PLANNING AND ACCOMPLISHMENT REPORT

UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER WILD LIFE AND FISH REFUGE
LA CROSSE DISTRICT
P.O. BOX 619
LA CROSSE, WISCONSIN 54601

PERSONNEL

Matthias A. Kerschbaum . . . . . District Refuge Manager
Peter T. Smith . . . . . District Refuge Manager

Approved, Regional Office

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Signature

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Title

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Date

Submitted by:

Peter T. Smith

Matthias A. Kerschbaum
Signature

District Refuge Manager
Title

11 January 1974
Date

LA CROSSE DISTRICT HIGHLIGHT STATEMENT

All the months of winter were significantly warmer than normal. February 1973 was the warmest of any February since 1964. March was the third warmest in the last century. Precipitation was also well above the usual especially during April when nearly three times the normal occurred, making this the wettest April since weather records began in 1873.

The navigation season on the Mississippi River began on 9 March. Four periods of highwater were experienced during the spring. The Mississippi River crested at La Crosse on four separate occasions, 20 March at 13 feet, 16-20 April at 10.5 feet, 7 May at 11.1 feet, and 1 June at 10 feet. The mid-April crest would correspond to our normally expected flood period.

A heavy snowfall hit the area during 8-9 April. The 16 inches deposited on the district represented the third highest single snowfall ever recorded for this vicinity.

The observance of visible portions of emergent aquatic vegetation was noted in May somewhat earlier than in previous years. By June heavy growths of aquatics were obvious and it would appear that the eutrophication process has rapidly advanced in the aquatic environment of the river.

In 1972 a written agreement between the State of Minnesota Highway Department and the refuge gave control to the refuge for management of the upper I-90 boat access. It soon became apparent that the costs of maintaining two accesses in the I-90 area was prohibitive and in early March arrangements were made to turn this facility back to the state, but this time to the Minnesota DNR. The refuge took this landing over only on an interim basis to keep it from being closed by the highway department. It was the position of the refuge that only one landing in the I-90 area would not adequately meet local needs for river access. The refuge now manages and maintains only one access at the I-90 site, this being located wholly on Bureau-owned land.

Erosion at our I-90 access had begun to create a badly eroded slope along the parking area. A culvert was installed to control run off, and the slope seeded with standard highway grass mixture and crown vetch. The catch was good and with some additional culvert work should greatly help the situation.

A mixture of Norway spruce, and red pine seedlings were planted around our comfort stations by Boy Scouts of Troop 15, La Crosse, Wisconsin. Most of the 900 trees were put at the Goose Island site.

All newly installed comfort stations have been well received and well used. A vault in one of the Goose Island toilets was found to be leaking and was repaired by the contractor during May. Maintenance to these comfort stations is both continuous and costly to the refuge.

The Bureau has now phased out all privately owned cabins on refuge lands. During 1973, two cabins were taken under government control. Attempts to get rid of them have met with little success to date. Two other derelict buildings were burned to the ground with the assistance of the La Crescent, Minnesota volunteer fire department.

Re-posting of refuge boundaries was again accomplished. A Corps of Engineer survey team assisted district personnel in relocating all government property markers along the shoreline of the Brice Prairie.

A permit was issued to Dairyland Power Company to upgrade an existing power line along the dike at lock & dam #8 with a 69KV facility. The job required some clearing and placement of new poles for the high-line. The work was completed in Mid-March.

In Mid-June the Wisconsin DNR presented a public hearing to relate its position regarding the ubiquitous river structures known locally as "boathouses." There are a number of these structures on refuge lands and the state's position will become the precedent for many future boathouse involvements and decisions. In summary the state's position is that a "boathouse" must be classified as a boat or a "structure." If a boat, it must be registered and comply with boating laws which include movement between open water seasons, i.e. no permanent moorage. If a structure, it must have a valid DNR permit. It should be noted that such permits involving structures in navigable waters are rarely approved. The state has set September 1974 as the target date for voluntary compliance with this position. We await with anxious expectation the impact on and reaction of boathouse owners of the area.

Again the district has been the recipient of a number of requests for control of aquatic vegetation. Our unique situation, that of being bordered by a number of private residences, marinas, and docks, has created some localized demand for aquatic plant removal to facilitate access to water areas. Proposals have included both chemical and mechanical removal. To date the refuge has issued no permits but we believe, in some instances, mechanical removal may be compatible with the interests of residents and the refuge. As the eutrophication process continues, we would expect these requests to increase.

