NARRATIVE REPORT

PISHKUN

June 1940

ASSIGNMENTS

Work was again started on the service building at Pishkun on June 10, after a shut down since October 15, 1939. Upon visiting the WPA office in Great Falls on June 6th., it was lea rned that it would be possible to obtain from 10 to 15 men for this project. Upon approval from the Billings office a requisition for 15 men was submitted to the WPA office. In all 13 men were assigned to work, two of which failed to report.

Hora ce H. Bleecker was again assigned as foreman and head carpenter. The balance of te workers were all men who had previously been assigned to this project and aqua inted with the work. In talking to the men I find that they would much rather w ork on this project than they would on the city or county projects.

Before work could start it was necessary to obtain a truck for transporting men and hauling equipment. A truck was obtained from the project at Roundup.

SERVICE BUILDING

When w ork started on June 10th., much of the south wall a nd all of the east wall up to the north door frame was unfinished. All rubel work was finished on t e walls during this period as well as the rubel chimney up to the rafter line of the main building. This chimney eas set on a cement footing 18" by 3½' by 6'. Two flews were built in the chimney, one for the office stove and one for the service building stove, and two iron clean-out doors were inserted in the concrete and rubel work. Door facers were set up for the two large doors and 2" by 8" and 2" by 6" plates were put up over the doors. These pla tes are set both flat and on edge and estend from the top of the door facers on outside edges of doors and splice in the middle over the middle section of rubel work.

Pointing was finished on the rubel work on the service building. While pointing was being done, boards were stood up on end to keep the direct rays of the sun from drying the cement to fast.

On October 15th, the stake body truck Tag No. 61-107 was droven to the Bison Range for a load of lumber material for sheathing, rafters, and ties.

BUREAU OF BIOLOGICAL SURVEY

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Pishkun Narrative Report

On October 17 work was started on putting up rafters. The main ridge rafter was put up first after which the commone rafters were pur on. The hip rafters and jack rafters were next followed by 2" by 8" ties. Strips of strap iron were nailed to rafte s and ties and then to top plate of wall to give more portection against wind for when doors are ope n.

LATRINE

The rubel wolls on the latrine at the residence site were about one-third complete when work began this month. At the end of the working period this month these walls were completed, rafters, sheathing on roof, and tar paper roofing put on. One floor was also laid. Concret castleetts were put on the top of the ruble walls but at the end of the period these were still to be reinforced and concreted to the wall. Outside pointing was also finished on t is latrine.

BREAD-DOWN OF LABOR

Service Building	692 man hr.	$ 291.03
Latrine	160 man hr.	67.29
Total		$ 358.32

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, BUREAU OF BIOLOGICAL SURVEY

NARRATIVE REPORT FOR THE MONTH OF June

Pishkun Teton Montana
Project name county State

A. Average number of men employed during month 10

B. Number and kind of owner-operated equipment None

C. Number and kind of other equipment: 1. Rented None

2. Borrowed None

3. Government Owned one stakebody 1½ ton truck

D. List of Supervisory Personnel assigned to Project (Names & Titles)

None

E. Weather Conditions. (Rainfall-snowfall-working conditions) Good

No rain to stop work.

F. Progress of the work and other details in accordance with the form on the reverse side hereof.

F. Progress of Work

Type of job or Project Designation		Unit	Work Completed This month	Work Previously Completed	Total Work Completed To Date	Percent Completed
DAMS	Constructed	No.				
	Earth moved	C.Y.				
	Rubble Masonry	C.Y.				
	Rip Rap	C.Y.				
DIKES	Constructed	No.				
	Earth Moved	C.Y.				
	Rip Rap	C.Y.				
ISLANDS	Constructed	No.				
	Earth Moved	C.Y.				
ROADS and TRAILS	Constructed	Miles.				
TREES Planted Shrubs Other Food & Cover Plants		No.				
FENCES	Woven	Rods				
	Barb	Rods				
	Headquarters	No.				
	Cabins	No.				
	Garages	No.	25%	41%	66%	66%
	Others	No.				
OTHER WORK	List Future	8	40%	50%	90%	90%
RODENT AND PREDATORY ANIMAL CONTROL		Acres				
		M-Days				

