

FORT NIobrARA EASEMENT REFUGES

Lake Andes
Lake Arconge
Carr
Eagle Creek

January 1, 1943 - April 30, 1943

Lake Andes

War-time restrictions on travel and necessary curtailment of expenditures permitted but one visit to the Lake Andes Refuge during the period. This was made April 1, with Mr. Gillett, when a general inspection was made, followed by attendance to maintenance and administrative matters April 2 and 3. While closer supervision of the area would be desirable, under the existing conditions, the active cooperation of State Warden Allgier is serving a good purpose.

Weather Conditions

No authentic information is available on the weather conditions during the period. According to Warden Allgier, the past winter was the mildest experienced in many years. Very little snow fell, not a sufficient amount to provide any moisture for the soil or run-off for the lake.

Water Conditions

The water levels in all units held up surprisingly well. Unit 1 (lower) is carrying 42 inches; Unit 2 (middle) 24 inches; Unit 3 (upper) 60 inches, and the Rest Pond was about eight inches below spillway.

Migratory Birds

With Warden Allgier having been fully occupied with duties connected with his State position, he was unable to obtain records of the spring flight other than general in nature. The following information was furnished:

<u>Species</u>	<u>Compared with 1942 Flight</u>
American Merganser	100% increase
Mallards	25% increase
Gadwalls	Noticeable decrease
Baldpate	" "
Blue-winged teal	Normal
Shoveller	Noticeable decrease
Pintail	Normal
Redhead	Some increase
Canvasbacks	" "
Lesser Scaup	" "

<u>Species</u>	<u>Compared with 1942 Flight.</u>
Lesser Snow Geese	Normal
Blue Geese	"
White-fronted Geese	"
Canada Geese	"

Warden Allgier estimated that 70,000 mallards and 1,500 Canada Geese remained on the area over winter, and 7,000 Canada Geese stayed on the Missouri River, west of Lake Andes. Some crop damage was reported, was not considered serious in any instance.

Due to the extreme high winds, it was not possible to take an accurate census of the waterfowl April 1 - 3. The following estimates were made on the basis of the birds actually seen and identified:

<u>Species</u>	<u>Number</u>
American Merganser	100
Gadwall	10
Baldpate	10
Shoveller	300
Redhead	600
Canvasback	500
Lesser Scaup	500
White-fronted Geese	3500
Canada Geese	2500
Coots	100

Fish

The State Game Department, according to Warden Allgier, plans to keep Lake Andes closed to fishing until July 1. Bass, crappies and pike planted in the Upper Unit (1) last summer have made a remarkable growth.

Refuge Development - Maintenance.

No development work was undertaken during the period. General maintenance consisted of making repairs to the dike of the Rest Pond, caused by muskrat runs; removing the clover stems, thistles and other weeds found choking the artesian well channel; transferring the iron hooks, for use in removing the concrete stop logs, from Warden Allgier's place to the Bass Beach resort at the east end of the North Dike; making arrangements with John Pesicka, farmer living south of the lake, to mow the weeds in the acquisition area, when needed; checked fences and signs, found OK, and with Mr. Gillett, made appraisal of buildings on Bergquist tract with a view of disposing of same.

Plantings

No planting of aquatics or marsh plants was undertaken. Weather conditions did not permit examination of the wild rice planting made in the Rest Pond, October 28, 1941, with the exception of the southwest part of the area where scattered plants were found. A considerable showing of

Sage Pondweed seed was observed on the north dike of Unit 1 (lower). None was observed in the middle or upper units, due, apparently, to these areas having been dry until last spring. Good development is expected this year.

Cultivated Crops

Special Use Permit No. 4960 was issued to Lyle Youngstrom, Armour, South Dakota, April 1, 1943, to farm the 12 acres lying in and north of the 'Bergquist' tract, (W $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ Section 9, Twp. 97 N., Rge. 64 W.). Barley is to be planted, with 33-1/3% of the crop to remain unharvested for wildlife. (Last year this area was farmed by the same permittee, and the crop, Sudan Grass, not harvested, leaving the entire amount for the birds.)