UM-1 Rev.
1964

B. Habitat Conditions
1. Water

POOL LEVELS

Pool No. 8 at La Crosse, Wisconsin Normal: 4.6 ft.

MONTH	HIGHEST LEVEL	LOWEST LEVEL	AVERAGE LEVEL	DATES OF HIGH LEVEL	DATES OF LOW LEVEL
January	6.9	5.8	6.2	22,23	10,12,14,15,16,17
February	6.2	5.0	5.7	1	24,25
March	13.0	5.0	10.2	20	2
April	10.4	7.1	8.4	19	15,30
May	11.1	7.1	8.9	7	23,25
June	9.9	5.4	7.1	1	30
July	5.3	4.5	4.9	1	12,13
August	6.2	4.5	5.1	24	29
September	5.7	4.4	4.9	28	16
October	7.6	4.7	6.5	23,24	10
November	6.5	4.7	5.6	30	15
December	6.5	5.0	5.75	1,2,3,	14

I. GENERAL

A. Weather Conditions

Statistics obtained from U.S. Weather Service - La Crosse, Wisconsin

MONTH	Precipitation			Temperature			
	Total	Normal	Snowfall	Max.	Min.	Mean Av.	Normal Mean Av.
January	.85	1.19	6.5	56	-22	19.9	16.5
February	1.38	1.05	9.0	48	- 7	24.8	19.4
March	3.69	2.07	T	67	21	41.5	30.5
April	7.33	2.75	17.0	71	22	44.6	47.0
May	6.18	3.78	-	82	29	54.4	58.2
June	4.47	4.20	-	95	51	70.3	68.8
July	2.53	3.75	-	99	52	73.9	73.8
August	8.63	3.63	-	95	50	72.2	71.6
September	3.37	3.38	-	90	36	62.5	61.8
October	1.93	2.05	-	80	33	57.1	51.8
November	1.93	1.45	-	64	14	38.0	35.4
December	1.36	1.04	8.7	51	-18	18.7	21.8
Annual Totals	43.62	30.34	41.2				

UM-3

COMPARISON OF PEAK NUMBERS, PEAK DATES, AND TOTAL DAYS USE
Refuge: Upper Mississippi Refuge, La Crosse District
Period: January - April 1973

Species	Peak Numbers 1972	Peak Numbers 1973	Percent of Change Decrease	Percent of Change Increase	Peak Dates* 1972	Peak Dates* 1973	TOTAL DUCK DAYS USE 1972	TOTAL DUCK DAYS USE 1973	Percent of Change Decrease	Percent of Change Increase
Mallard	3,600	3,600	-	-	3/25	4/14	139,090	117,320	16	-
Black	360	100	72	-	4/15	4/14	6,440	2,905	55	-
Gadwall	70	50	29	-	4/8	4/7	1,750	1,190	32	-
Baldpate	390	500	-	28	4/15	4/7	7,980	7,805	2	-
Pintail	340	250	26	-	4/1	4/14	4,410	4,620	-	5
G.w.teal	150	100	33	-	4/15	4/14	3,220	1,435	55	-
B.w.teal	230	150	35	-	4/29	4/14	4,410	3,675	17	-
Shoveler	150	40	73	-	4/15	4/28	3,430	665	81	-
Wood duck	340	400	-	18	4/15	4/7	8,757	5,957	32	-
Redhead	670	840	-	25	4/29	4/7	8,190	7,665	6	-
Ring-neck	1,030	1,600	-	55	4,29	4/14	26,700	32,480	-	22
Canvasback	5,150	9,800	-	90	4/15	4/7	129,780	188,930	-	46
L.scaup	25,000	17,500	30	-	4/15	4/28	566,720	498,120	12	-
Golden-eye	1,670	2,140	-	28	4/15	3/24	32,550	35,763	-	10
Bufflehead	500	700	-	40	4/15	4/28	10,850	16,100	-	48
Ruddy	170	130	29	-	4/29	4/28	3,360	2,835	16	-
Mergansers	4,220	2,950	30	-	4/15	3/24	77,119	56,980	26	-
Old squaw										
Scoters										
Unident.										
TOTALS	~~44,040~~ 42,850	~~40,850~~ 25,220	41				1,029,756	984,445	4	

*Week ending.

Dabblers	179,487	145,572	19
Divers	850,269	838,873	1

Comments:

Merganser data represents hooded, common, and red-breasted mergansers.