DATE July 1st 1940

Leon C. Snyder
Supervising Engineer

NARRATIVE REPORT

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Pishkun
BUREAU OF BIOLOGICAL SURVEY

July, 1940

I Assignments

Work was resumed at Pishkun on the construction of the service building and office on July 8th with ten men assigned. Every effort possible was made to keep all men working so as to make the work progress as rapidly as possible. One man was 403rd. at the beginning of the month because of private employment and excellent cooperation was received from the Works Projects Administration in assigning another man to this project. Mr. Ray Potter was transfered from the Roundup projects to assist in supervising the work at Pishkun. This was greatly appreciated because it made it possible for some one to be with the men at all times to give advice on the work when and where needed.

Due to the extremely hot and dry weather conditions in the forest area in this vicinity causing many fires, some of the men were called for fire fighting and considerable time was lost in this respect.

II Service Building

A. Chimney

The rubble masonry chimney servicing the garage and office was completed during this period. This consisted of building it up from the level of the walls to a height slightly higher than the main ridge of the garage. Two separate flews were built in the entire length of the chimney. Pointing was also completed and a metal flashing was embedded in the rubble work where it comes out the roof, to insure against leaking.

B. Roof

The balance of the sheathing was put on the roof and ties and braces all put in place. Sheet iron straps were fastened over all ties and to the 2x8 plates which were previously bolted into the concrete on the top of the wall. Flooring material, obtained from the salvage supply at the National Bison Range was nailed to these ties giving an abundance of added storage space. A stairway was constructed on the north end for entrance to this upper storage space. The first three steps and a 3x3½ foot landing was built out of stone and concrete.

Freeze boards were installed completely around both garage and office. This material was also obtained from the salvage supply on the Bison Range.

As Adar shakes are being used instead of shingles, two trips were made this month, one to the Bison Range and one to the Priest River Timber project in Idaho, to get this material. As an insufficient number of shakes were made up it was necessary to haul shake bolts to

Pishkun. These will have to be split and squared up on the project. Five bundles of shingles, left over from the residence building, were used on the roof for the first two rows. This elliminated the necessity of planing so many shakes which would have been necessary if shakes had been used. Up to the end of this month no shakes were put on the garage but considerable time was spent in squaring up and planing high spots off in readiness for the next period.

III Office

Work on the office in connection with the garage consisted of completing the putting up of rafters and ties, sheathing the roof, striping ceiling , putting up wallboard, and pouring the cement floor. All lumber material and wallboard were received from the salvage supply.

IV Outside Latrine

The outside latrine at Pishkun was completed this month with the exception of painting the wood work. This consisted of finishing of pointing, finishing the floor, constructing seats and hanging the door.

V Care and Maintainence of Equipment

All trucks used on the project were greased twice during the month and many minor repairs such as adjusting of brakes and tappets, installing cylinder head, and valve cover gaskets, etc. were made. The project at this time is very fortunate in having a driver, classified as intermediate, who is very capable of keeping these trucks in excellent shape with the material he has to work with.

VI Weather Conditions

Although there were several good rains during the later part of the month no time was lost. The dry weather during the middle of the month, however, caused some lost time by calling men off duty for fire fighting.

VII Breakdown of Labor.