Economic Uses of Refuge.

The economic use of the Refuge was limited to the harvesting of 135 tons of ice by Mr. Zach Zachariasen, Lake Andes, South Dakota, for commercial purposes, at .05 cents per ton. In line with the present policy, a charge of 20¢ per ton will be made next year.

LAKE ARCONGE

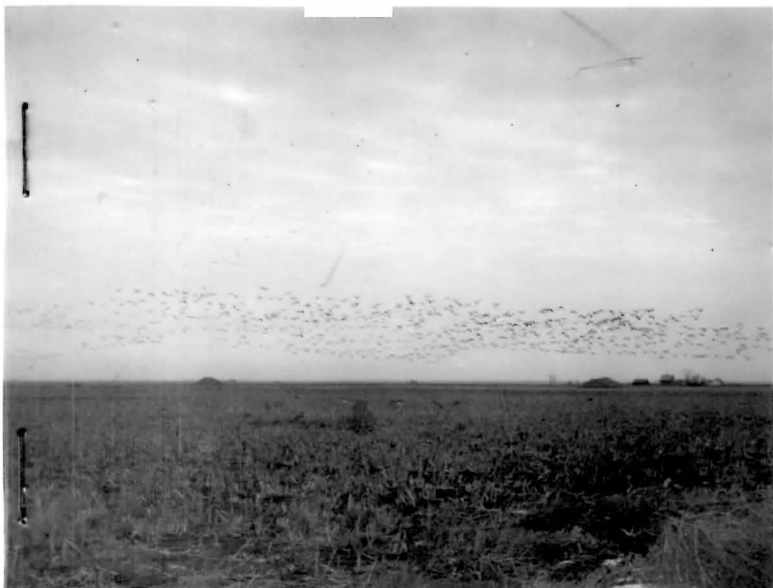
This area is dry with the exception of scattered pot-holes. It developed a dense growth of smart-weed last summer and several Canada Geese were observed on the water and in the adjacent corn field April 1.

The flash boards in the water control structure were securely fastened to prevent the area filling to spillway elevation, there being but a foot difference in elevation between the crest of the County road adjoining the area on the north, and the water at spillway elevation. If this area is to be retained, some provision should be made, when labor and equipment are again available, to raise the road grade sufficiently to permit full use of the area. In the meantime, some information will be gained regarding the stability of the water supply, it appearing at this time that it is not too secure, and dependent largely upon flash run-offs.

WATERFOWL PICTURES TAKEN AT LAKE ANDRES REFUGE DURING
JANUARY, 1943 by South Dakota Game & Fish
Department.







JANUARY * FEBRUARY * MARCH * APRIL, 1943

Carr Easement Refuge.

Eagle Creek Refuge.

As previously reported, these areas are serving very little purpose. Practically no use is made of either area by waterfowl, and with the number of Chinese Pheasants in that section of the State, these areas mean nothing to the protection or propagation of the upland birds. It is recommended that both areas be listed for abandonment.

Respectfully submitted:

Kenneth F. MacDonald

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REFUGE MANAGER

5/6/43



EAGLE CREEK BASEMENT REFUGE (SOUTH DAKOTA). WATER AT SPILLWAY ELEVATION



CAIR BASEMENT REFUGE (SOUTH DAKOTA)
CUT IN DAM WAS MADE TO PREVENT DAMAGE FROM HIGH WATER. BOTTOM OF THIS CUT IS OF HARD CLAY FORMATION. PROPOSED TO MAKE ROCK CROSSING-SPILLWAY AT POINT OF CUT. (THIS DAM CONSTRUCTED BY OWNER PRIOR TO GRANTING OF BASEMENT.) APPARENTLY VERY LITTLE USE BEING MADE OF THE AREA BY WATER FOWL.