UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE BUREAU OF BIOLOGICAL SURVEY

OFFICE OF REGIONAL DIRECTOR

576 CUSTOM HOUSE DENVER, COLORADO

R-Bowdoin Reports **REGION No. 2**

COLORADO IDAHO MONTANA UTAH WYOMING

June 2, 1939.

Chief, Bureau of Biological Survey,

Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

Enclosed is copy of Mr. Hazeltine's letter of May 25 together with a large number of pictures and his narrative report covering the period ending April 30.

We particularly want to call your attention to the windbreak for pheasant shelters as indicated in Picture 287. The land immediately adjacent to this shelter is of course planted with the proper food-bearing shrubbery, but it seems an excellent idea to provide additional shelter for these concentration points for upland game birds until such times as the food and cover plantings reach an appreciable size.

It seems almost impossible that the ice action in the lake could have such a destructive effect upon existing islands. Mr. Hazeltine dumped tons and tons of boulders along the margin of these islands last year, but apparently the ice moved them as easily as if they had been marble-size.

Very truly yours,

Leo L. Laythe, Regional Director,

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Chief, Burgen of Biolo Lori Survey,

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Lee L. Laythe, Regional Director,



LAKE BOWDOIN MIGRATORY WATERFOWL REFUGE Malta, Montana May 25, 1939

Regional Director Denver, Colo.

Dear Mr. Laythe:

I am enclosing herewith my Biological Narrative Report for period February 1 to April 30 which has been delayed somewhat due to the rush of spring planting and other Refuge development at hand.

To accompany your copy of this report and to bring your records up to date on photographic exposures for the Bowdoin Refuge I am also enclosing pictures No. 285 to 331. You will note that you are not receiving a copy of 332 as this picture was submitted to you with a letter reporting on my trip over the Refuge with County Attorney Fred C. Gabriel. You will also find that you are not receiving a copy pictures letter 333 to 339 as I am under the impression that these pictures of the Hewett Lake area were submitted to your office through Mr. MacDonald sometime ago.

To accompany the original of my report to Washington I have selected a group of pictures from the same group of pictures being forwarded for your use and some extra WPA development pictures that I happen to have on hand and also of which I am under the impression are on file in your office having been submitted by Mr. MacDonald. These pictures have been renumbered for the special pupose to accompany this report. The negatives of all of these pictures except the WPA development exposures are being sent direct to Washington today for filing.

Very truly yours

B. M. Hazeltine Refuge Manager Division of Wildlife Refuges

OF REGIONAL DIRECTOR

In Duplicate

LAKE BOWDOIN MICEATORY WATERFOWL REFUGE Malta, Montana May 25, 1959

Regional Director Denver, Colo.

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To accompany your copy of this report and to bring your records up to date on photographic exposures for the Bowdoin Refuge I am also enclosing pictures No. 265 to 551. You will note that you are not receiving a copy of 552 as this picture was submitted to you with a letter reporting on my trip over the Refuge with County Attorney Fred C. Gabriel. You will also find that you are not receiving a copy pictures latter 555 to 559 as I am under the impression that these pictures of the Hemett lake area were submitted to your office through Mr. MacDonald scattime ago.

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B. M. Hazeltine Refuge Manager Division of Wildlife Refuges

RECEIVED
MAY 29 1939
DENVER, DULGRADO
BIOLOGICAL SURVE

In Duplicate

Lake Bowdoin Migratory Waterfowl Refuge Malta, Montana May 24, 1939

BIOLOGICAL NARRATIVE REPORT Period February 1 to April 30, 1939

1. General Conditions

A rather wide variety of weather conditions existed during this period, ranging in temperatures from -40 to \$70 degrees or over. Sub-zero temperatures and moderately deep snow in February were followed by quite moderate weather in March. The spring breakup did not come, however, until the week of March 19 to 25 which was preceded by a heavy snow fall of unusual moisture content.

Spring run-off this year in the Milk River Valley, including the Beaver Creek tributary bordering the Refuge on the east, exceded all records since about 1914 according to Bureau of Reclamation records set up at the beginning of their operations in this area at that time. Towns and farm houses were flooded for several miles up and down the River from this point, including a large number of the newly established Resettlement homes near Malta and the Reclamation's CCC Camp at Malta. Several farms were isolated in the Beaver Creek area and the town of Saco was badly flooded from this source.

