

NOXUBEE NWR CONTINGENCY PLAN FOR DVE  
1973 - 74 SEASON

I. Preventative Management

1. Concentration vs. Dispersal

Noxubee Refuge is in a fairly good position to take either the concentration or dispersal action if either is ever determined to be appropriate. Most all of the waterfowl concentration areas on the refuge are man made. By the use of water control structures lakes, impoundments, Green Timber Reservoir's, etc. could either be made to concentrate or disperse birds.

In later winter however, this will not be the case. As heavy winter and spring rains come water will be everywhere and it will be high. At this period of time we will not be able to keep birds concentrated.

2. Surveillance

A tight check will be kept on all waterfowl concentrations on the refuge. All dead waterfowl found will be investigated as if disease were involved.

The pinioned and free flying geese in the two refuge goose pens will be looked at closely.

3. Domestic Waterfowl

No employees at Noxubee are involved in any way with aviculturists. Indications are that at least one aviculturist may be within a 100 mile radius of the refuge but so far we have not been able to locate this man. Refuge employees seem to remember that at least one was in the general area a few years ago.

II. Preparatory Measures and Contingency Planning

1. Preparatory Measures

A. Supplies to be on hand or immediately available.

- (1) Plastic bags -  
Russell Company, Columbus
- (2) Rubber or disposal gloves, rubber boots, coveralls and head covering -  
Russell Company, Columbus
- (3) A disinfectant: Household bleach -  
Grocery Store, Starkville

- (4) Buckets and brushes -  
Grocery Store, Starkville

- (5) Materials for restraint and holding facilities -  
On hand

B. Disposal Facilities - Burning

Commercial incinerators will be located. Local saw mill has tepee burner in operation at all time. Temporary wire cage incinerators can also be put up on the refuge. Land fill also available on refuge but drainage situation is not the best.

C. Station Plan Information

(1) Waterfowl populations data

- (a) Species and numbers -  
Found in NR's
- (b) Migration Chronology -  
Found in NR's
- (c) Migration Routes and Distribution Records -  
Banding maps and banding records located in office

(2) Dispersal of waterfowl

(a) Consequences of Dispersal

Based on what little information we have on dispersal from Noxubee Refuge - - it is likely that birds would either make a general shotgun dispersal or a broad general shorthorn movement.

(b) Mechanics of Dispersal

Probably the most effective means of dispersal on Noxubee would be to drain every water area that we have on the refuge.

These would be Bluff and Loakfoma Lakes, GER's # 1, 2, 3, and 4, Priscock Field Impoundment, Dry Creek Field Impoundment, and the Smith Field Impoundment.

If the action is to be taken during periods of high water levels in the Noyahbee River, then the whole drainage plan would not work or it would work very poorly because of the time delay in the drainage of everything back into the river.

Aircraft and noise makers could also be used but probably to little avail.

(c) Materiel (Hazing devices, etc.)

M & E in this region has a fair supply of pyrotechnic paraphernalia. One noise maker is presently located on the refuge (belongs to Wildlife Services).

Two small local airports can accomodate any small aircraft that might be pressed into action. Small planes can also be rented here. Regional Office approved pibt also available. The Golden Triangle Regional Airport is less than 40 miles away and it offers commercial service.

(d) Water Manipulation

The refuge water system for waterfowl management is well known and understood by all the Staff. It is also documented in the Master Plan. Possible water actions have been mentioned before.

(3) Concentration of Waterfowl

In the event waterfowl need to be concentrated, efforts should be made to confine the birds to Bluff Lake and GTR#3. All other areas should be drained if possible. Off refuge feeding will not likely take place unless the Noyahbee River is flooding. In this event the birds will be so scattered anyway we will be able to do nothing with them.

(4) Extermination

This topic will not be discussed at the refuge level.

Other responsibilities of the refuge manager and refuge personnel are outlined in the Bureau Plan.

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