

WATERFOWL HABITAT SURVEY

CANVASBACK GUN CLUB

1965

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INTRODUCTION

The Canvasback Gun Club vegetative survey for 1965 was made on July 20 except for Golick and Sbragia Ponds which were checked on August 24. The purpose of the survey was: 1) survey the submergent and emergent aquatics growing in the Club marsh and 2) compare these data with observations of previous years.

Very little change occurred from last year. Sbragia and Golick Ponds both received water in time to raise some vegetation. The East Side Ponds were dry until late August.

The marsh, itself, had a poor growth of submergent aquatics. The Arthur-Johnson Group, Pappy's Pond, Freeman Lakes, and Stewart Pond had good to excellent stands of submergents.

PROCEDURE

Methods used on the survey were the same as last year. An airthrust boat and a long-handled rake were used in the larger, deeper ponds. Smaller pools around the edge were waded. Plants were identified and density of the vegetation was estimated. Water depth and carp activity were also observed.

<u>Rake Recovery of Any Kind of Aquatic Plant</u>	<u>Density Rating</u>	<u>Description</u>
Teeth full in four casts	5	Dense
Taken in all four casts	4	Heavy
Taken in three casts	3	Medium
Taken in two casts	2	Scattered
Taken in one cast	1	Sparse

RESULTS

Freeman Lakes Group. This group is composed of Big Freeman, Little Freeman, and Short Pond. The number of samples with submergent growth was slightly less than last year--24 out of 30-- as compared to 28 for 30.

Sago pondweed, (*Potamogeton pectinatus*), and western pondweed, (*Potamogeton latifolius*), were the most frequently seen plants. A fair growth of coontail, (*Ceratophyllum demersum*), was also observed.

Seed production was spotty and averaged medium. Average depth of the lakes was 2.4 inches. The water was turbid. Bottom mud was ooze, and carp activity was observed frequently.

Emergent vegetation around the lakes was composed of hardstem bulrush, (*Scirpus acutus*), and cattail, (*Typha domingensis*), in equal amounts.

Mallard-Sans Lakes. This group is composed of Big Mallard, Little Mallard, Howell, Bony and Sans Lakes. They remained practically devoid of vegetation. Coontail was found eight times in 25 samples, but in very sparse growths. Western pondweed was found twice, but was also very sparse.

The water was turbid with ooze bottoms in all the lakes. Carp activity was common. Average depth of the lakes was 46.9 inches.

Hardstem bulrush was again the predominant species of emergent plant covering almost all of the west side of the units and parts of the east side. Cattail was the other species of emergent found mostly around the east side of the units.

Dutch Bill Lakes. This group is comprised of Dutch Bill and Little Dutch Bill Lakes. There was one sample of coontail found. No substantial change was noticed from previous years in either submergent or emergent plant growths.

Average water depth was 39.3 inches. Carp activity was very prevalent. The bottom was oozy and the water was turbid.

Equal amounts of hardstem bulrush and cattail were present again this year.

Arthur-Johnson Group. Big Arthur, Little Arthur, and Johnson Ponds make up this group. All fifteen samples taken had fair to very dense growths of sago pondweed. Three samples in Big Arthur had sparse growths of coontail.

Average depth of the three ponds was 21.7 inches. The water was clear, with a firm bottom. No carp activity was noted.

Mostly hardstem bulrush ringed all three ponds. Several small growths of cattail were also found.

Stewart Pond. Of the fifteen samples made on this pond, six contained sago pondweed and twelve had coontail. Density of these plant growths ranged from medium to very dense.

Water depth averaged 25 inches. The water was mostly turbid, although some clear spots were also noted. A few carp were observed.

Emergent stands were comprised mostly of hardstem, with a few clumps of cattail mixed in.

Pappy's Pond. Sago pondweed dominated the submergent plants in this pond. Both western pondweed and widgeongrass, (*Ruppia maritima*), were found in lesser quantities. The stand was very dense throughout.

