

Refuge Manager, Fish Springs Refuge, Dugway, Utah

(2-R)

Monthly Report of Activities - Fish Springs Refuge - September, 1961

I. Introduction: Unseasonable rains brought 1.37" inches of rain to the area this month, .59 inch falling in less than a quarter hour. The resulting flash-flooding severely damaged area roads and have made access to the refuge exceedingly difficult. The high temperature for the month was 90°; the low at the weather station was 35°; some freezing occurred within the marsh at this time.

The waterfowl population reached a peak of 1,430 birds early in the period; a stable population of about 1,100 has persisted since then. Most birds are Mallards and Green-winged Teal. Blue-winged Teal numbers began increasing late in the month.

II. Activities and Accomplishments: Phragmites control, using amino triazole, was conducted through late August and until mid-September cold weather reduced the effectiveness of the treatment. About 20 acres of Phragmites were treated, much of it in 100% density stands. Indications are that a nearly complete kill was effected.

Minor repairs were made to station vehicles and seat belts were installed in the IHC four-wheel-drive truck and the 1955 Ford Pickup.

Considerable time was spent in the preparation of the Narrative Report and in attending to questions regarding proposed marsh and headquarters development work, as well as in assisting headquarters and earth contractors in resolving minor problems.

Headquarters Construction. The allotted time for this project ended September 20, after which the contractor was assessed liquidated damages at the rate of \$90 per day. Work has been stepped up on this job: brick and block work will be complete within the week and roofers have completed work on one residence. Underground wiring is in place and insulation has been installed in the two residences. It is estimated that six weeks to two months will be required for the completion of this contract.

Marsh Development: This work is proceeding with little delay: the main canal and drain has been excavated to grade along about one-fifth of its total length. All structures should be completed by the end of the month.

III. Problems. None.

IV. Public Relations. None.

V. Visitors. Winthrop H. Clark, Project Engineer, made a regular trip to the station to make monthly estimates. A team from the Dugway Proving Ground Section of Epidemiology and Ecology visited the refuge to make a check for the presence of tularemia among mammal populations. No information has been received as yet on their findings.

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