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Mrs. Watkins

Mrs. Kricun

~~Mr. Kricun~~ WK☒ SECTION OF LAND MANAGEMENT:~~Mr. Earnshaw~~~~Mr. Ackerman~~Rec'd
11-4-40☒ SECTION OF HABITAT IMPROVEMENT:~~Mr. Kubichek~~~~Mr. Smith~~~~Mr. Griffith~~~~Miss Cook~~☒ SECTION OF ERA:~~Mr. Regan~~~~Dr. Bourn~~

Mr. Sommers

Miss Riley

STENOGRAPHERS:

DIVISION FILES:

☒ SECTION OF STRUCTURES:~~Mr. Taylor~~ WVT 11/27/40~~Mr. Taylor~~ RLL

REMARKS:

Bear River Quarterly
May-July, 1939

Return to:

Cook

THE INTERIOR
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
BUREAU OF BIOLOGICAL SURVEY

OFFICE OF REGIONAL DIRECTOR
576 CUSTOM HOUSE
DENVER, COLORADO

REGION No. 2

COLORADO
IDAHO
MONTANA
UTAH
WYOMING

R-Bear River
Reports

August 29, 1939.

Chief, Bureau of Biological Survey,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

We are enclosing original of the Narrative
Report prepared by Mr. Vanez Wilson on the Bear
River Migratory Bird Refuge, covering the period
May, June, and July.

Very truly yours,

Leo L. Laythe,
Regional Director,

by *Carey H. Bennett*
Carey H. Bennett.

Enclosure



vw



Enclosure

Chief H. Bennett

By

Regional Director
Geo. L. Galt

Very truly yours,

Wm. L. Galt, Jr.

Wm. L. Galt, Jr. is hereby notified that the Bureau
has been advised by Mr. L. A. Galt, Jr. on the 2nd

He is enclosing original of the letter

Dear Sir:

Washington, D. C.

Chief, Bureau of Biological Survey

Rebottle
B-Bottle B. Galt

Very truly yours,

DENVER, COLORADO
212 CUSTOM HOUSE
OFFICE OF REGIONAL DIRECTOR

BUREAU OF BIOLOGICAL SURVEY
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

WYOMING
UTAH
MONTANA
IDAHO
COLORADO

REGION NO. 3

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
BUREAU OF BIOLOGICAL SURVEY

BEAR RIVER MIGRATORY BIRD REFUGE
BOX ELDER COUNTY, UTAH

--NARRATIVE REPORT--
PERIOD - MAY, JUNE, JULY, 1939
By: Vanez T. Wilson

1 - General Conditions

Summer-like weather prevailed throughout the month of May, with abnormal temperatures and subnormal moisture. The highest temperature was 90 degrees, the lowest 41 degrees, with a mean for the month of 62.4 degrees. The total precipitation for the month was 1.39 inches, and the evaporation for the same period was 9.67 inches.

The weather during the month of June was about normal, the highest temperature being 97 degrees, the lowest 40 degrees, with a mean of 66.2 degrees. The precipitation for the month was below normal, being only 0.68 of an inch. The evaporation for the month of June was 10.6 inches.

The weather during the month of July was abnormally hot and dry, with considerable wind. The maximum temperature was 102 degrees and the minimum 51 degrees. The precipitation for the month was only 0.10 of an inch, with a total evaporation from the free water surface of 12.83 inches.

The flow of water in the Bear River reaching the Refuge has been abnormally low during this period. The water surface in the

various units dropped during the months of June and July from an average elevation of 4204.8 to 4204.0, or a loss of 0.8 of a foot.

On the first of August we still had some water in all five of the large units; approximately 40% of the area of Unit 4 being flooded, and about 60% of Units 1, 2, 3, and 5.

Both the submergent and emergent vegetation on the Refuge made an excellent growth during the early spring, but due to lack of moisture has not matured as well as in some previous years.

II - Wildlife

The general waterfowl conditions on the Refuge, during the period covered by this report, appeared to be about the same as for the past year. Duck nesting studies were carried on this spring by Mr. Marcus Nelson, assisted by CCC boys, under the direct supervision of Mr. E. R. Kalmbach. A detailed report on these studies will be submitted at a later date when same has been completed.

It would appear from preliminary figures and personal observations that our duck nesting population was about the same as for the past year or two. On the areas selected for the duck nesting studies, 635 nests were found. We estimate the total number of duck nests on the Refuge this spring at approximately 4,000. The number of Redhead ducks nesting on the area showed a slight increase over the past two or three years.