	Man hrs.	Labor funds
Service building and office	856	$362.58
Latrine	120	45.60
Supervisory (relief)	130	78.00
Care and Maintainence of Equip.	--60-	27.60
Total	1154	$513.78

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, BUREAU OF BIOLOGICAL SURVEY

NARRATIVE REPORT FOR THE MONTH OF July, 1940

Pishkun	Teton	Montana
Project name	county	State

A. Average number of men employed during month 10

B. Number and kind of owner-operated equipment None

C. Number and kind of other equipment: 1. Rented

2. Borrowed

3. Government Owned 3 Chev. 1½ ton stakebody, 1 Modle B Ford Stakebody 2 Chev. Dump, Trucks, 1 Cement Mixer and various other hand tools.

D. List of Supervisory Personnel assigned to Project (Names & Titles) None

E. Weather Conditions. (Rainfall-snowfall-working conditions) One and twenty hundreds inches of rain feel during the month but a t no time was working conditions effected. Working conditions were good.

F. Progress of the work and other details in accordance with the form on the reverse side hereof.

F. Progress of Work

Type of job or Project Designation		Unit	Work Completed This month	Work Previously Completed	Total Work Completed To Date	Percent Completed
DAMS	Constructed	No.				
	Earth moved	C.Y.				
	Rubble Masonry	C.Y.				
	Rip Rap	C.Y.				
DIKES	Constructed	No.				
	Earth Moved	C.Y.				
	Rip Rap	C.Y.				
ISLANDS	Constructed	No.				
	Earth Moved	C.Y.				
ROADS and TRAILS	Constructed	Miles				
TREES Planted Shrubs Other Food & Cover Plants		No.				
FENCES	Woven	Rods				
	Barb	Rods				
	Headquarters	No.				
	Cabins & Office	No.	10%	66%	76%	76%
	Garages	No.				
	Others	No.				
OTHER WORK	List Latrine	3	7	90%	97%	97%
RODENT AND PREDATORY ANIMAL CONTROL		Acres				
		M-Days				

DATE August 2, 1940

Leon C. Snyder
Supervising Engineer

0 - Reports Annual

ANNUAL REPORT
Pishkun Refuge

June 30, 1940

1 WILDLIFE

A Species found on Refuge.

a. Migratory Waterfowl

1 America n Coot
2 American Golden-eye
3 Common Mallard
4 American Merganser
5 Red Breasted Merganser
6 American Pintail
7 Redhead
8 Blue-wing Teal
9 Green-w ing Teal
10 Canvasback
11 Common Loon
12 Canada Geese
13 White-Fronted Geese
14 California Gull
15 Horned Grebe
16 Western Grebe
17 Eared Grebe
18 Pied-billed Grebe
Holboell Grebe
20 Killdeer
21 Snow Geese
22 Bittern
23 Buffle-head
2 4 Gadwall
25 Great American Bittern
26 Ruddy Duck
27 Cinamon Teal
28 Lesser Scaup
29 Shoveler
30 Wood Duck
31 Long Billed Curlew
32 Great Blue Heron
33 Spotted Sandpiper
34 Northern Phalarope
35 Common Tern
36 Wilson Phalarope
37 Foresters Tern
38 Avocet
39 Semi-Palmated Plover
40 Greater Yellow Legs
41 Lesser Yellow Legs
42 Great Marbled Godwit
43 Black Tern
44 Bairds Sandpiper
45 Least Sandpiper
46 White Pelican
47 Western Willet
48 European Widgeon
Old Squaw Duck.

b. Other Birds

49 Red Shafted Flicker
50 Marsh Hawk
51 Night Hawk
52 Desert Sparrow Hawk
53 Western Red-tailed Hawk
54 Desert Horned Lark
55 America n Magpie
56 Eastern Goshawk
57 American Pipit
58 American Western Robin
59 Audubon's Hermit Thrush
60 Barn Swallow
61 Cliff Swallow
64 Raven
65 Cow Bird
66 Golden Eagle
67 Meadow Lark
68 Swainson's Hawk
69 Crow
70 Brewer's Blackbird
71 Red-winged Blackbird
72 Yellow-headed Blackbird
73 Mountain Bluebird
74 Prairie Falcon
75 Red Shafted Flicker
76- Western Vesper Sparrow