UM-3

COMPARISON OF PEAK NUMBERS, PEAK DATES, AND TOTAL DAYS USE
Refuge: Upper Mississippi Refuge, La Crosse District
Period: May - August 1973

Species	Peak Numbers 1972	Peak Numbers 1973	Percent of Change Decrease	Percent of Change Increase	Peak Dates* 1972	Peak Dates* 1973	TOTAL DUCK DAYS USE 1972	TOTAL DUCK DAYS USE 1973	Percent of Change Decrease	Percent of Change Increase
Mallard	8,000	4,000	50	-	6/17 9/2	9/1	777,000	241,500	69	-
Black	50	100	-	100	3/19 9/2	8/25	3,850	4,305	-	12
Gadwall	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Baldpate	2,000	100	95	-	9/2	8/25	19,110	2,100	89	-
Pintail	50	-	-	-	9/2	-	420	-	-	-
G.w.teal	300	50	83	-	9/2	9/1	3,780	1,232	67	-
B.w.teal	3,000	2,500	17	-	9/2	9/1	94,850	52,675	44	-
Shoveler	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wood duck	3,000	2,000	33	-	8/26 9/2	8/25	219,800	86,100	61	-
Redhead	50	10	80	-	5/6	5/5	350	70	80	-
Ring-neck	-	100	-	-	-	5/5	-	840	-	-
Canvasback	200	300	-	50	5/6	5/5	1,855	2,828	-	52
L.scaup	3,000	13,000	-	333	5/6	5/5	24,654	149,975	-	508
Golden-eye	1	10	-	900	6/24	5/5	7	70	-	900
Bufflehead	50	400	-	700	5/6	5/5	350	3,150	-	800
Ruddy	50	70	-	40	5/6	5/5	350	602	-	72
Mergansers	500	50	90	-	6/17 7/29	5/5	43,750	3,920	91	-
Old squaw										
Scoters										
Unident.										
TOTALS	16,701 ~~20,251~~	15,980 ~~22,690~~	4				1,190,126	549,367	54	
Dabblers							1,118,810	387,982	65	
Divers							71,316	161,385		126

*Week ending.

Comments:

1972 mallard population includes 3,000 young mallards released by Badger State Sportsman Club.
1973 mallard population does not include 2,800 mallards released by Badger State Sportsman Club.
Merganser data represents hooded, common and red-breasted mergansers.

COMPARISON OF PEAK NUMBERS, PEAK DATES, AND TOTAL DAYS USE
Refuge: **Upper Mississippi Refuge, La Crosse District**
Period: **September - December 1973**

Species	Peak Numbers 1972	Peak Numbers 1973	Percent of Change Decrease	Percent of Change Increase	Peak Dates* 1972	Peak Dates* 1973	TOTAL DUCK DAYS USE 1972	TOTAL DUCK DAYS USE 1973	Percent of Change Decrease	Percent of Change Increase
Mallard	10,600	15,600	-	47	10/21	11/3	758,800	666,015	12	-
Black	400	400	-	-	9/30-10/21	11/3	23,310	18,620	20	-
Gadwall	300	200	33	-	10/7-14	9/29-10/27	10,570	8,337	21	-
Baldpate	18,000	22,600	-	26	10/7	10/6	572,250	735,210	-	28
Pintail	1,400	2,200	-	57	10/21	11/3	55,300	79,450	-	44
G.w. teal	1,000	1,000	-	-	9/30	9/29	26,600	25,480	4	-
B.w. teal	4,000	5,000	-	25	9/16-23	9/15	119,700	124,950	-	4
Shoveler	300	400	-	33	10/7-14	9/29-10/20	7,350	12,040	-	64
Wood duck	4,000	4,000	-	-	9/23	9/22	120,400	116,914	3	-
Redhead	3,000	1,000	67	-	10/28	11/3	83,300	22,610	73	-
Ring-neck	5,000	18,000	-	260	10/28-11/4	11/3	142,800	350,840	-	146
Canvasback	40,700	72,000	-	77	10/28	11/3	1,156,540	1,897,070	-	64
L. scaup	29,000	23,000	21	-	10/28	10/27-11/3	809,900	546,245	33	-
Golden-eye	400	100	75	-	12/2	12/1	8,750	3,220	63	-
Bufflehead	950	800	5	-	11/25	11/3	38,500	16,450	57	-
Ruddy	500	800	-	60	11/11	11/3	17,850	15,890	11	-
Mergansers	1,000	425	58	-	11/25	12/8	26,964	18,095	33	
Old squaw	-	10	-	-	-	11/24	-	70	-	-
Scoters	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Unident.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	94,250 ~~120,550~~	141,600 ~~167,535~~		50			3,978,884	4,657,506		17

*Week ending.

