except in Rio La Junta which is closed until July 1. Since there is no reason to believe that the trout are any more advanced in the other streams, it means that the early season catch which is usually heavy will consist largely of fish ^{that are} full of spawn and a little later in the season of fish ^{taken} from spawning beds. Last year the legal limit was raised from six inches to seven inches. At the time, I ~~was~~ questioned the advisability of this move because many of the higher streams ^{stunted} have ^{of} populations with very few individuals over seven inches and this would discourage angling pressure where it is needed and increase it where it is not needed. However, since the season opens before the trout have finished spawning, this move leaves the adults that are less than seven inches long to spawn in relative safety. According to Johnson, the resort owners apply pressure to maintain an early season-opening. A seven inch limit may help to a certain extent to counteract the evil effects.

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Several tagged fish were taken. They all appeared to be much more slender than untagged fish of similar size. One fish was recognized as being tagged by its appearance alone before the tag was seen. Fin clipping appeared to be without bad aftereffects.

Two hybrids were taken. At first glance, they resemble rainbows more than cutthroats but they had the "cut-throat".

In the following lists are given the total length of the fish in millimeters. All fish captured were measured. If the fish was tagged or fin-clipped, this is indicated. The horizontal lines separate groups of fish taken from different "holes". One or several seine hauls may be represented in each lot. When convenient, a few brief remarks ^{were} ~~are~~ made concerning the various sets.

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total length in mm. & tag nos. if any
111

By spuce in water
current moderately
strong

150

135

189 - #1475

202 - #1550

130 - F.C. -

83

155 - #1600

142 - F.C.

90
130 - F.C.

119 - F.C.

142 - F.C.

176 - #3556

230 - #1710

193 - #1451

165 - #1452

(= fin clipped - here and elsewhere
stands for adipose & left Ventral removed)

In pool off
main stream
where a side channel
reenters main stream.

tagged in previous years,
fish slim

From deep hole between
logs, close to very strong
current. Current moderately
strong

202 - #1471

103

245 - #1668

143 - F.C.

153 - F.C.

136 - F.C.

95 -

- previously tagged, fish slim

From Beaver dam,
current moderate.

124

107

231 - #1623

150 - F.C. -

had right Ventral missing.
Adipose clipped by F.W.V.

From under stump

138 - F.C.

131 - F.C.

From side pool
Current moderately strong

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90

95

253 - #1599 or just barely ripe

current moderately strong, under stumps.

203 - #1426

130 - f.c.

64

182 - #1476

162 - #1477

148 - f.c.

137 - f.c.

141 - f.c.

129 - f.c.

144 - a rainbow trout

39

101

88

93

96

95

82

77

85

83

43

44

44

53

42

92

current strong

62

in a little "pothole" - an eroded place in sod in a side channel.

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49
141 - f.c.
97
83
104
89
113
86
87

93
129
106
86
88

109
99
90

156 - # 1527
190 - # 1526

182 - # 1501
147 - f.c.
155 - # 1502
138 - f.c.
158 - # 1576
141

101

197 - # 1413
146 - f.c.
163 - # 1414
101
99
89
95

117

In a large "pot hole"
similar to preceding. Current
moderate.

Under stump in side
pool, current moderate.

From beneath log, next to
strong current.

From beneath log, a deep
hole, current moderate.

Current slow

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213 - # 1401
188 - # 1402
187 - # 1403
173 - # 1404
155 - # 1405
176 - # 1406
167 - # 1407
156 - # 1408
151 - # 1409
153 - # 1410
152 - # 1411
149 - F.C.
149 - F.C.
146 - F.C.
143 - F.C.
132 - F.C.
145 - F.C.
134 - F.C.
144 - F.C.
141 - F.C.
133 - F.C.
135 - F.C.
125 - F.C.
99
143 - F.C.
138 - F.C.
121
89
189 - # 1412
145 - F.C.
82

Taken from a silty pool,
mostly from under some
overhanging tree roots. Current
moderate.

224 - # 1415
156 - F.C.
141 - F.C.
92
87
95

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162 - #1474

137

104

98

From below lower dam.
in or near strong current.