

BUREAU OF SPORT FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE

Regional Director, Region 2,
Albuquerque, New Mexico

January 23, 1962

Refuge Manager, Fish Springs Refuge,
Dugway, Utah

(2-R)

Monthly Report of Activities - Fish Springs Refuge - January, 1962

I. Introduction: The weather this month began with almost continuous spring-like mildness, with temperatures as high as 60°. This balmy weather was broken at mid-month by continued snowstorms and more record low temperatures. The low thus far in January was -12°, a new record for the area. Aggregate snowfall amounted to nine inches, with a total moisture content of .46 inch.

The extreme cold and snow has all but obliterated the open water areas of the marsh, though the spring heads and nearby channels remained open. Little waterfowl use is now noted on the refuge. The peak population for the month was 1300 birds, Mallards and Green-winged Teal. The peak for January, 1961, was 2200 birds, and for the same time in 1960 1400 birds.

The trapping of Muskrats, being carried out under permit, has been generally fruitless. The hard freezes and the diversion of water resulting from the progress of marsh development work has limited the take to less than 300 animals.

II. Activities and Accomplishments: The new headquarters courtyard was graded and sixty cubic yards of gravel hauled to surface the area. A parking area was outlined and a new flagpole constructed and erected. Refuge personnel hauled equipment from Bear River Refuge to Fish Springs.

Assistant Manager Marlatt checked gravel loads being hauled to the "H" Pool dike road and spillway until RO Engineering personnel arrived to take over this chore.

A Regional Division of Wildlife Conference in Albuquerque was attended by Managers Greenwalt and Marlatt.

Marsh Development Work: The Collection Ditch excavation was completed this month, marking the finish of the major excavation of this, the first phase of marsh development work. The contractor immediately began work on completing the fill for the roadways along the Collection Ditch and Main Canal. It is estimated that five weeks' work remains to be done before the first phase of marsh work is complete.

Regional Engineering personnel have determined that officials of Wenco Construction Co., winners of a contract for the second phase of headquarters construction, plan to begin work on that project about February 15.

III. Problems. None.

IV. Public Relations. Public relations activities this month were limited to giving a tour of the refuge to a party of birders from Kansas City, Missouri.

V. Visitors. Engineer A. J. Opstedal made a monthly inspection trip to the area. Other visitors included representatives of the AFL-CIO operator's union, who flew in to the area to check on the welfare of members of the brotherhood working for the prime contractor.

Lynn A. Greenwalt