Dabblers:	1,694,280	1,787,016	5
Divers :	2,284,604	2,870,490	26

Comments:
Merganser data represents hooded, common, and red-breasted merganser.

UM-3A

COMPARISON OF PEAK NUMBERS, PEAK DATES, AND TOTAL DAYS USE
Refuge: Upper Mississippi Refuge, La Crosse District
Period: January - April 1973

Species	Peak Numbers 1972	Peak Numbers 1973	Per cent of Change Decrease	Per cent of Change Increase	Peak Dates* 1972	Peak Dates* 1973	TOTAL DAYS USE 1972	TOTAL DAYS USE 1973	Per cent of Change Decrease	Per cent of Change Increase
Canada geese (lg.)	575	570	.99	-	3/25	3/24	15,939	14,140	11	-
Cackling	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
White-fronted	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Snow	20	-	100	-	-	-	140	-	100	-
Blue	80	-	100	-	-	-	560	-	100	-
	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	675	570	-	-	-	-	16,639	14,140	-	-

Comments:

Coot	8,300	5,480	44	-	4/29	4/28	142,520	107,380	25	-
Florida gallinule										
Whistling Swans	700	90	87	-	4/8	4/14	7/154	637	91	-

Comments:

UM-3A

COMPARISON OF PEAK NUMBERS, PEAK DATES, AND TOTAL DAYS USE
Refuge: Upper Mississippi Refuge, La Crosse District
Period: May - August 1973

Species	Peak Numbers 1972	Peak Numbers 1973	Per cent of Change Decrease	Per cent of Change Increase	Peak Dates* 1972	Peak Dates* 1973	TOTAL DAYS USE 1972	TOTAL DAYS USE 1973	Per cent of Change Decrease	Per cent of Change Increase
Canada geese (lg.)	90	100		11	7/8 9/2	7/7	9,863	12,600		28
Cackling										
White-fronted										
Snow										
Blue										
TOTALS	90	100					9,863	12,600		

Comments: Canada Goose Population includes those birds at Badger State Sportsman Club.

Coot	5,000	3,000	40		5/6 5/5 9/1		78,680	135,450		72
Florida gallinule	50	40	20		6/3 8/5	6/2	4,620	1,540	67	

Comments:

UM-3A

COMPARISON OF PEAK NUMBERS, PEAK DATES, AND TOTAL DAYS USE
Refuge: Upper Mississippi Refuge, La Crosse District
Period: September - December 1973

Species	Peak Numbers 1972	Peak Numbers 1973	Per cent of Change Decrease	Per cent of Change Increase	Peak Dates* 1972	Peak Dates* 1973	TOTAL DAYS USE 1972	TOTAL DAYS USE 1973	Per cent of Change Decrease	Per cent of Change Increase
Canada geese (lg.)	2,380	2,250	5	-	11/25	11/17	89,530	107,905	-	21
Cackling	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
White-fronted	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Snow	50	50	-	-	10/21	9/29	490	350	29	-
Blue	30	-	100	-	10/28	-	385	-	100	-
TOTALS	2,460	2,300	-	-	-	-	90,405	108,255	-	-

Comments:

Coot	55,000	52,800	4	-	10/28	10/6	1,752,450	1,899,254	-	8
Florida gallinule	30	20	33	-	9/9-10	9/1	1,190	794	33	-
Whistling Swan	367	380	-	3	11/25	11/17	7,532	7,294	3	-

Comments:

PERCENTAGE COMPOSITION BY SPECIES OF TOTAL DUCK DAY USE
Refuge: Upper Mississippi Refuge, La Crosse District
Period: January - April 1973

Species	Percent of total duck day use					
	1971		1972		1973	
	% of use	Order	% of use	Order	% of use	Order
Mallard	14.3	2	13.6	2	12.	3
Black duck	.5	14	.7	11	.29	13
Gadwall	.2	16	.17	17	.12	16
Baldpate	.7	11	.8	10	.79	8
Pintail	.4	15	.5	13	.46	11
G.w.teal	.6	13	.4	16	.14	15
B.w.teal	1.5	10	.5	12	.37	12
Shoveler	.7	12	.4	14	.06	17
Wood duck	1.8	8	.9	8	.60	10
Redhead	3.1	7	.8	9	.77	9
Ring-neck	5.6	5	2.2	6	3.29	6
Canvasback	13.6	3	12.7	3	19.19	2
Lesser scaup	43.1	1	55.1	1	50.59	1
Golden-eye	6.3	4	3.2	5	3.63	5
Bufflehead	1.7	9	1.1	7	1.63	7
Ruddy	.2	17	.4	15	.28	14
Mergansers	5.5	6	7.5	4	5.78	4
Old squaw						
Scoters						

Comments: Percentages based upon total duck use for period of 984,445 use days.

