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Meredith J. Plaxton
University of Michigan

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A Biological Survey of the Oxbow Bend of the Snake River
Meredith J. Plaxton
University of Michigan
Project Number 138

The following study, running from July 12 through August 14, 1965, was carried out as one phase of the Student Conservation Program at Jackson Hole Research Station, Grand Teton National Park, Wyoming. In conjunction with a long-term ecology study of Snake River native trout, to be carried on at the Research Station, this small research project attempts a superficial survey of the planktonic, benthic, and littoral organisms in the Oxbow. Little is known about limnological and biological relations in the waters of the Oxbow, nor the extent to which it is visited or occupied by stream fishes. Combined with further research and data collection, it is hoped that it will be useful in assessing the Oxbow's value as a food source and refuge for trout.

Planktonic and benthic organisms were collected at four different sampling stations in the Oxbow throughout the period July 12-August 4. Measures of depth, surface and bottom water temperatures, air temperature, and turbidity were taken with each sampling procedure. A minimum of 20 genera of plankton were found, with Asterionella sp. showing increasingly higher counts. Benthic organisms showed less diversity, with the annelid Aelosoma sp. the most abundant organism. Shore samples were dominated by insects representing five orders, and composition showed definite change between collections on July 13 and July 28.

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