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Fire and Ecosystems

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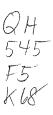
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Effects of Fire on Birds and Mammals

J. F. Bendell

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I. Introduction

Fire is a tremendous force for change in nature and requires explanation. This chapter begins with a catalog of effects of fire on the life and environment of birds and mammals and provides a starting point for understanding how fire may influence them. During their lifetime, birds and mammals encounter many changes in their environment and easily cope with most of them. What we usually seek to understand are those factors of the animal or its environment that are crucial to its occurrence and abundance. Hence, Sections III and IV attempt an analysis of how kinds and numbers of animals are influenced by fire.

Beyond occurrence and abundance, there is the broader consideration of how species have evolved to live in an environment frequently razed by fire. How have species adapted to conditions caused by fire and what interactions are there between wildlife and their environment that perpetuate the sweep of fire through the forest?