Merganser data represents common, red-breasted, and hooded mergansers combined.

PERCENTAGE COMPOSITION BY SPECIES OF TOTAL DUCK DAY USE
Refuge: Upper Mississippi Refuge, La Crosse District
Period: May - August 1973

Species	Percent of total duck day use					
	1971		1972		1973	
	% of use	Order	% of use	Order	% of use	Order
Mallard	60.2	1	65.3	1	43.9	1
Black duck	.6	7	.7	7	.78	5
Gadwall	-	-	-	-	-	-
Baldpate	1.2	6	1.7	6	.38	9
Pintail	.2	10	.1	10	-	-
G.w.teal	1.7	5	.4	8	.22	10
B.w.teal	14.3	3	8.0	3	9.58	4
Shoveler	.2	9	-	-	-	-
Wood duck	18.1	2	18.5	2	15.67	3
Redhead	-	-	.07	11	.01	13
Ring-neck	-	-	-	-	.15	11
Canvasback	-	-	.2	9	.51	8
Lesser scaup	.2	8	2.9	5	27.29	2
Golden-eye	-	-	t	14	.01	12
Bufflehead	.02	11	.03	12	.57	7
Ruddy	-	-	.03	13	.10	12
Mergansers	3.1	4	3.7	4	.71	6
Old squaw						
Scoters						

Comments: t - Trace

Percentages based upon total duck use for period, of 549,367 use days.

Merganser data represents hooded, common, and red-breasted mergansers.

PERCENTAGE COMPOSITION BY SPECIES OF TOTAL DUCK DAY USE
Refuge: Upper Mississippi Refuge, La Crosse District
Period: September - December 1973

Species	Percent of total duck day use					
	1971		1972		1973	
	% of use	Order	% of use	Order	% of use	Order
Mallard	20.0	3	19.1	3	14.29	3
Black duck	1.1	13	.6	13	.39	11
Gadwall	1.2	12	.3	15	.17	16
Baldpate	25.6	1	14.4	4	15.78	2
Pintail	3.6	6	1.4	9	1.70	8
G.w.teal	1.3	11	.7	12	.54	9
B.w.teal	4.5	5	3.1	7	2.68	6
Shoveler	.1	17	.2	17	.25	15
Wood duck	3.2	7	3.1	6	2.51	7
Redhead	1.6	10	2.1	8	.48	10
Ring-neck	3.2	8	3.6	5	7.53	5
Canvasback	21.2	2	29.1	1	40.73	1
Lesser scaup	9.0	4	20.4	2	11.72	4
Golden-eye	.4	16	.3	16	.06	17
Bufflehead	2.3	9	1.0	10	.35	13
Ruddy	.8	15	.5	14	.34	14
Mergansers	.9	14	.8	11	.38	12
Old squaw	t	19	t	18	t	18
Scoters						

Comments: t - Trace

Total duck use for the period was 4,657,506 days.

Merganser data represents hooded, common, and red-breasted merganser totaled.

WEEKLY DUCK POPULATIONS AND PEAK NUMBERS

Refuge: Upper Mississippi Refuge, La Crosse, District
Period: January - April 1973

Week of Period:	1969	1970	1971	1972	1973
1	325	405	467	461	511
2	325	405	467	461	511
3	325	405	434	461	511
4	325	405	416	461	511
5	325	405	412	532	511
6	320	430	438	532	468
7	320	470	440	536	474
8	320	520	423	537	484
9	320	860	423	519	484
10	320	1,680	444	512	2,074
11	630	3,280	1,920	1,161	5,941
12	5,350	7,330	3,920	7,975	19,280
13	7,940	17,050	17,000	13,090	16,240
14	13,960	31,800	45,670	26,980	23,560
15	27,250*	39,820*	46,980*	42,850*	25,220*
16	8,910	24,240	6,700	29,380	23,025
17	4,350	12,830	4,190	20,660	21,535
18	2,070				
TOTAL DAYS USE	359,205	707,735	769,096	1,029,756	984,445

