

BRANCH OF WILDLIFE REFUGES

NARRATIVE REPORT

ROUTING SLIP

DATE Sept. 17, 1952

Mr. Salyer _____

Mr. DuMont _____

~~Mr. Krummes~~ ck

Miss Baum _____

Section of Operations:

Mr. Ball _____

Dr. Morley _____

Mr. Regan _____

Section of Habitat Improvement:

~~Mr. Griffith~~ KEG

Mr. Kubichek _____

~~Dr. Bourn~~ WSB

Mr. Stiles _____

Section of Land Management:

Mr. Ackerknecht _____

Mr. Davis _____

Stenographers:

jm _____

REFUGE Calhoun and Batchtown Refuges

PERIOD May - August 1952

CALHOUN AND BATCHTOWN REFUGES, *Illinois*
NARRATIVE REPORT
MAY, JUNE, JULY, AUGUST, 1952

I. GENERAL

A. Weather Conditions:

This was a warmer summer than in 1951, with maximum temperatures higher in all four months than for the corresponding period a year ago. Minimum temperatures in June and July were slightly higher than in 1951. During most of the period the weather was very hot and humid.

Relative readings are shown below:

Month	Year	Maximum	Minimum	Precipitation
May	1951	90	43	2.46
	1952	91	43	2.03
June	1951	93	51	7.84
	1952	104	60	2.04
July	1951	96	57	4.83
	1952	102	61	4.11
August	1951	92	57	.64
	1952	95	53	
1951 Total				15.77
1952 Total				

B. Water Conditions:

The river stages in Pool 26 during the month of May were higher than last year, but during the months of June and July the stages were lower, improving food and cover conditions. Fluctuation in pool levels due to dam manipulation was not bad in Pool 26. There was no drawdown in this pool during the period. A comparison of pool levels in Pool 26, compared to the same period in 1951, is shown in the following table:

Month	Year	High	Low	Difference
May	1951	22.9	15.5	7.4
	1952	24.6	14.9	9.7
June	1951	18.2	14.8	3.7
	1952	16.2	14.8	1.4
July	1951	27.5	17.3	10.2
	1952	16.0	14.8	.7
August	1951	15.3	14.1	1.4
	1952	15.8	14.9	2.6

In Pool 25 there was a drawdown throughout the period.

II. WILDLIFE

A. Migratory Birds:

1. Populations and Behavior:

(a) Waterfowl:

During the first part of May a few scaup and coot were observed in the area, but by the middle of the month almost all ducks had gone north, except wood ducks and a few mallards that nested in the area.

The wood duck broods showed a big increase this year, with a count of 103 broods, compared with 36 broods last year.

Eight broods of mallards were observed this year, compared with two broods last year.

One brood of scaup was observed this year, compared with none last year.

A comparison of 1951 and 1952 is shown in the following table:

Species	Broods	Young	Year
Wood duck	36	289	1951
	103	828	1952
Mallards	2	16	1951
	8	64	1952
Scaup	1	8	1952
Totals	39	304	1951
	112	900	1952

By the first of August some blue-wing teal were arriving in the area. A few flocks of mallards were present, and wood ducks were common in almost all areas.

By the end of the period blue-wings were showing up in goodly numbers, while mallards were increasing. Wood ducks showed an increase over last year in most areas.

(b) Geese:

By the first of May all geese had left the area. None have been observed during the period.

(c) Swans:

No swans were observed during the period.

(d) Egrets:

Egrets started to come into this area about the first part of May and continued to increase during the period. Estimated peak concentration was 2,500 birds, compared with 2,000 last year. It is estimated 4,000 birds used the area during the period.

(e) Shorebirds:

Killdeer, plover, and yellow-legs are common in most of the areas and are about the same as last year. A few Wilson snipe were observed. There is no increase in this species in this area.

(f) Other Water Birds:

Blue heron showed an increase this year, with an estimated 200 birds using the area, compared with last year, when 158 birds were observed.

2. Food and Cover:

Food and cover is excellent in Pool 26. Swan Lake and most all the water areas are nearly solid with sago. American pondweed made a good showing in Stump Lake. Cutgrass made good growth in all the margin areas. Sagittaria is spotty along the marginal areas, but is good. Smartweed is good in the Glades and marginal areas of Stump and Swan Lakes. Corn is available in all the lowlands this year, and ducks are due for good feeding this fall.

The Batchtown area does not look as good, as Pool 25 was down during the growing season. Only the high marginal areas have smartweed on them. There is little aquatic growth. The cornfields adjacent to the area are very good in all of the lowlands and will provide sufficient feed for the majority of dabblers.

B. Upland Game Birds:

None were observed on refuge lands. There is very little habitat for upland game birds.

C. Big Game Animals:

Two deer were observed in the Gilbert Lake area during the period.