The Canada Geese appeared to be nesting in about the same number as for previous years. The largest brood count recorded

number as for previous years. The largest flood count recorded
The Canada geese appeared to be nesting in about the same
over the past two or three years.

number of Redhead ducks nesting on the area showed a slight increase
duck nests on the Refuge this spring at approximately 4,000. The
studies, 232 nests were found. We estimate the total number of
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II - WINTER

of moisture was not wintered as well as in some previous years.
made an excellent growth during the early spring, but due to lack

Both the summer and winter vegetation on the Refuge
flooded, and about 50% of units 1, 2, 3, and 4.
of the large units: approximately 40% of the area of unit 4 being

On the first of August we still had some water in all the
average elevation of 4304.8 to 4304.0, or a loss of 0.8 or a foot.
various units dropped during the months of June and July from an

was 243, averaging approximately 5 birds to the brood. We estimate that approximately 1,600 young geese were raised on the area.

An effort was made this spring to band a large number of young geese. Under the supervision of Mr. C. S. Williams, and assisted by a group of CCC boys, 1,263 geese were banded.

A total of 152 young Canada Geese were shipped to other Refuges for stocking purposes; ^{34 rec'd} 36 to Mud Lake, Minnesota; ^(37 rec'd) 36 to Sand Lake, South Dakota; ^{50 rec'd} 28 to Lower Souris, North Dakota, and 52 to Necedah, Wisconsin.

An increase was noted this spring in the number of duck nests destroyed by predators. Some control measures were taken, and a number of skunks, magpies, and ravens have been removed. A more detailed report as to amount of predation and numbers of predators removed will be submitted as soon as control operations are completed and data compiled.

III - Development and Maintenance Work

The principal development work being carried on during this period by our CCC Camp consisted of constructing and grading dike along the upper water edge in Unit 5, cleaning out old channels, and building up channel banks for nesting areas. This work is being accomplished by use of our dragline. Due to low water conditions, excellent progress has been made on this job.

The work of grading and graveling the road from Brigham City to the Refuge headquarters is progressing very well and is about 75% complete.

completed.

to the bridge reconstruction is progressing very well and is about 12% complete. The work of dredging and leveling the road from Brighton City bridge has been made on this job.

Worked by use of our dredging. Due to low water conditions, excellent dredging and channel banks for heating areas. This work is being accomplished along the upper water edge in Unit 2, cleaning out old channels, and being by our CCC camp consisted of constructing and dredging dikes.

The principal development work being carried on during this

III - Development and Maintenance Work

Worked and data completed.

Removal will be completed as soon as control operations are completed. Report as to amount of predation and number of predators. Number of skunks, magpies, and Ravens have been removed. A mole destroyed by predators. Some control measures were taken, and a

An increase was noted this spring in the number of duck nests. Mesquite, Mesquite.

Lake, South Dakota: 38 to Lower South, North Dakota, and 33 to
Refuges for stocking purposes: 38 to Mid Lake, Minnesota: 30 to Sand
31 to Sand

A total of 123 young Canada geese were shipped to other
assisted by a group of CCC boys. 1,223 geese were banded.

Young geese. Under the supervision of Mr. C. S. Williams, and

An effort was made this spring to band a large number of
that approximately 1,200 young geese were banded on the area.

was 343, averaging approximately 2 birds to the brood. We estimate

The old buildings recently acquired with the Provo Gun Club property have all been salvaged with the exception of one long frame building which is being used for a CCC mess hall.

One of the small buildings purchased with this property was moved to the north-east corner of the Refuge for use as a guard cabin. This building has been repaired and is now in the process of being painted.

The Refuge boundary fence and markers have been checked over and necessary repairs made.

At the present time a small crew of CCC boys are constructing a number of artificial muskrat lodges, or small hay stacks, for goose nesting purposes. In the past we have observed a large number of geese using muskrat houses for nesting sites.

*might
produce a
botulism
hazard.
R.H.G.*

Work at the Ogden Bay project is progressing very well. The first unit is practically completed as to original plans. At the present time we are holding all the water from the Weber River in the unit and have completely dried up the mud flats where in the past a large number of birds have died from Western Duck Sickness. By impounding the water at this time we are in hopes of eliminating any great loss of birds this fall; at least they will be confined to a relatively small area where they can be gathered more readily.

Up to the first of August we have had no sick birds at Bear River nor at the Ogden Bay project.

DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
RECEIVED
SEP 1 - 1939
MAILS AND FILES
BIOLOGICAL SURVEY

Water now at the Ogden Bay project.

As to the effect of what we have had no sick birds at Bear
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The refuge boundary fence and markers have been checked over
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One of the small buildings purchased with this property was
building which is being used for a CCC mess hall.

Property have all been surveyed with the exception of one long fence

The old buildings recently acquired with the Bolo and Clair

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Karlson
Bosman
Bosman
Bosman