* Indicates peak concentration

COMMENTS: * - Peak week for period

WEEKLY DUCK POPULATIONS AND PEAK NUMBERS

Refuge: Upper Mississippi Refuge, La Crosse District
Period: May - August 1973

Week of Period:	1969	1970	1971	1972	1973 **
1	1,961	4,360	3,760	6,150	15,980*
2	2,360	3,730	3,350	3,580	8,230
3	1,910	3,350	3,330	3,060	4,045
4	1,980	3,360	3,330	3,020	2,335
5	2,100	3,430	2,800	3,020	2,085
6	2,180	3,550	2,800	6,430	2,155
7	2,530	3,730	2,590	10,630	2,130
8	2,130	6,100	2,590	11,183	2,105
9	5,360	5,980	2,971	11,580	2,105
10	5,500	8,330	7,421	11,590	2,118
11	10,070	8,570	7,420	11,590	2,122
12	10,380	8,790	7,420	11,590	2,122
13	10,630	9,240	10,520	11,590	2,122
14	10,950	9,420	12,390	11,391	3,080
15	11,320	9,730	15,140	11,551	4,100
16	11,730	10,340	18,000	11,901	5,625
17	13,100*	12,230*	19,800*	13,461	7,250
18				16,701*	8,780
TOTAL DAYS USE	672,810	688,380	879,424	1,190,126	549,423

* Indicates peak concentration

COMMENTS: * - Peak week for period

** - Figures do not include hand-reared mallards released by Badger State Sportsmans Club. July 7, 2,800 birds

WEEKLY DUCK POPULATIONS AND PEAK NUMBERS

Refuge: Upper Mississippi Refuge, La Crosse District
Period: September - December 1973

Week of Period:	1969	1970	1971	1972	1973
1	24,470	14,430	21,200	20,200	9,780
2	31,500	22,590	24,800	23,910	20,120
3	32,250	31,350	31,500	26,550	24,800
4	35,180	33,570	36,750	34,500	30,500
5	39,620	39,880	43,340	33,850	36,500
6	43,700	45,860	52,300	51,650	47,850
7	65,480	57,410	76,290	73,300	56,800
8	87,670	68,920	103,990*	94,250*	84,300
9	97,350*	84,250*	94,050	81,200	141,600*
10	95,080	60,990	71,090	64,050	73,590
11	91,520	52,620	49,330	27,350	47,300
12	40,320	45,770	39,410	22,530	42,760
13	7,550	17,080	16,750	13,050	39,580
14	7,530	16,380	10,120	420	8,135
15	2,920	4,890	8,070	520	713
16	520	480	1,300	521	515
17	490	480	610	561	515
18	475	480	540		
TOTAL DAYS USE	3,909,910	3,275,670	4,770,080	3,978,884	4,660,566

* Indicates peak concentration

COMMENTS:

3-17
Form NR-8
(Rev. Jan. 1956)

Fish and Wildlife Service Branch of Wildlife Refuges

CULTIVATED CROPS - HAYING - GRAZING

Refuge Upper Mississippi Refuge, La Crosse District County Vernon, Houston State Wisconsin, Minnesota

Cultivated Crops Grown	Permittee's Share Harvested		Government's Share or Return				Total Acreage Planted	Green Manure, Cover and Water-fowl Browsing Crops Type and Kind	Total Acreage
			Harvested		Unharvested				
	Acres	Bu./Tons	Acres	Bu./Tons	Acres	Bu./Tons			
Soybeans (BSSCI)	35	328 bu.					35		35
								Fallow Ag. Land	

No. of Permittees: Agricultural Operations 1 Haying Operations 0 Grazing Operations 4

Hay - Improved (Specify Kind)	Tons Harvested	Acres	Cash Revenue	GRAZING	Number Animals	AUM'S	Cash Revenue	ACREAGE
				1. Cattle	85	245.17	$245.17	177
				2. Other				
				1. Total Refuge Acreage Under Cultivation				35
Hay - Wild				2. Acreage Cultivated as Service Operation				

1965
UM-9A

Refuge:
Period: Calendar Year 73

B. Upland Game Birds

SPECIES	POPULATION JAN. 1	YOUNG PRODUCED	NUMBER STOCKED	GREATEST NO. PRESENT	TAKE	LOSS	POPULATION DEC. 31
Ring-necked Pheasant	5	-	20	25	10	5	5
Ruffed grouse	30	50	-	80	20	20	40
Bob-white quail	10	15	-	25	0	10	15
Gray partridge							
Wild turkey							

Pheasant were seen in the Trempealeau area this year. These birds are state released birds that stray on to bureau lands. Bob-white quail were on a large Island just south of Goose Island.

