

Refuge Manager, Fish Springs Refuge, Dugway, Utah

(2-R)

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

I. Introduction: Intense thunderstorm activity in the region brought a total of .71 inch of rain to the Fish Springs area this month; .44 inch fell within an hour, wrecking main roads in the vicinity and causing minor runoff in the refuge proper. The high temperature for the period was 102°, the low 59°.

The waterfowl population remained stable at the 600+ mark until the last week of the month, when it shot up to more than 1300 birds, mostly Green-winged Teal. The population for August, 1960 stayed at the 725 mark throughout the month.

Seven Canada Geese were secured from Utah Department of Game and Fish sources and two from Tracy Aviary, Salt Lake City, for addition to the station's captive goose flock. The flock now contains 38 adult birds and 23 birds of the year.

II. Activities and Accomplishments: The last of the existing vegetative transects were read and photographed and eight new Phragmites transects installed and read. Remedial spraying of saltcedar continued and spraying for the control of Smotherweed (*Bassia*) was undertaken. Spraying of Phragmites with Amino Trazole was begun late in the month, after this plant had reached the proper stage of growth for most effective chemical control.

Station vehicles were given attention in a commercial shop; the IHC 4x4 truck had its transfer case overhauled and a 1953 Ford pickup secured from military surplus was overhauled and painted.

A dragline was hired to dig out a small seep located near the south end of the station's airstrip. The spring thus exposed produced a flow of about 3 cfs.

Headquarters Construction: the two residences were framed and the walls and roofs sheathed; the foundations for the service building were poured and all buildings plumbed insofar as construction would permit. Additional materials were stockpiled at the jobsite. The contractor has completed an estimated 20% of the work; about 30 days remain in which to complete the job.

Marsh Development: Structures 6 and 7 of the collection ditch are complete and structure H5 on the main canal and drain has been finished. Earthwork on the dike of "H" Pool is complete between points 17 and 21 and ditching between points 18 and 19 is complete. Core trenching for the roadway along the main canal and drain has been completed between points 16 and 18.

III. Problems: The frog farm lessee continued to do minor work on his installation this month. His activities included the flooding of slit-trench ponds located on reserved lands and the hiring of minor dragline work to improve water control within the leased lands. The nuisance influence of this

operation continues to increase.

IV. Public Relations: Information was provided for a feature story on the refuge for the Delta, Utah newspaper.

V: Visitors: Visitors included M. C. Nelson, RO, and Robert M. Ballou, Wildlife Management Biologist from Monte Vista Refuge. Winthrop H. Clark, Project Engineer, made a regular visit for inspection and estimates on the engineering work. Other visitors included Dugway Proving Ground Security Guards and radio technicians.

Lynn A. Greenwalt