

Refuge Manager, Fish Springs Refuge, Dugway, Utah (2-R)

Monthly Report of Activities - September

A total of .47 inch of rain contributed some relief to the persistent drought this month, though the rains came too late to stimulate the flagging vegetation. High temperatures continued through the early days of the month, then gave way to generally cooler temperatures after the few days of rain. High temperature for the month was 93, the low was 40.

Reduced transpiration and evaporation water loss in the marsh has resulted in a slow rise in the water level in the marsh type. Annual weeds that came into the summer-dried sloughs are being flooded and are heavily used by the migrating waterfowl. Aquatics elsewhere in the marsh are in splendid shape and will provide ample food for the waterfowl using the area this fall and winter.

The refuge waterfowl population has fluctuated violently from week to week, ranging from less than 800 birds to more than 1500. Mallards and Green-winged Teal consistently dominate the population numerically.

Cleanup of junk and old interior fences has been the major activity this month. One temporary laborer was hired to cope with the staggering accumulation of junk. By month's end seven and a half miles of fence had been removed, and all but a few of the most obnoxious concentrations of junk had been disposed of.

Additional signs designed to simplify the administration of public hunting use were prepared and installed, and parking facilities improved within the public hunting area.

Wildlife Aid Duane E. Jeffery terminated on the 23d in order to return to school at Utah State University, Logan.

Refuge visitors included a team of geologists from Brigham Young University, PARC Trapper Fred L. Pomel, Utah Fish and Game personnel, experts from the Department of Anthropology, University of Utah, and Assistant Refuge Supervisor Lloyd F. Gunther, as well as local residents, artifact hunters, and curious passers-by.