Water was semi-turbid and had an average depth of 16.4 inches. Minor carp activity was noted around the edges of the pond.

Shorelines were again composed of saltgrass, (*Distichlis stricta*), and spikerush, (*Eleocharis sp.*). Some hardstem bulrush was present along the southwest edge.

Sbragia, Golick and Heward Ponds. No survey was made of these ponds until August 24 as they were dry during the first survey.

On August 24 Sbragia and Golick Ponds were waded. Heward was still dry at this time.

Sbragia contained mostly horned pondweed, (*Zannichellia palustris*), although some sago pondweed was also present. Also found were: naiad, (*Najas sp.*), waterhyssop, (*Bacopa nobisiana*), and arrowhead, (*Sagittaria sp.*).

Golick Pond had some horned pondweed and sago pondweed at the shallow lower end but nothing at the upper end.

Water depths were about the same in both ponds, varying between 6 inches and 28 inches. Sbragia had an average depth of 16.9 inches and Golick's was 18.1 inches. Water was semi-turbid in Golick and quite clear in Sbragia. No carp activity was noted.

Both ponds had a predominantly saltgrass and spikerush shoreline, with some wiregrass, (*Juncus sp.*).

East Side Ponds. These ponds did not receive water until the latter part of August and were not surveyed.

SUMMARY

As was stated in previous years of this survey, the Carvesback Gun Club is almost entirely composed of a mature marsh with just a few shallow ponds around the edge providing nearly all of the waterfowl food for the Club.

The area will remain this way until some work is done to control the individual units. As a good dewatering program has already been recommended, nothing more need be said on this subject.

The Club as a whole remains virtually unchanged from the previous years of the survey. The edge ponds, (including the Arthur-Johnson Group), provide 90% of the waterfowl food on the Club.

APPENDIX

Field data for marsh units and tables summarizing the findings of the survey are appended to this report.

Submitted by,

*Peter A. Schwabenland*

Peter A. Schwabenland  
Wildlife Biologist (Management)  
Stillwater Wildlife Management Area  
Fallon, Nevada

February 28, 1966

APPENDIX



Table 1

SUMMARY - AQUATIC HABITAT SURVEY  
CANVASBACK GUN CLUB - 1965

Unit	Species	Frequency	% of Total	Average Density (Where Occurring)	Average Density (Overall)	Waterfowl Food Rating
FREEMAN LAKES GROUP	Sago pondweed	50	35.7	2.8	1.4	Good
	Western pondweed	50	35.7	3.3	1.6	Good
	Coontail	30	21.4	2.1	.6	Good
	Widgeongrass	10	7.2	2.0	.2	Good
MALLARD-SANS	Western pondweed	8	18.0	1.0	Trace	Poor
	Coontail	36	82.0	1.3	.5	Poor
DUTCH BILL LAKES	Coontail	7	100.0	2.0	.1	Poor
ARTHUR-JOHNSON	Sago pondweed	100	83.3	4.0	4.0	Excellent
	Coontail	20	16.7	1.7	.3	Excellent
STEWART POND	Sago pondweed	40	33.3	3.0	1.2	Good
	Coontail	80	66.7	3.5	2.8	Good
PAPPY'S POND	Sago pondweed	100	71.4	4.8	4.8	Excellent
	Western pondweed	20	14.3	3.5	.7	Excellent
	Widgeongrass	20	14.3	3.5	.7	Excellent
SBRAGIA POND	Sago pondweed	40	22.2	3.5	1.4	Excellent
	Horned pondweed	90	50.0	4.0	3.6	Excellent
	Naiad	20	11.1	3.5	.7	Excellent
	Waterhyssop	10	5.6	4.0	.4	Excellent
	Arrowhead	20	11.1	4.0	.8	Excellent
GOLICK POND	Sago pondweed	30	42.9	3.0	.9	Fair
	Horned pondweed	40	57.1	3.5	1.4	Fair

