

Naturalists' Paradise in National Forests

General Science

The Forest Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C., will gladly furnish free to all applicants printed matter describing the vacation advantages of the National Forests.

He who would seek the woods in summer, either to commune with nature as a poet or to extract her secrets as a student, would do well to direct his steps (or, more modernly, his front wheels) toward the national forests. The national and state parks are often better known and hence more readily thought of, but the forests have certain advantages which the naturalist will be quick to see.

In the first place, there are a great many more of them. They cover scores of times as much area as the national parks and the state parks put together. They run off into more inaccessible places, thus insuring to the student the solitude which he usually needs for successful work. There are a number of extensive national forests in the East, whereas all but one of the national parks are west of the Mississippi; hence persons living in the East and not having time for the long journey across the prairies and plains can more readily reach a territory where they can work. Nor need one forego the magnificences of the national parks altogether if he elects to conduct his field work in the western national forests. All of the more important national parks lie in a matrix of national forests, like a nucleus in its cytoplasm, so that passage from the one to the other is short and easy.

Important for geologists, botanists and entomologists is the fact that for obvious reasons collecting of specimens can not be permitted in the tourist-crowded national parks, and usually not in the state parks,



IN THE NATIONAL FORESTS there are unparalleled opportunities for the study of natural history, as well as for "just hiking," camping and fishing.

except under specially granted permits, which are not always easy to get. Such restrictions are not needed in the less frequented forests, so that one may bring back a full rucksack or vasculum or collecting bottle without fear and without reproach.

Equally important for mammalogists and ornithologists is the fact that the birds and animals in the national forests are on the whole easier to find than they are in the more crowded national parks. There most of them avoid the tourist tracks

during the season, and their behavior is to that extent modified. In the forest our shy brethren in feathers and fur may be approached with the benefit of more complete silence behind one, and with less nervousness on their own part.

Finally, it may be mentioned that for ichthyologists, both pure and applied, the streams and lakes in the national forests are kept stocked with most excellent fish.

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Sisters of the National Parks

General Science

Adapted from *Glimpses of our National Monuments*. This publication can be obtained upon application to the National Park Service, Department of the Interior, Washington, D. C.

Someone has defined National Monuments as "National Parks that have not yet grown up." That would seem to be about as close as it might be possible to come to an inclusive description of this heterogeneous group of areas preserved and protected by the United States Government. For national monuments are scattered all over the country

and include all kinds of things, from actual bronze monuments in the ordinary sense to great areas quite up to national park standards in scenic, scientific or historic interest, which await only sufficient funds for the proper administration and development, or the building of better roads to make them accessible, for a change to full national park status. Some of the smaller national monuments, of course, will probably never

become national parks; though it must be remembered that Hot Springs National Park, one of the best known and the oldest in point of time, has an area of only one and one-half square miles.

The only really sharp line that can be drawn between national monuments and national parks is a legal one: A national monument may be created by Presidential proclamation, whereas it (*Turn to next page*)