D. Fur Animals:

(a) Muskrats:

Muskrat signs are more plentiful this period than last year, but the habitat is limited in this area for this species, as the fluctuation of the pools is too much for them. They do show an increase compared with last year.

(b) Mink:

Mink show some increase over last year, as water conditions have been better this period. More signs have been observed in the bottomlands than last year.

(c) Skunk:

No signs of skunk have been observed during this period. Habitat is limited for this species.

(d) Beaver:

Beaver signs are observed on most islands along the Mississippi and Illinois Rivers. This species is holding about the same as last period.

(e) Otter:

None observed.

(f) Raccoon:

Raccoon signs are more plentiful throughout the bottomlands. This species is on the increase in all the timbered areas.

(g) Foxes:

Foxes are on the increase throughout the area, according to signs observed and information reported by farmers living close to the areas.

E. Predaceous Birds:

Red-tailed hawks are observed in almost all the areas along the river and appear to have increased.

Turkey vultures are numerous along the Illinois River. An estimated 50 birds used the area, compared with 39 last year.

F. Fish:

Both game fish and rough fish are plentiful. Fishing has been better this period, as the water conditions were improved over last year. Larger numbers of fishermen used the area than last year.

Commercial fishermen report good results during the period, and the price has held up, putting more pressure on rough fish.

III. REFUGE DEVELOPMENT AND MAINTENANCE

A. Physical Development:

All boundary lines have been reconditioned on the 6,400 acres of closed areas. Signs were replaced where needed, and boundary lines cut out. The entire line of the closed areas will be gone over before the season opens to catch any brush that might grow up to cover the signs. The area demanded lots of hard work to put in shape this time, as many of the steel posts had worked down into the Illinois River mud.

The 21-foot boat was painted during the period and put in the water.

B. Planting:4. Cultivated Crops:

The nine share-crop permittees got their crops in, and the prospect of raising a crop looks good. We do not expect any high water this time of the year to overflow fields.

VI. PUBLIC RELATIONS

A. Recreational Use:

A larger number of people used the area during the period for swimming, camping, and boating as the summer was warmer than last year, and more people came out from the cities to get away from the heat. Boat liveries reported more business than last year as the water conditions were better. Pleasure boating on the Illinois and Mississippi Rivers was heavier than last year.

B. Refuge Visitors:

Dr. W. E. Green worked in the area during the period.

C. Refuge Participation:

Attended refuge conference meeting at Winona, Minnesota, on August 6 and 7.

E. Fishing:
Sport:

Sport fishing has been good nearly all of the time during this period. Many more fishermen used the area due to better water conditions on the Illinois River. Good catches of bass, blue gill, and crappie were reported throughout the season.

Commercial:

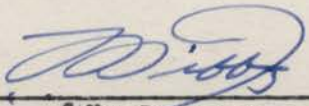
Commercial fishing has been better than last year throughout the period as water conditions were more stable. The catfish run was good in July. Buffalo and carp came in well during May and June. The good fisherman is satisfied with the results. The price and demand were good.

VII. OTHER ITEMS

The Refuge Manager assisted Dr. Green in an examination of all War Department agricultural lands in Pools 22, 25, and 26 for the purpose of checking current status of these lands in connection with negotiations with the Corps of Engineers.

September 4, 1952


Superintendent of Refuges


Acting Regional Director

SEP 8 1952

WATERFOWL

Refuge Calhoun and Batchtown Months of May to August, 19 52

(1) Species	(2) First Seen		(3) Peak Concentration		(4) Last Seen		(5) Young Produced		(6) Total
	Number	Date	Number	Date	Number	Date	Broods Seen	Estimated Total	Estimated for period
I. <u>Swans:</u> Whistling swan									
II. <u>Geese:</u> Canada goose Cackling goose Brant White-fronted goose Snow goose Blue goose									
III. <u>Ducks:</u> Mallard Black duck Gadwall Baldpate Pintail Green-winged teal Blue-winged teal Cinnamon teal Shoveller Wood duck Redhead Ring-necked duck Canvas-back Scaup Golden-eye Buffle-head Ruddy duck	8	6/16	80	7/25	40	7/22	8	64	75
	8	5/10	1034	7/25	16	7/25	103	828	1104
	8	6/26	10	6/26	8	6/26	1	8	10
IV. <u>Coot:</u>									

SUMMARIES

Dates waterfowl counts made _____

Percent of waterfowl area covered _____

Dates brood counts made _____

Percent of area covered in brood counts _____

Total production:

Geese _____

Ducks 900

Coots _____

Total waterfowl usage during period 1189

Peak waterfowl numbers 1124

Areas used by concentrations Calhoun and Batchtown Refuges

Principal nesting areas this season _____

Reported by Edward A. Davis

INSTRUCTIONS

- (1) Species: In addition to the birds listed on form, other species occurring on refuge during the reporting period should be added in appropriate spaces. Special attention should be given to those species of local and National significance.
- (2) First seen: The first refuge record for the species during the season concerned in the reporting period, and the number seen. This column does not apply to resident species.
- (3) Peak concentration: The greatest number of the species present in a limited interval of time.
- (4) Last seen: The last refuge record for the species during the season concerned in the reporting period.
- (5) Young produced: Estimated number of young produced based on observations and actual counts on representative breeding areas. Brood counts should be made on two or more areas aggregating 10% of the breeding habitat. Estimates having no basis in fact should be omitted.
- (6) Total: Estimated total number of the species using the refuge during the period. This figure may or may not be more than that used for peak concentrations, depending upon the nature of the migrational movement.