Table 2

OCCURRENCE AND DENSITY OF SUBMERGENTS IN FREEMAN LAKE GROUP

<u>Station</u>	<u>Depth</u>	<u>Sago Pondweed</u>	<u>Western Pondweed</u>	<u>Coontail</u>	<u>Widgeongrass</u>
1.	37"		100-4		
2.	35		100-3		
3.	36				
4.	35				
5.	34	40-2		60-3	
6.	36			100-3	
7.	35	60-3		40-2	
8.	39	60-3		40-2	
9.	28				
10.	30				
11.	27	40-2	60-3		
12.	24	20-2	60-3	20-2	
13.	33				
14.	30	100-1			
15.	26	70-4			30-2
16.	27	60-3		20-2	20-2
17.	26	70-4		10-1	20-2
18.	20				
19.	35	70-3		30-2	
20.	46	40-2	60-3		
21.	27		60-3	40-2	
22.	26		100-3		
23.	37	40-2	60-3		
24.	34		100-3		
25.	44		100-4		
26.	48		100-4		
27.	43		100-3		
28.	36	40-3	60-4		
29.	18	60-4	40-3		
30.	20	60-4	40-3		

Table 3

OCCURRENCE AND DENSITY OF SUBMERGENTS IN MALLARD-SANS LAKES GROUP

<u>Station</u>	<u>Depth</u>	<u>Coontail</u>	<u>Western Pondweed</u>
1.	54"	100-1	
2.	55	100-1	
3.	44		
4.	36		
5.	35		
6.	44		
7.	43		
8.	46	100-1	
9.	30	100-2	
10.	36		
11.	38	100-2	
12.	35	100-2	
13.	32		
14.	30	100-1	
15.	58		
16.	56		
17.	55		
18.	54		
19.	63	100-1	
20.	53		
21.	43		
22.	52		
23.	62	50-1	50-1
24.	58	100-1	
25.	60		

Table 4

## OCCURRENCE AND DENSITY OF SUBMERGENTS IN DUTCH BILL LAKES GROUP

<u>Station</u>	<u>Depth</u>	<u>Coontail</u>
1.	37"	
2.	43	
3.	46	
4.	37	
5.	40	
6.	72	
7.	34	
8.	26	
9.	26	100-2
10.	40	
11.	43	
12.	43	
13.	36	
14.	31	
15.	35	

Table 5

## OCCURRENCE AND DENSITY OF SUBMERGENTS IN ARTHUR-JOHNSON GROUP

<u>Station</u>	<u>Depth</u>	<u>Sago Pondweed</u>	<u>Coontail</u>
1.	18	90-4	10-1
2.	20	80-5	20-2
3.	19	100-4	
4.	20	100-3	
5.	20	100-5	
6.	20	100-4	
7.	19	100-3	
8.	20	100-4	
9.	22	100-5	
10.	24	100-4	
11.	25	100-3	
12.	23	100-4	
13.	25	100-5	
14.	24	100-3	
15.	27	80-4	20-2

Table 6

## OCCURRENCE AND DENSITY OF SUBMERGENS IN STEWART POND

<u>Station</u>	<u>Depth</u>	<u>Sago Pondweed</u>	<u>Coontail</u>
1.	10"	100-3	
2.	30	40-2	60-3
3.	33		100-4
4.	39		100-5
5.	40		100-2
6.	38		100-3
7.	36		100-4
8.	39		100-4
9.	41		100-4
10.	34		100-3
11.	29		100-3
12.	27	50-3	50-3
13.	28	40-3	60-4
14.	24	100-3	
15.	21	100-4	