C. Big Game Animals (White-tailed deer)

POPULATION JAN. 1	YOUNG PRODUCED	GREATEST NO.PRESENT	HUNTER TAKE	LOSSES	POPULATION DEC. 31
20	25	55	15	-	40

White-tailed deer were seen wintering in three areas; Goose Island, Root River area, and the Black River bottoms. Six acres of soybeans were left standing on Goose Island and this with good natural cover provided a fine wintering area. The Root River area has corn fields adjacent to refuge lands which are part of a private game reserve. Our last wintering area of the Black River bottoms, is a natural bottom land habitat. It is not really supported as much by agricultural crops.

3-1761
Form [illegible]11

TIMB[illegible] REMOVAL

Refuge Upper Mississippi Refuge La Crosse, District Year 19~~X~~73

Permittee	Permit No.	Unit or Location	Acreage	No. of Units Expressed in B. F., ties, etc.	Rate of Charge	Total Income	Reservations and/or Diameter Limits	Species Cut
				NONE				

Total acreage cut over..... Total income.....

No. of units removed B. F..... Method of slash disposal.....

Cords.....

Ties.....

.....

UM-14
Rev.
1965

Refuge: Upper Mississippi Refuge
La Crosse District
Period: Calendar Year 73

D. Fur Animals, Predators, Rodents, and Other Mammals

SPECIES	POPULATION JAN. 1	YOUNG PRODUCED	GREATEST NO. PRESENT	TAKE	CON-TROL	LOSS	POPULATION DEC. 31
Muskrat	25,000	80,000	85,000	52,000		28,000	25,000
Mink	50	50	70	19		1	50
Beaver	800	270	1,065	425		5	640
Otter	15	-	15	3		2	10
Raccoon	900	800	1,600	60		440	1,100
Red Fox	30	20	50	10		5	30
Gray Fox							
Skunk	70	90	160	5		45	110
Cotton-tail Rabbit	100	300	390	50		110	230
Opossum	10	20	30	2		3	25
Gray & Fox Squirrels	600	800	1,000	200		155	645
Woodchuck	50	75	125	-		25	100
Badger							

* The original beaver pop. of 1,000 on January 1 was an estimate. Based on more reliable information from total lodge counts and trapper catch reports, the Hanuary figure was dropped from 1,000 to 800 animals.

PHOTOGRAPHS

Deposition of dredge spoil along the sloughs and backwaters of the Mississippi River has become a target of concern. Indescriminate placement of this material covers marsh habitat and occludes waterways. The area of sand may offer some recreational potential, but associated habitat loss can often off-set any ben benefits. (District Slide Ia 54)

It is readily apparent why Bureau policy on privately-owned cabins has been to eliminate them. All cabins on Bureau lands are now in government ownership and scheduled to be disposed of as soon as possible. Cabins on Corps of Engineers lands exist and will not be phased out until sometime in the 1980s.

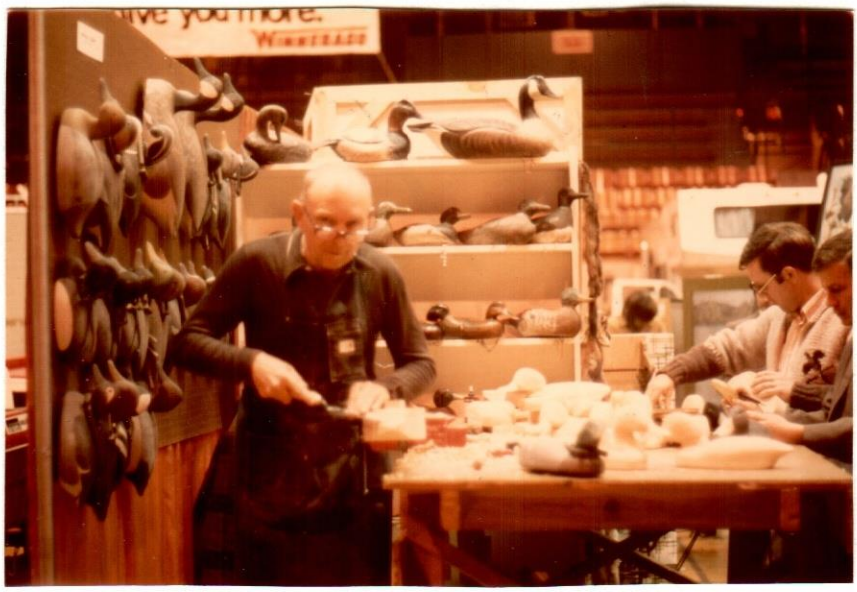
(District Slide AMa 2)

