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ZOOARCHAEOLOGY IN INDIANA

The identification and interpretation of archaeological faunal remains has taken over a century to be recognized as a productive field of research in North America. In Indiana it first received real attention in the early 1940s, a time when only a handful of persons were conducting such studies in this country. The Zooarchaeology Laboratory at Bloomington holds one of the larger American collections and is continually growing, although handicapped by lack of space, laboratory help, and fulltime researchers. Present plans, however, should correct many of these defects over the next two to three years and thereby permit ongoing research to be completed and published. We hope to follow the path of several foreign centers which have pioneered quite sophisticated zooarchaeological research, particularly in regard to domesticated species. The establishment and maintenance of such centers is a very labor intensive and costly endeavor. Although zooarchaeology is not and probably never can be a precise science, it can and does furnish us with much valuable knowledge concerning prehistoric and even historic cultures.