Table 7

## OCCURRENCE AND DENSITY OF SUBMERGENTS IN PAPPY'S POND

<u>Station</u>	<u>Depth</u>	<u>Sago Pondweed</u>	<u>Western Pondweed</u>	<u>Widgeongrass</u>
1.	16"	50-4	50-4	
2.	18	60-4	40-3	
3.	24	100-5		
4.	17	100-5		
5.	16	100-5		
6.	18	100-5		
7.	17	100-5		
8.	16	50-4		50-4
9.	12	60-4		40-3
10.	10	100-4		

Table 8

## OCCURRENCE AND DENSITY OF SUBMERGENTS IN SBAGIA POND

<u>Station</u>	<u>Depth</u>	<u>Sago Pondweed</u>	<u>Horned Pondweed</u>	<u>Naiad</u>	<u>Waterhyssop</u>	<u>Arrowhead</u>
1.	6"	50-4	50-4			
2.	12	50-4	50-4			
3.	14	40-3	60-4			
4.	16	40-3	60-4			
5.	18		100-5			
6.	21		40-3			60-4
7.	24			100-4		
8.	22		50-3	50-3		
9.	20		50-4		50-4	
10.	16		60-5			40-4



Table 9

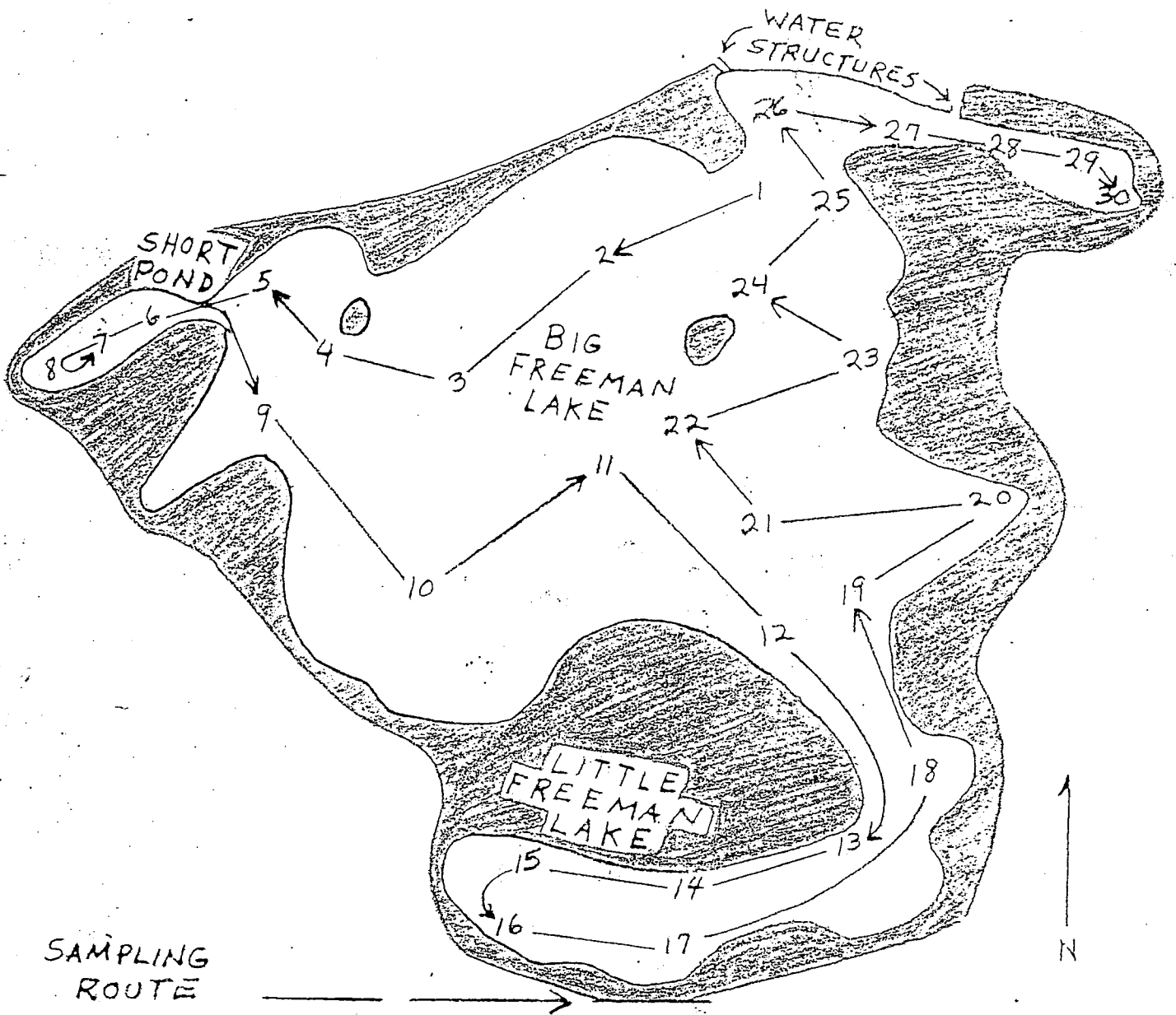
OCCURRENCE AND DENSITY OF SUBMERGENTS IN GOLICK POND

<u>Station</u>	<u>Depth</u>	<u>Sago Pondweed</u>	<u>Horned Pondweed</u>
1.	6"	40-3	60-4
2.	15	30-2	70-3
3.	18	100-4	
4.	17		100-3
5.	14		100-4
6.	18		
7.	20		
8.	24		
9.	28		
10.	21		