Beaver Creek began flowing nicely on March 19, but did not get out of its banks until two days later (see Pictures Number 1-2-3). The next four days that followed were somewhat wet and muddy, and because of impassable roads in the Beaver Creek area, I could not reach this point by car and as the ice had not as yet entirely went out of the Lake could not go by boat. Therefore, I spent this time keeping the Beaver Creek flood under observation from the tower at the Headquarters with the aid of binoculars and assisting the Reclamation CCC Camp at Malta with rescue and salvage operations as well as taking Resettlement officials on a boat trip over their project to determine rescue operations necessary and damage done to their newly established farm units. The two row boats and one outboard motor stationed at the Refuge was used in carrying out this cooperative assistance, and favors extended were much appreciated by the three federal agencies involved.

By March 19 I was able to reach the Beaver Creek and Dry Lake areas, found Beaver Creek well out of its banks but receding somewhat; Dry Lake, as well as Lake Bowdoin Proper, and which are now one unit, were full to capacity and water was flowing out through old dyke at opening in canal to Beaver Creek as well as flowing over the top of the dyke for a distance of about 200 feet on the east end. (See pictures Number 4 and 5)

It is estimated that the water elevation in Lake Bowdoin reached a height of some where between the 2208 and 2209 foot contour and it is evident that a large amount of this water came in through the opening and over the top of the east end of the old dyke in the Dry Lake area. However, from observations made from the tower and from other evidence on the ground it is plain to be seen that the most

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of this water came over the Reclamation Siphon south of Bowdoin and which is the overflow from the Beaver Creek overflow channel. (See picture Number 6)

After this flood water spilled into Lake Bowdoin to such a depth, it flooded private land as shown in Pictures Number 7, 8, 9, and 10. Since the most of it entered over the Reclamation Siphon which is somewhat higher and larger than the opening in the dyke at Dry Lake, this water was trapped in Lake Bowdoin until it might be lowered through the opening in the dyke after flood had receded. (See Picture Number 11). This opening was cut two years ago by myself to allow flood waters to reach Dry Lake. Also, a new small opening was made at the east end of the dyke after the water had partly receded to further hasten lowering of water from Mr. Salsberry's and Mr. McCall's property. (See Picture Number 12.)

Based on the assumption at the time that we would carry out our proposed Beaver Creek Development, this flood was considered a blessing to us further than just getting the Lake area filled with water as this would give us some recent records to refer to after our developments were completed. If we had so much as scratched the ground at Beaver Creek prior to this flood we probably would have at least two damage suits against us by now. With this thought in mind, I have taken several photographs of bridge structures and railroad grades along the Great Northern right-of-way as well as of flooded private land. Most of these pictures accompany this report, the negatives and other pictures are being submitted to the Washington office for filing. If considered advisable, I will arrange to have these pictures notorized and recorded here. (See Pictures Number 13 to 20 inclusive.)

When Mr. Winsor visited the Refuge on April 15 the Lake was still quite high and he was able to get some first-hand information as to what is needed in the line of water development here. His proposal to dyke off the Dry Lake area and operate it as a separate unit involves considerable work but has its good points such as being able to hold this water level to a sufficient height to take advantage of a large number of natural and semi-natural islands a few of which are shown in Picture Number 21. This would also have the advantage of being able to pass Beaver Creek flood waters to and from Lake Bowdoin proper more readily.

Considerable water also reached Lake Bowdoin this spring from Black Coulee Creek after spreading out over farmers fields, across and down irrigation ditches, etc. (See Picture Number 324) A part of this water may be seen entering the Refuge by way of the original Black Coulee channel in Picture Number 334

"It never rains but what it pours," so the Reclamation also opened their headgates in the spillway to the Lake to avoid ice jams and flooding of their canal banks. (See Picture Number 34A) This was welcomely received, however, as Beaver Creek flood had not as yet reached its peak.

Biological Narrative Report (Bowdoin) -3-

About 800 to 1,000 ducks, practically all mallards, decided to spend the winter on open water in the Saco Canal that seeps from Nelson Reservoir just below the dam. Due to severe cold and considerable depth of snow it was necessary to give these birds some feed to tide them through the winter. Mr. Harry Cosner, State Deputy Game Warden, asked if I could give some assistance in caring for these birds. I advised him I had some surplus grain at the Refuge I could spare. Mr. Cosner and myself made about four trips to this area at weekly intervals, usually on a Sunday, and fed about 1,000 to 1,200 lbs. of wheat, corn, barley, and cane. This grain and seed was fed mostly in the open water near the shore, some being fed on gravel banks above shore line. (See Pictures Number 22, 23, and 24.) In conducting these feeding activities, it was found that corn, and barley was most preferred with corn rating first.

