



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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SONORAN ANTELOPE DISAPPEAR FROM CABEZA PRIETA GAME RANGE

The last two Sonoran antelope observed on the Cabeza Prieta Game Range in southern Arizona have disappeared, the Department of the Interior reports.

The two, a buck and a doe, were last seen on January 27, 1958. There has been no apparent poaching, predation, food or water shortage, or disease to account for their disappearance.

When last observed, the pair was about 30 miles from the Papago Indian Reservation and about the same distance from Mexico. Officials of the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, Fish and Wildlife Service, believe that the animals may have drifted away.

The Sonoran antelope have never been abundant in the northern portion of their range but their ranks have been thinning noticeably in recent years. The Cabeza Prieta Game Range, which was established in 1939 for the protection of the desert bighorn sheep, has presumably always been occupied by at least a few of these animals. In the southern and main portion of its range in Mexico, the desert pronghorn still seems to be making a better stand for survival than does the desert bighorn in that region, although the total number in the scattered bands may be only about a thousand.

The Sonoran antelope is similar to the better known antelope which occupies much of Western United States but adapted by nature to conditions which exist in one of the hottest and driest regions in the entire continent. Its range is limited, extending from southwestern Arizona into north and central Sonora.

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