Table 10

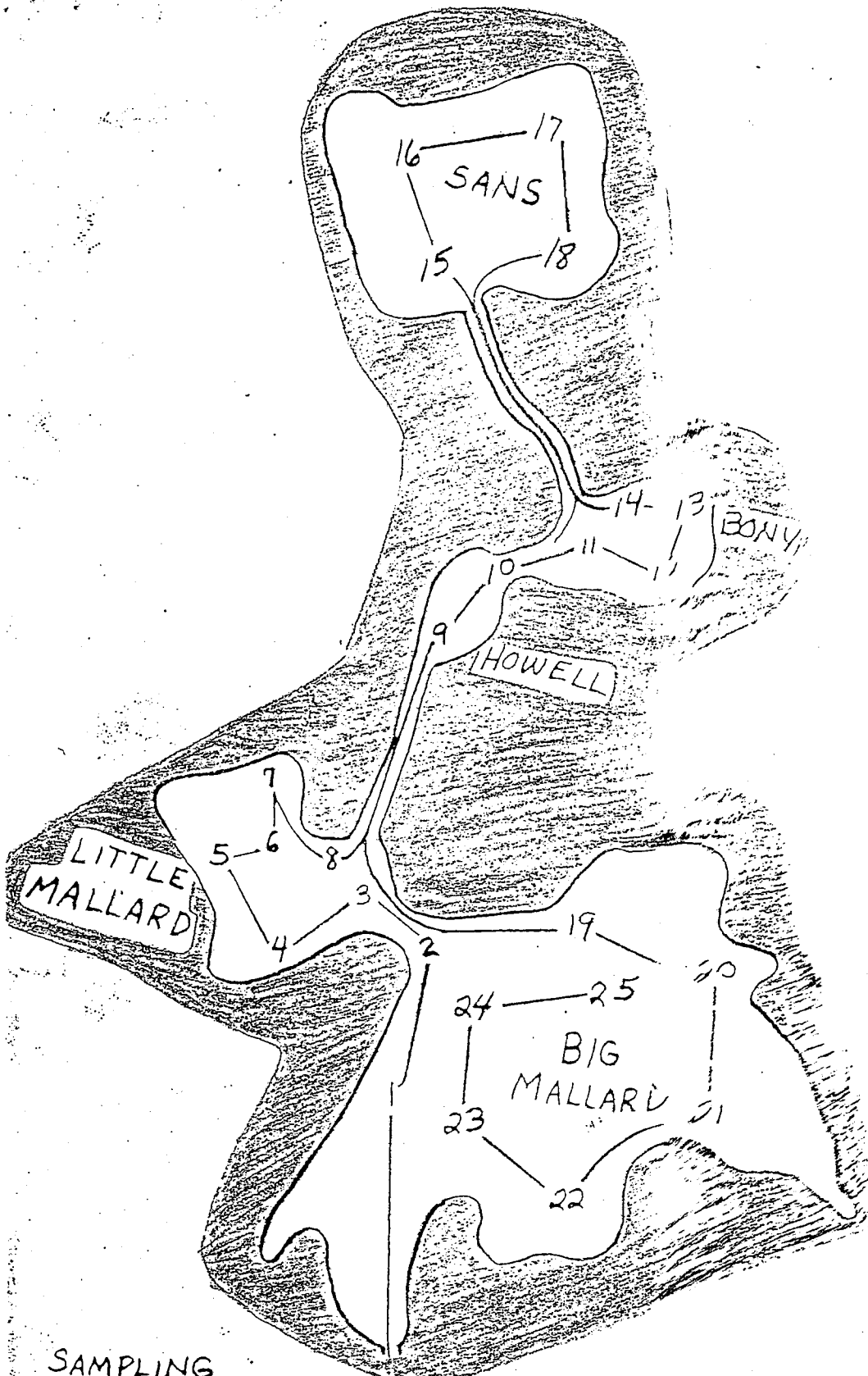
## CHECKLIST OF SPECIES RECORDED, AQUATIC PLANT SURVEY

<u>Common Name</u>	<u>Scientific Name</u>
Cattail	<i>Typha domingensis</i>
Sago pondweed	<i>Potamogeton pectinatus</i>
Western pondweed	<i>Potamogeton latifolius</i>
Widgeongrass	<i>Ruppia maritima</i>
Naiad	<i>Najas</i> sp.
Horned pondweed	<i>Zannichellia palustris</i>
Arrowhead	<i>Sagittaria</i> sp.
Saltgrass	<i>Distichlis stricta</i>
Spikerush	<i>Eleocharis</i> sp.
Wiregrass	<i>Juncus</i> sp.
Coontail	<i>Ceratophyllum demersum</i>
Waterhyssop	<i>Bacopa nobsiana</i>