The spring migration got under way on March 20, at which time 12 Canada Geese and 100 Pintail Ducks arrived at the Refuge. It has been somewhat difficult to compare this years migration to that of former years since establishment of the Refuge as the water area has been so increased on the Refuge as well as in nearby sloughs and pot-holes. There appears to be a substantial increase in birds nesting on the Refuge, however, especially in pintails, Redheads, Ruddy, Lesser Scaup, and Cinnamon Teal; also, Canada Geese, Ring Billed Gulls, and White Pelicans.

Slightly above the average number of Lesser snow geese visited the Refuge early in April. (See Picture Number 25) But as usual none remained to nest. The Canada Geese had their nesting activities well under way by the middle of April. (See Picture Number 26) Seven eggs, as shown in this picture, in a Canada Goose nest is rather unusual for this area but two such nests have been observed this season with an exceptionally large number of nests containing six eggs. Nesting conditions during the period covered by this report were ideal.

Upland birds (Chinese Pheasant and Hungarian Partridge)

made good use of shelters constructed in Black Creek area and in
vicinity of Headquarters. These birds are increasing in considerable
numbers in the vicinity of the Headquarters as feed and cover developments improve in that vicinity.

Four more coyotes were removed from the area in addition to the nine reported last period. (See picture Numbers 27 & 28) All marketable furs have been submitted to the Regional office.

The seventeen head of antelope survived the winter in good condition and a satisfactory increase is anticipated this season. (See Picture Number 29)

3. Refuge Development and Maintenance

Refuge developments were carried out as follows: one new bird shelter with extra wind break facilities was built in the Black Creek area, and two were built north and west of the Headquarters during the winter. Another shelter was built early in the spring

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while road and ground conditions would not warrent other developments. (See Pictures Number 32\(^2\)33\(^2\)) The new Service Building was wired for electricity, using salvage material from Fort Peck Barracks. A work bench, drawers, and cupboards were also constructed in the new building. Early in February I made several ground tests at the proposed location of the Beaver Creek Diversion dam and assisted Mr. Danielson with survey work for the diversion canal. (See Pictures Number 34\(^2\)35) Sand was hauled from the washing plant at the Cole, Montana pit and used in the construction of concrete culvert units, about 50 two foot units were built. A portable enclosure was built for transporting men to and from the Project. (See Picture Number 36) A movable 12 x 18 foot building was constructed from salvage material for use as a tool and material shed during development at Beaver Creek. (See Pictures Number 37-38) For finished building see the building to left in Picture Number 47.

In connection with a fence barrier to restrict visitors to vicinity of the Headquarters, a pasture enclosure was established south west of the Headquarters buildings. The initial purpose being to have an enclosure to empound stray stock that might enter the Refuge at a future date. This enclosure consists of about 25 acres and is all upland. A cab guard was built for the new Chevrolet dump truck, this work was done in the Service Building Shop and as salvage material was used, there was practically no material cost involved. (See Picture Number 39) A fence was constructed around the tower and completed except for applying wire which is being obtained as salvage from another region. (See Picture Number 40)

The following maintenance work was executed during this period: Small trees and shrubs were painted with rabbit repellent but not much success was had due to low temperatures at the time this work was undertaken. Corn harvested as surplus from food patches was shelled with a hand sheller and stored in grainery for future use. Damage to corral as a result of the Service Building fire a year ago was repaired. (See Pictures Number 41-42, the temperature is -30) The Ford Pickup and Chevrolet 12Ton Truck stationed at the Refuge were thoroughly checked over and repaired as well as was the two small tractors and farm and other equipment. Considerable work was necessary to repair damage to patrol trails by heavy run-off this spring. (Pictures Number 43-44) It was, also, necessary to repair patrol trail bridge across Reclamation Spillway. (See Picture Number 45) Woodwork in kitchen and bathroom in residence were painted, and floors were varnished and repaired. The new Service Building and Boat House were given two coats of paint. (Pictures Number 46-47) The tool shed for Beaver Creek was given one coat of stain to match the color already on salvaged siding used.

I am including Picture No. 48 to show the distructive action of freezing ice to islands in center of Lake, this is where repair work was undertaken On Pelican Island last winter.

Food patch planting was just getting under way at the close of this report and this will be covered by next narrative report.

