

MONTHLY REPORT OF ACTIVITIES

Fish Springs Refuge

~~October~~ 25, 1964
November

I. INTRODUCTION

For the first 20 days of this period, the maximum temperature averaged 63°F., while precipitation totaled 0.26 inches. Since November 11, weather conditions have changed sharply. During the past ten days, temperatures averaged 40 degrees maximum and 21 degrees minimum, while precipitation included 0.52 inches moisture and 2.2 inches of snow.

Since November 14, pool conditions have been as follows:

"C" & "E" Pools	Ice covered.
"A" Pool	East & North portions frozen over.
"H" Pool	Ice covered except for several small areas.
"N" Spring	Open almost to North dike.
"D" Pool	Starting to freeze over.

"D" pool is presently filling with 25 cfs of relatively warm and moving water causing it to remain open. Water started in on November 13, pool presently 1/10 full.

"C" pool not filling, water level only 4292.0 ft.

"E" pool not filling, water level 4288.5 ft.

"A" & "H" pools are full.

Dikes, ditches, structures, and roads remain in good condition.

The filling of new pools has provided ample feed and new feeding areas. Mallard use has been immediate, followed by Pintail use within a week. As a result, waterfowl numbers remain double that of previous years. The first half of this period averaged 3,550 ducks; since freeze up, 2,650 ducks. Recent decrease due to loss of most Widgeons and Redheads and about half of the Pintails. It is anticipated that the filling of pools and the use of farm sloughs will cause a larger than normal wintering population.

II. ACTIVITIES & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Heavy duty, deep well water pump installed. Refuge water tank cleaned and sterilized. Bombardier with cutter tested and adjusted. Refuge roads graded. Dike road between structures #12 and 13 widened. Debris from razed Thomas House burned and/or removed. Work started on landscaping and improving recreation area. Continued preventative maintenance performed on vehicles and equipment. New oil seals installed in Onan #2.

III. PROBLEMS

Wind blown smotherweed occasionally clogs structures along main ditch.

IV. PUBLIC RELATIONS

Hunting pressure is 3-4 hunters per day on weekends and holidays. Average hunt about 4 hours with bag of 2.2 ducks per hunter.

Robert G. Yoder