

SEMI-ANNUAL REPORT FOR FISCAL YEAR 1938
THIRD QUARTER, JANUARY 1 TO MARCH 31

LAKE BOWDOIN REFUGE

Reconstruction work on Pelican Island near the center of Lake Bowdoin was concentrated upon during the winter months. This work consisted of construction of stone barriers or ice breakers on the shore line along the west point of this island which had in the past been partially cut away by ice and wave action. Dirt and gravel was hauled across the ice from the north lake shore and placed on this point of the island to raise it to the proper height to afford nesting grounds at such time as the water level in the lake might be raised to a higher level. The east end of the island, which has not been so badly damaged, was rip-rapped to prevent further erosion.

While the island work was not completed, about 3000 cubic yards of rock and dirt was placed on the island which would materially benefit this fine nesting place even if it was never completed, although it is highly desirable not only to complete this island but also to repair other smaller islands on the lake.

A 35 by 40 foot corral was constructed on the south side of the service building from poles salvaged from the burned over timber area in the Little Rocky Mountains.

Thirteen coyotes as well as several skunks and weasels were shot, trapped or poisoned on the Refuge during the winter months. All of these skins were destroyed, however in the Service building fire on February 20. *condemned
skc*

Owing to excellent grazing conditions in the Black Creek, (Black Coulee) area and the success attained in exterminating predators from the Refuge the thirteen antelope came through the winter in good condition, and although the two small stacks of hay ~~was~~ put up for them in that area were fed on but very little, they were beneficial in affording shelter during severe weather.

About thirty Chinese pheasants and Hungarian partridges wintered in the Black Creek area and took advantage of the shelters and self feeders provided for them there. Feed harvested from food patches on the Refuge was also provided for a small flock of ducks (about 75), mostly mallards, that wintered on the riffles of Milk river near Malta. *condemned
skc*

Mr. Cary H. Bennett visited the Refuge on January 27 and 28 and Refuge development and management plans were discussed.

During this period gutters and downspouts were installed on the Headquarters buildings, a water softener was placed in the residence and concrete culvert units and various Refuge signs were constructed inside the Service building. *BWM*

The Bowdoin Service building was burned to the ground on February 20 with nearly a total loss of all tools and equipment stored therein, including one 1936 Ford V8 truck. The fire was investigated by Messrs. Leo L. Laythe, K. F. Roahen and W. A. Rodgers and while defective wiring was strongly suspicioned as being the cause of the fire no definite proof could be obtained to that effect.

As soon as the remains of the fire was cleaned up I employed a skilled electrician to check the electric wiring in the remaining buildings and some very poor and dangerous connections were found and it was also found that none of the connections had been rubber taped by the electrician that had installed the wiring in the buildings at the time of construction, They were only covered lightly with friction tape.

During the early spring runoff considerable water was received in Lake Bowdoin from the immediate vicinity of the Lake, ~~Black Creek~~ Black Creek (Black Coulee), Beaver Creek and from the Reclamation Canal which was washed out twice with very beneficial results to the water level in the Lake. A total of about 5600 acre feet of water was received which together with the 1400 acre feet on hand put the water supply in fair condition for this year's nesting season.

FOURTH QUARTER, APRIL 1 to JUNE 30, 1938

Owing to a late cold snap and stormy weather I considered it advisable to do a little spring feeding during the early part of April and about 30 bushels of grain was fed to about 18000 ducks *✓* and 450 Canada geese that gathered at the open water at the mouth of the spillway from Reclamation Canal, the remainder of the lake being completely frozen over. Sixty eight whistling swans visited the Refuge for about a week shortly after the storm and cold weather was over. *swc*

On April 11 patrol trail and other Refuge development and Maintenance work was resumed and by the close of the fiscal year about three quarters of the 23 miles of patrol trails was completed including installation of numerous rock crossings, culverts and four small bridges.

In addition to the trail work several other development and maintenance jobs were undertaken and completed during this period including clearing weeds and trash ~~from~~ and repairing 30 miles of boundary and interior fences, constructing all new door and window screens for the residence and office to replace those destroyed in the service building fire, construction of about 50 two foot concrete culvert units, construction of a 24 foot trash gate across Black Creek where it enters the Refuge boundary fence, development of two new food patches amounting to about ten acres and together with other patches previously developed amounting to about thirty acres. These were seeded, cultivated, ditched and irrigated. Ground was prepared and trees and shrubs planted at the Headquarters and on the Refuge as follows; 1200 elm, 1000 ash, 2000 cottonwood, 1500 caragana, 500 Russian olive, 2000 choke-cherry, 1000 June-berry 300 wild plums, 100 pine and fir and numerous other small shrubs and vines at Headquarters. *could swc*

Under the most favorable weather conditions this part of the country has witnessed for at least ten years together with adequate care made possible by W.P.A. labor, trees shrubs and grain, (corn wheat, barley, cane and buckwheat), in food patches are doing exceedingly well, also other wild growing plants such as rushes and especially Sago pond weed show prospects of producing a large amount of feed. *Swc*

Grass and cover conditions are far better than at any time since the Refuge was established and while some grazing could be available on the north grazing area of the Refuge, which has in the past before the Refuge was established been seriously over-grazed by sheep and cattle, it is my opinion that this year's grass should be given an opportunity to reseed. The south grazing area which has not been so badly over-grazed in the past could be grazed some this fall without deteriorating results.

With the aid of WPA labor a nesting study, of ducks in particular, is being made but since the nesting activities are not expected to be over before July 15, no reports are available at this time. A check is being made from time to time on the colonies of gulls, pelicans, herons, cormorants and terns nesting on islands in the lake.

The seven old antelope and six young produced last year still remain on the Refuge in excellent condition and the first fawn this season was observed in the Black Creek area on June 3. *checked Swc*
Four more have been observed to date.

Benjamin M. Hazeltine
Refuge Manager





Noted in letter.

[Handwritten signature]

Don't note will be prepared to date.
Lump this season was prepared in the black creek area on June 2.
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