Tree and shrub planting at Headquarters and vicinity as well as in Black Creek area was begun early in April. (See Picture Number 30) Chokecherries, Juneberries, Wild Plumb, Wild Current, Juniper, Buffalo Berry, and Buck Brush were obtained from the Milk River and Beaver Creek areas for this purpose and about 1,000 of these plants were set out on the Refuge. Also about 300 quaking aspins, chokecherries, birch, douglas fir, and Ponderosa Pine were obtained from the Little Rocky Mountains at Zortman, Montana for planting. All of these plantings are in good condition at this time. Twenty-five hundred Oxford Hybrid Poplar cuttings were received late in April from the Northeastern Forest Experimental Station at New Haven, Connecticut without cost for planting here at the Refuge. These, however, were not planted during this period and will be covered in detail in the next report.

Range conditions on the Refuge this spring are very good so far as nesting facilities are concerned and some grazing could be permitted on designated areas after the nesting season if there should be a demand but believe this should be discouraged if possible.

One thousand American Elm, 1,000 Green Ash from Lower Souris; 793 pounds Prairie Bulrush from Medecine Lake; 200 pounds Wild millet seed from Arrowwood Refuge arrived at the Refuge by truck on May 3. Most of which was for planting at Hewett Lake Easement Project, also 100 pounds of Sago Pondweed was received by express from Bear River for that area.

4. Public Relations

At the request of the Phillips County Wildlife Federation I assisted indirectly with sale of wild life stamps and some \$22. worth were sold under my supervision and turned over to the County Chairman, Mr. Fred C. Babriel.

Mr. Gabriel who took some opposition to our program at the outset of establishment of the Bowdoin Refuge, accompanied me on one of my regular patrol trip over the Refuge on April 29 and was permitted to assist me with some cover planting on the public shooting grounds in the vicinity of Long Island. (See Picture Number 31)

5. Economic Uses of Refuge

No grazing or other permits were issued during this period and no share cropping agreements were drawn up as sufficient equipment, labor, and materials were available to carry on all farming activities in connection with my present W. P. A. Project.

6. Other Items

On March 26 I visited the Hewett Lake Easement Project and found it full to overflowing (Pictures Number 49-50-51-52). It was a very pleasing sight to find this fine area in such good condition.

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B. M. Hagelline Refuge my.

Biological Harrabive Report (Howdoin) -5-

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B.M. Hazellin

PICTUL 3 TO ACCOMPANY NARRATIVE REPORT BOWDOIN REFUGE PERIOD FEBRUARY 1 to APRIL 30,1939

Exposure No.	Description and date
1	Later stage of Beaver Creek flood. Water can be seen passing through center of Simpson's makeshift dirt dam, located just below our proposed dam site. March, 21, 1939
2	Beaver Creek bank full at proposed dam site. Iron peg designates west end of dam site. March 19, 1939
3	Beaver Creek beginning to spill out of banks toward Refuge. Stake in foreground at right of well drill designates proposed canal to Dry Lake area. Buildings to left is Simpson Bros. residence. March 19, 1939.
4	Looking west at Dry Lake area filled to capacity. Water can be seen passing out over top of old dyke near east end as well as through opening at old canal further out. Tower of Bowdoin can be seen in distance. March 26, 1939
5	A close up of water flowing out over east end of old dyke. Mar. 26, 1939
6	Looking southwest at Reclamation siphon under overflow channel from Beaver Creek overflow. This is where Beaver Creek flood water spills through onto Mr. McCalls and Mr. Salsberry's property enroute to Lake Bowdoin. This is located in about the southwest corner of Sec. 5, T. 30 N., R. 32 E. April 18, 1939
7	Looking northeast at Mr. Delbert Salsberry's hay meadows under water in Section 12, T. 30 N., \$. 31 E. Overflow water from the Beaver Creek overflow channel pass over this area to Refuge. This water is backed over from Lake Bowdoin and will stand here until water level lowered by way of channel through old dyke on east end of Refuge. April 5, 1939
8&9	This view of Mr. Salsberry's flooded meadows from the Refuge was taken in the presence of Messr. L. M. Winsor and R. W. Danielson on Apr. 15-39
1010	Water in Lake Bowdoin backed onto private land (Lakeside Property) at the southwest corner of the N.W. $\frac{1}{4}$ of S-W $\frac{1}{4}$ Section 22, T. 31 N., R. 31 E. due to Beaver Creek flood. March 27, 1939
11	Water flowing out through old canal opening in dyke on east end of Refuge. April 5, 1939
12	Additional opening cut in east end of dyke to permit additional water to flow out of Dry Lake area to Beaver Creek. This probably had little Effect on lowering the water level but was done to pacify private land owners including Mr. Salsbery. April 5, 1939
13	Great Northern Railway Company bridge in section 1, T. 30 N., R. 31 E. It can be observed that water is approximately 6 inches below concrete bridge abuttments. April 18, 1939
14	Looking southeast at Mr. Salsberry's meadow from G. N. bridge shown in Picture No. 13. His buildings can be seen in distance just to right of two hay stacks. Refuge boundary fence can be seen coming into the