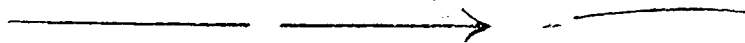


SAMPLING  
ROUTE

FREEMAN LAKES GROUP

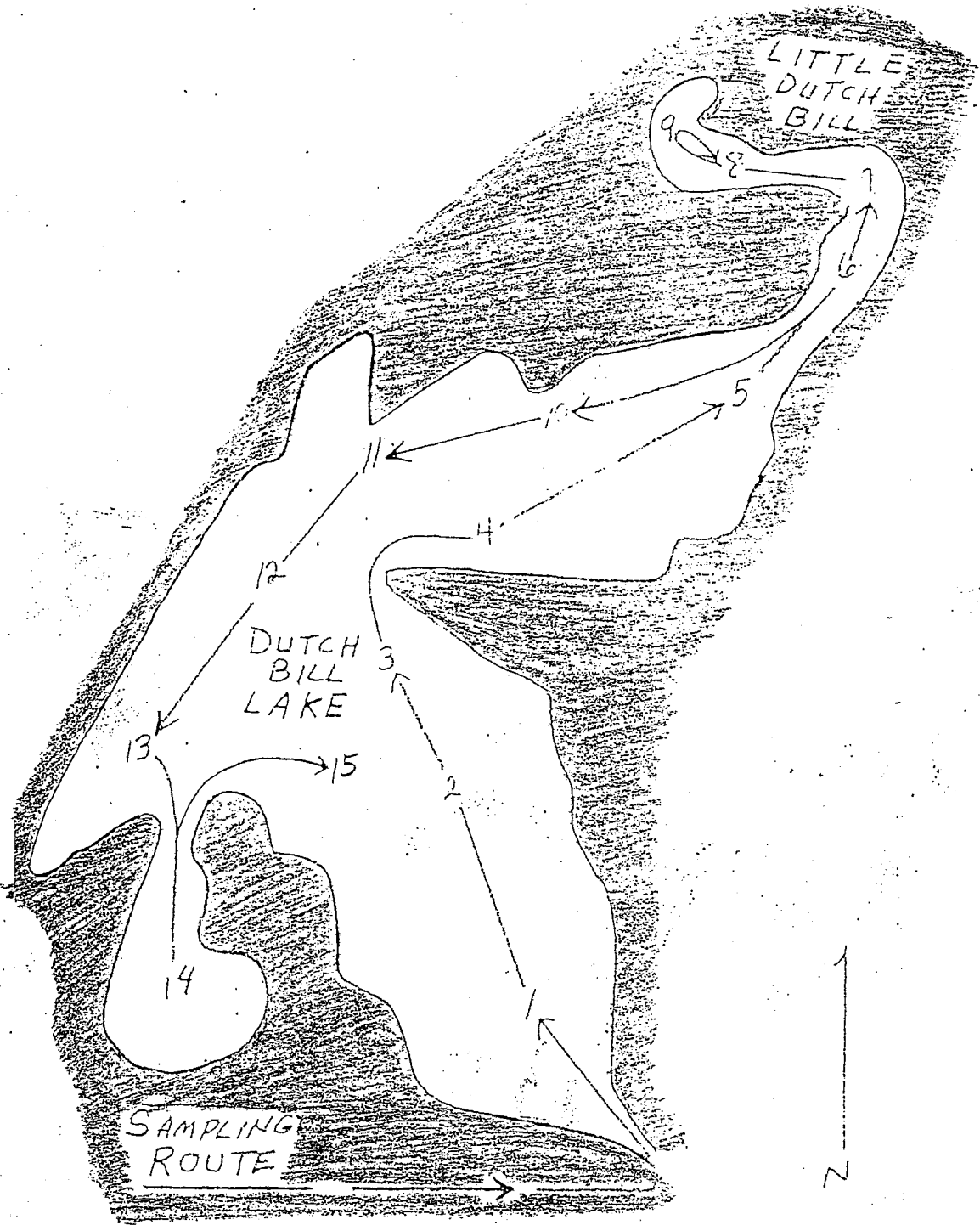


SAMPLING ROUTE

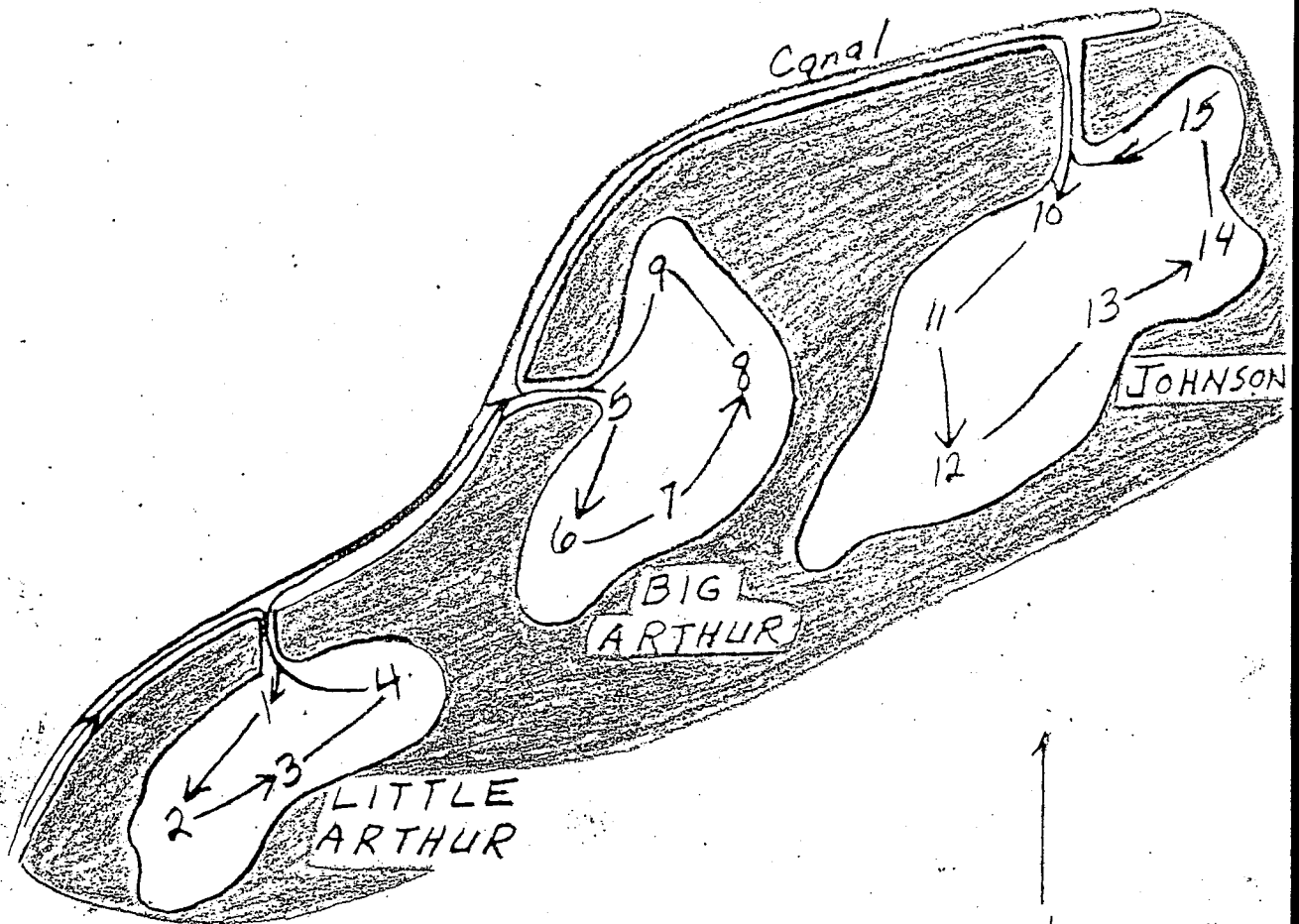


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MALLARD-SANS LAKE GROUP



DUTCH BILL LAKES



SAMPLING ROUTE →

ARTHUR-JOHNSON LAKES GROUP



UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
BUREAU OF SPORT FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE  
Stillwater Wildlife Management Area  
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R - Sti.  
COOP.  
Can. Club

March 2, 1966

Mr. Joe Sbragia  
First National Bank  
204 North Virginia  
Reno, Nevada

Dear Mr. Sbragia:

Attached is a report of the sixth consecutive annual waterfowl habitat survey of the Canvasback Gun Club. We are glad to continue this study and hope it is of value to your organization.

Salinity, alkalinity, additional bottom characteristics, and other factors which may influence plant growth, will be considered in our surveys this year. Through a better understanding of marsh ecology, we hope to learn how to manage for higher quality habitat. In other words, we want to produce and support more birds on fewer acres of water while retaining the integrity and esthetics of the marsh. Your cooperation and interest in waterfowl management is sincerely appreciated.

I am looking forward to getting better acquainted with you, and other members of the Club, this fall.

Sincerely,

Larry H. Worden  
Refuge Manager

c.c. Ralph Cardinal  
545 East Fourth St., Reno, Nevada

E. B. Wallis  
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