BUREAU OF BIOLOGICAL SURVEY
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

62 Snow Bunting
63 Long Spurs
79 Montana Horned- Owl
81 Tree Swallow
83 Lapland Longspurs
85 Chineese Pheasant
87 Western Savana Sparrow
89 A rkansas Kingbird
91 Redpoll
77 Burrowing Owl
78 Short-eared Owl
80 Northern Shrike
82 Western Morning Dove
84 Hungarian Partridge
86 Pintail Grouse
88 Eastern Kingbird
90 Bohemian Waxwing

c. Mammals

1. Skunk
2. Coyote
3 Cottontail Rabbit
4 Jack Rabbit
5 Columbia n Ground Squirrel
6 Richardson Ground Squirrel
7 Badger Mink
8 Mice
9 Pocket Gopher
10 Marmont
11 Weasel
12 White Tail Deer*
13 Black Bear*
14 Antelope Muskrat

* These animals have been seen on the refuge several times in past years.

B . Comparisons and Concentr tions

A very large increa se was noted in numbers of waterfowl using the refuge this year in comparison with last year, both in migration and nesting populations. Especially was this true in the number of Pintail Ducks and Snow Geese. On March 27, 1940, during the peak of migration, 10,000 Pintails were noted on the refuge, a nd a total waterfowl population of 13,217 birds. During the late summer months and ea rly fall of 1939, large concentrations of Ruddy Ducks were seen on Pishkun. On September 28, 1939, 850 of these ducks were noted. Exceptionally heavy concentrations of American Coots were noted during both fall and spring migrations. Heavy concentra tions of Barn a nd Cliff Swallows and Western Vesper and Western Savana Spa rrows were also noted during August of 1939. During February of 1940, thousands of Bohemian Waxwings vis ited Pishkun.

Species visiting the refuge for the first time were the European Widgeon when on March 27, 1940, 8 birds of this species were observed on one of the small lakes of the refuge.

2. USE MA DE OF REFUGE

A. S helters

One upland bird shelter constructed during spring of 1939 w as used very extensively during the winter of 1939 a d 1940 by Hungarian Partridges.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
BUREAU OF BIOLOGICAL SURVEY

B. Economic Uses.

B. Economic Uses

Pishkun being a Reclamation area, permits for economic uses are granted by the Bureau of Reclamation.

C. Fishing and Camping

From July 1st. until the waters of Pishkun are completely frozen over, many fisherman enjoy unusually good catches of Rainbow Trout, Grayling, and Silver Salmon. During the 4 month period July to November, there were an estimated total of 1,500 fisherman days on Pishkun. During the period July 1, to July 5, 1939, 33 parties registered at the small camping area provided at Pishkun. Many people also spot their trailer houses along the shore of the lake and spend considerable time during the summer as a cure for asthma.

3. PLANTINGS

A. Trees and Shrubs

1,850 Caragana shrubs were set out. Not having any knowledge of the shipment of these shrubs until the shrubs themselves arrived, no land was prepared for planting and although many of the shrubs are still alive, no growth has been made this season. Inorder to insure growth of shrubs or trees in this vicinity, the land should be cultivated the preceeding year.

B. Aquatic Plantings

Approximately 3,500 pounds of Ruppia plants were planted at Pishkun.

4. PREDATOR

No predator control program has been carried out on Pishkun.

5. REFUGE IMPROVEMENTS

Phusical improvements made on the refuge during the fiscal year consisted of completion of Latrines at the fishermans camp, completion of residence building for he Laborer-Patrolman, laying of flag-stone sidwalks, and construction of stone retaining walls around 3 sides of residence, filling and leveling of yard and court. Work undertaken but not completed were; construction of rubbel masonry service building, office, and latrine at headquarters site. The a bove work at end of fiscal year are about 75% complete. With exception of supervising, this work was all done with WPA labor and funds.