PICTURES TO ACCOMPANY NARRATIVE REPORT-2-

	right-of-way from south. April 18, 1939
15	Looking southeast from west end of Great Northern bridge in southest 4 of Section 2, T. 30 N., R. 31 E. Arpil 18, 1939
16	Looking east from west end of same bridge as in Picture No. 15. April 18,
17	A close up of bridge shown in Pictures No. 15 and 16. This shows elevation of flood waters under this bridge. April 18, 1939.
18 & 19	Looking east along Great Northern tracks in NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 11, T. 30 N., R. 31 E. This section is between the southern-most point of Lake Bowdoin proper and the small lake area lying south of tracks which is about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile east of Drumbo. This is probably the lowest stretch of tracks on the Refuge and where first damage would appear to railroad grade at time of high water. April 18, 1939
20	Looking northeast at same stretch of tracks shown in Pictures No. 18 and 19. April 18, 1939.
21	Small natural islands created by raising water in Dry Lake area as result of Beaver Creek flood. This is located in Section 29. March 27, 1939.
22 & 23	Harry Cosner, State Game Warden, assisting me with duck feeding operations on Saco (Seepage) canal. February 2, 1939.
24	This is a part of the approximately 1,000 ducks, practically all mallards, that spent the winter on open water in the Saco Canal that seeps from Nelson Reservoir. It was necessary to resort to feeding these birds during severe weather because of deep snow, severe cold, and shortage of feed in that area. February 5, 1939.
25	Snow Geese feeding along spillway from Reclamation Canal to Lake Bowdoin near west lake shore. April 13, 1939.
26	Canada Goose nest containing 7 eggs which is unusual at least for this territory. April 22, 1939.
27	Myself with a coyote just shot on Lake Bowdoin. March 7, 1939.
28	Twelve of the 13 coyotes taken on Refuge during winter 1938-1939. April 8, 1939
29	A long range shot at the antelope ranging on Big Island area. Feb. 1939.
30	Planting Juneberries at Bowdoin Headquarters. 4-6-39
31	County Attorney, Fred C. Gabriel planting rushes on public shooting area in vicinity of Long Island. April 29, 1939

	32A	Black Creek (Black Coulee) flooding onto farmers fields near Strater. Spring 1939
	32B	Constructing upland bird shelters east of Refuge Headquarters. 3-8-39
	33A	Trash gates in operation in Black Creek at south Refuge boundary, notice one gate swinging wide open to pass large ice cake as other one is still frozen shut. In one picture the Reclamation flume can be seen just outside Refuge boundary. Spring 1939.
	33B	Constructing upland bird shelters east of Refuge Headquarters. 3-8-39.
	34A	Flood waters dumped down Reclamation spillway to Lake Bowdoin to avoid ice jams and damage to canal. Lake Bowdoin can be seen in the distance. Spring 1939.
	34B	Digging test holes at proposed Beaver Creek dam site. 2-4-39.
	35	Digging test holes at proposed Beaver Creek dam site. 2-4-39.
	36	Portable enclosure for transporting men to and from project. 3-1-39.
	3 7 & 3 8	Building movable tool and equipment shed for use in connection with proposed Beaver Creek development . 3-4-39.
	39	Cab guard constructed on new Chevrolet truck • 4-10-39•
	40	Constructing tower enclosure. 4-8-39.
	41 & 42	Repairing corral at service building. 2-2-39.
	43 & 44	Repairing patrol trails on west side of Refuge. 4-1-39, 3-6-39.
1	45	Repairing patrol bridge across Reclamation spillway to Lake Bowdoin. 4-2-39.
	46 & 47	Painting Bowdoin Headquarters buildings. 4-4-39.
	48	Ice expanding over last years repair work on Pelican Is. Notice how ice has shoved completely over stone barriers placed as ice breakers. Eeb. 1939.
	207	LAKE HEWETT EASEMENT PROJECT
	49	Looking south along Hewett Lake dam. 3-26-39.
	50	Looking northwest at spillway cut-off dyke. 3-26-39.
	51	Looking west at flat between upper and lower lakes. 3-26-39.
	52	Looking southwest at upper Hewett Lake area. 3-26-39.

Negatives and one print of all these pictures have been submitted to Washington for filing but under different numbers than listed hereon. These are special pictures to accompany Narrative report.

3. 9n. Augustine

Refuge Manager













































































