Note: Only columns applicable to the reporting period should be used. It is desirable that the Summaries receive careful attention since these data are necessarily based on an analysis of the rest of the form.

3-1751
Form NR-1A
(Nov. 1945)

MIGRATORY BIRDS
(other than waterfowl)

Refuge Calhoun and Batchtown Months of May to August, 1945

(1) Species	(2) First Seen		(3) Peak Numbers		(4) Last Seen		(5) Production			(6) Total
Common Name	Number	Date	Number	Date	Number	Date	Number Colonies	Total # Nests	Total Young	Estimated Number
I. <u>Water and Marsh Birds:</u>										
Egrets	2	5/4	2500	7/21	1000	8/15				4000
Heron	10	5/8	160	7/24	160	8/15				200

(over)

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
III. Doves and Pigeons:					
Mourning dove					
White-winged dove					
IV. Predaceous Birds:					
Golden eagle					
Duck hawk					
Horned owl					
Magpie					
Raven					
Crow					
Large numbers of crows here during period.					
Reported by					Edward A. Davis

INSTRUCTIONS

- (1) Species: Use the correct names as found in the A.O.U. Checklist, 1931 Edition, and list group in A.O.U. order. Avoid general terms as "seagull", "tern", etc. In addition to the birds listed on form, other species occurring on refuge during the reporting period should be added in appropriate spaces. Special attention should be given to those species of local and National significance. Groups: I. Water and Marsh Birds (Gaviiformes to Ciconiiformes and Gruiformes)
 II. Shorebirds, Gulls and Terns (Charadriiformes)
 III. Doves and Pigeons (Columbiformes)
 IV. Predaceous Birds (Falconiformes, Strigiformes and predaceous Passeriformes)
- (2) First Seen: The first refuge record for the species for the season concerned.
- (3) Peak Numbers: The greatest number of the species present in a limited interval of time.
- (4) Last Seen: The last refuge record for the species during the season concerned.
- (5) Production: Estimated number of young produced based on observations and actual counts.
- (6) Total: Estimated total number of the species using the refuge during the period concerned.

3-1752
Form NR-2
(April 1946)

UPLAND GAME BIRDS

1613

Refuge Calhoun and Batohtown

Months of May to August, 1952

(1) Species	(2) Density		(3) Young Produced		(4) Sex Ratio	(5) Removals			(6) Total	(7) Remarks
Common Name	Cover types, total acreage of habitat	Acres per Bird	Number broods obs'v'd.	Estimated Total	Percentage	Hunting	For Re- stocking	For Research	Estimated number using Refuge	Pertinent information not specificioally requested. List introductions here.
	Nothing to report under this.									

INSTRUCTIONS

Form NR-2 - UPLAND GAME BIRDS.*

- (1) SPECIES: Use correct common name.
- (2) DENSITY: Applies particularly to those species considered in removal programs (public hunts, etc.). Detailed data may be omitted for species occurring in limited numbers. Density to be expressed in acres per animal by cover types. This information is to be prefaced by a statement from the refuge manager as to the number of acres in each cover type found on the refuge; once submitted, this information need not be repeated except as significant changes occur in the area of cover types. Cover types should be detailed enough to furnish the desired information but not so much as to obscure the general picture. Examples: spruce swamp, upland hardwoods, reverting agriculture land, bottomland hardwoods, short grass prairie, etc. Standard type symbols listed in Wildlife Management Series No. 7 should be used where possible. Figures submitted should be based on actual observations and counts on representative sample areas. Survey method used and size of sample area or areas should be indicated under Remarks.
- (3) YOUNG PRODUCED: Estimated number of young produced, based upon observations and actual counts in representative breeding habitat.
- (4) SEX RATIO: This column applies primarily to wild turkey, pheasants, etc. Include data on other species if available.
- (5) REMOVALS: Indicate total number in each category removed during the report period.
- (6) TOTAL: Estimated total number using the refuge during the report period. This may include resident birds plus those migrating into the refuge during certain seasons.
- (7) REMARKS: Indicate method used to determine population and area covered in survey. Also include other pertinent information not specifically requested.

* Only columns applicable to the period covered should be used.