

NOVEMBER, DECEMBER 1941 & JANUARY, 1942

LAKE ANDES REFUGE

During this period, the Lake Andes Refuge was visited November 28, December 8-9, January 14 and January 29. Little time, however, was afforded for other than matters pertaining to the WPA development project.

WEATHER CONDITIONS

With the exception of the period, January 1 to 10, the weather was unseasonably warm, and made for ideal working conditions. The precipitation was considerably below normal (no figures available), and at the present time there is no snow to contribute to the spring run-off.

WATER CONDITIONS

The water is limited to that furnished by the artesian wells. The water areas, however, have built up considerably due to little evaporation loss. The South Unit has increased in water area about twenty percent, and the Rest Pond area is within six inches of spillway elevation.

WILDLIFE

During November, the last month of the waterfowl season, the hunters were complaining about the marked scarcity of ducks, but enthused about the increase in the number of geese, principally Hutchins, but also some of the larger Canada. Following the close of the season, and prior to the January storm period, a steady increase in the number of mallards was noted until it reached a peak of 20,000 (State Deputy Game Warden Allgier's estimate), and 300 to 500 geese. It is very unusual, according to local hunters, for geese to remain there over

winter, and is attributed to the above normal temperatures, open water and abundance of feed.

It appears that the Chinese Pheasants are as plentiful now as before the fifty day open season. Local sportsmen believe that the protection afforded these birds on the Refuge is responsible for this condition.

There has been very little complaint from farmers despite the fact that ducks, geese and pheasants are concentrated as they are in that locality. From three o'clock until dark, large flocks of ducks and geese may be seen leaving the Refuge for adjacent grain fields.

#### PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

The Lake Andes WPA Project (OP-65-3-74-91) opened November 16, 1939 for the purpose of constructing two dikes across the lake bed. This work was completed January 29, 1942, and the project closed.

Work accomplished during the period covered by this report, November, 1941 - January, 1942, was as follows:-

Guard posts were set on either side of both dikes, a total of 1090, previously treated with creosote.

1,000 square yards of rock rip-rap was placed, completing this phase of the work, in addition to surfacing the riprap with crushed rock.

Both dikes were surfaced, Charles Mix County Commissioners cooperating in furnishing road equipment and operators.

Drain ditches to divert runoff water at the ends of both dikes were excavated and riprapped.

The site used by the project for shop, office, storage yard, etc, was cleaned up and left in good condition.

There was a surplus of 283 guard posts, 5' 6" long x 6" and 8" butts. Of this number, 71 were transferred to the Fort Niobrara Refuge, and the remainder stored in the farm yard of County Commissioner Joe Novak.

The tar seal was removed from the stop-logs at both of the water control structures.

The two Service-owned trucks, GMC stake, and the Chevrolet panel, were transferred to the Fort Niobrara Refuge for later transfer or other disposition. (The stake truck is in very poor condition).

#### VIOLATIONS

There were no reports of violations in the vicinity of the Refuge. This is attributed largely to the activity of State Deputy Allgier.

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#### LAKE ARCONGE REFUGE

This Basement Area, lying northeast of Lake Andes, is still dry but very obviously serving a good and popular purpose in affording protection to Chinese Pheasants.



NORTH DIKE - LAKE ANDES REFUGE  
(Showing completed guard post job,  
and lake-bed sand and clay being  
road-mixed for surfacing of dike.)

JANUARY, 1942