6. LAW ENFORCEMENT

Regular patroling was carried on and although no violations was encountered on the refuge, assistance and cooperation was extended the s tate department in apprehending two youths cought fishing on a closed area a djacent to the refuge. These youths were turned over tb the juvinnile court and set free on probation after a serious reprimand from the judge.

7. WATER CONDITIONS

Pishkun being a Reclamation area and primarilly used for irriga tion purposes, water levels a t times go up or down very ra pidly. As a general rule Pishkun is filled early enough in the sprins so that the hi h water level has been reached before the beginning of the nesting period. Water levels usually start receeding about June 10, and from then on go up or down, but rarely over the high level reached earlier in the season. During the fall and winter of 1939 and spri g of 1940, old dikes were raised and new ones put in raising water levels about 7 feet over previous years. This has formed many excellent nesting islands which could be improved greatly for nesting purposes for geese and other birds by hauling of rock.

SPECIES OF WILDLIFE FOUND ON PISHKUN AND WILLOW CREEK REFUGES.

A. Migratory Waterfowl

1 American Coot
2 American Golden-eye
3 Common Mallard
4 American Merganser
5 Red Breasted Berganser
6 American Pintail
7 Redhead
8 Blue-wing Teal
9 Green-wing Teal
10 Canvas-back
11 Common Loon
12 Canada Geese
13 White-Fronted Geese
14 California Gull
15 Horned Grebe
16 Western Grebe
17 Eared Grebe
18 Pied-billed Grebe
19 Holboell Grebe
20 Killdeer
21 Snow Geese
22 Baldpate
23 Buffle-head
24 Gadwall
25 Old Squaw Duck
26 Great American Bittern
27 Ruddy Duck
28 Cinamon Teal
29 Lesser Scaup
30 Shoveller
31 Wood Duck
32 Long Billed Curlew
33 Great Blue Heron
34 Spotted Sandpiper
35 Common Tern
36 Wilson Phalarope
37 Foresters Tern
38 Avocet
39 Semi-Palmated Plover
40 Greater Yellow Legs
41 Lesser Yellor Legs
42 Great Marbled Godwit
43 Black Tern
44 Bairds Sandpiper
45 Least Sandpiper
46 White Pelican
47 Western Willet
48 European Widgeon
49 Northern Phalarope

B. Other Birds

1 Red Shafted Flicker
2 Marsh Hawk
3 Night Hawk
4 Desert Sparrow Hawk
5 Western Red-tailed Hawk
6 Desert Horned Lark
7 American Magpie
8 Eastern Goshawk
9 American Pipit
10 American Western Robin
11 Audubon's Hermit Thrush
12 Barn Swallow
13 Cliff Swallow
14 Raven
15 Cow Bird
16 Golden Eagle
17 Meadow Lark
18 Swainson's Hawk
19 Crow
20 Brewer's Blackbird
21 Red-winged Blackbird
22 Yellow-headed Blackbird
23 Mountain Bluebird
24 Prairie Falcon
25 Western Vesper Sparrow
26 Snow Bunting
27 Long Spurs
28 Montana Horned-Owl
29 Tree Swallow
30 Lapland Longspurs
31 Chineese Pheasant
32 Western Savana Sparrow
33 Arkansas Kingbird
34 Redpoll
35 Burrowing Owl
36 Short-eared Owl
37 Northern Shrike
38 Western Morning Dove
39 Hungarian Partridge
40 Pintail Grouse
41 Eastern Kingbird
42 Bohemian Waxwing

C. Mammals

Skunk
Cottontail Rabbit
Columbian Ground Squirrel
White Tail Deer
Weasel
Coyote
Jack Rabbit
Badger
Antelope
Mice
Pocket Gopher
Marmont
Mink
Muskrat

The table on the following page gives the approximate number of waterfowl populating the refuges on the dates indicated.