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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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COOPERATIVE WILDLIFE RESEARCH UNIT SCHOOLS BESTOW 2,373 DEGREES

Seventeen colleges affiliated with the Cooperative Wildlife Research Program have bestowed 2,373 degrees upon wildlife students since the program started in 1935, Acting Secretary of the Interior Clarence A. Davis said today. Compilations recently made by the Fish and Wildlife Service show that there were 186 degrees issued by these colleges and universities in the school year 1954-1955. Of these, eight were doctorates, 63 master's degrees and the rest bachelor degrees.

The Cooperative Unit Program is sponsored jointly by the Fish and Wildlife Service, the State conservation departments and land grant colleges of 15 States and Alaska, and the Wildlife Management Institute. Each unit has a minimum budget of \$18,000 a year for salaries and facilities.

The primary purposes of the cooperative program are to encourage the training of personnel for wildlife management; to conduct wildlife research; and to promote wildlife education.

During the calendar year 1955 there were 275 research programs conducted, of which 48 were concerned with migratory waterfowl, 49 with fisheries and the others with studies of wildlife species, habitat and management problems. There were 161 articles, ranging from leaflets to books, prepared and published by unit personnel.

Of the 186 who received degrees in 1955, 82 have wildlife jobs with Federal, State and private organizations; 44 have entered the armed forces; 36 have returned to school for advanced training; and 24 are in occupations other than wildlife work. Forty-eight of the 71 students who received advanced training last year obtained financial assistance in the form of fellowships, scholarships or field expenses from the Cooperative Units. In addition, one-fifth of those who received bachelor degrees had financial support from the Cooperative Unit or used Unit equipment.

Since the program started, 1,696 individuals have received bachelor degrees. There were 608 receiving master's degrees and 69 who got doctorates.

The colleges and universities actively cooperating at the present time are: Alabama Polytechnic Institute, University of Alaska, University of Arizona, Colorado A&M, University of Idaho, Iowa State College, University of Maine, University of Massachusetts, University of Missouri, Montana State University, Ohio State University, Oklahoma A&M, Oregon State College, Pennsylvania State University, Utah State Agricultural College, and the Virginia Polytechnic Institute. A 17th unit at Texas A&M is now operating without contributions from the Wildlife Management Institute and the Fish and Wildlife Service.