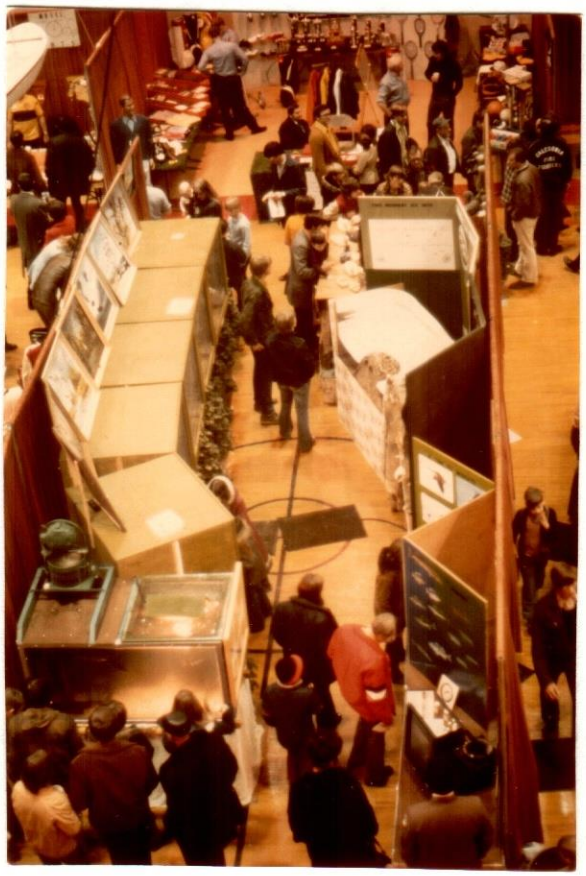
The Research Vessel Isaac Walton, owned and operated by the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse. Manned by personnel of the university's biology and chemistry departments and equipped with modern instruments for environmental analysis, this vessel stands ready to aid in studies conducted along the Upper Mississippi River. Dr. Thomas Claflin (left) and Dr. John Held (right) are shown during analysis of samples obtained from the river bottom along a pre-selected transect. Such efforts are a part of the assembling of an environmental impact statement on dredging operations by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. (Dis. Slide La 55)

One derelict building of which the district was able to dispose was this former concession stand on the shoreline near Lock 7 near Dresbach, Minnesota. The La Crescent, Minnesota Volunteer Fire Department provided the assistance and used the structure for a training exercise. (District Slide La 10)

In response to numerous complaints by hunters and fishermen, the Wisconsin DNR sought and received permission from the refuge in the removal of a beaver dam access to Mud Lake from Round Lake, Trempealeau County, Wisconsin. Following the removal of this dam, some public opposition was experienced stating that water levels had been adversely affected. It was the position of the Wisconsin DNR and the district that there was no head of water being maintained by the dam and that water levels of Round Lake were maintained by Mississippi River levels. (District Slide E 48) (District Slide B 103)

Eutrophication, the natural aging process of lakes, is readily apparent on several areas of the district. This process has been responsible for the recent requests for removal of aquatic vegetation by private residences and marinas bordering the refuge. The process is beneficial to waterfowl and other marsh wildlife up to a point. Recognition of the point where the process ceases to be beneficial is difficult and on so large an area, management practices often prohibitively costly or impractical. The eutrophication process has often been accelerated by practices of man, with indiscriminate deposition of agricultural fertilizers, industrial wastes, or urban effluents major factors. (District slide B 104)



Harold Lieder, resident of La Crosse, Wisconsin, avid waterfowl hunter, and friend of the refuge kindly consented to participate in our 1973 Sport-O-Rama exhibit. His activity was a center of attraction as it combined a declining art form with the subject of waterfowl and waterfowl hunting. Some examples of Mr. Lieder's work are behind him as well as other old time Mississippi River decoys. (District Slide H 110)

An overview of the Refuge exhibit at the La Crosse, Wisconsin Sport-O-Rama. This is an annual event and the refuge has received an exhibit space each year. Over 10,000 people viewed the exhibit represented our biggest effort to date. Included in the exhibit were displays of live waterfowl, original wildlife oil paintings, old time decoys, a decoy carver at work, and traps and trapping on the Mississippi River. The Genoa National Fish Hatchery assisted the refuge with an aquarium of common fish species of the Mississippi River and a display on hatchery activities. (District Slide H 104)