

ROUTING SLIP

DIVISION OF WILDLIFE REFUGES

DATE: 11-25-1941☒ MR. SALYER

SECTION OF HABITAT IMPROVEMENT:

☒ ~~MRS. WOODIN~~ *2 Nov 1/11*~~Mr. Kubichek~~☒ ~~MR. EIMER~~ *11/19/41*~~Mr. Smith~~ *PAD 11/29*~~MRS. GARVIN~~~~Mr. Griffith~~ *11/29/41*☒ ~~MR. DUMONT~~ *PAD 1-19*~~Miss Geck~~ *True 12-22-41*☒ SECTION OF OPERATIONS:☒ SECTION OF ERA:~~Mr. Krumm~~ *11/20*~~Mr. Regan~~ *11/27/42*~~Mr. Gustafson~~ *11/21*~~Dr. Bourn~~ *WSB 1/26/42*☒ Miss Baum *11/21*

Mrs. Fishman

Mrs. Kricun

☒ SECTION OF LAND MANAGEMENT:☒ STENOGRAPHERS:~~Mr. Farnham~~ *11/21*Miss Whorley *VW-12-22-41*~~Mr. Ackerman~~ *11/21*☒ SECTION OF STRUCTURES:~~Mr. Taylor~~ *11/26*

REMARKS:

*Brigantine Quarterly
August - October 1941*Return to: *Dw. Files**Wildlife Refuges*

Brigantine National Wildlife Refuge,
Quarterly Narrative Report,
July, August, September and ~~October~~, 1941.

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Atlantic City Press, October 4, 1941.

September Bright, Warm; Year Milder Than Others

There was plenty of gold in those September days, Weatherman Samuel Deitch observed last night after completing his preliminary summary for the month.

The U. S. Weather Bureau forecaster found that there was 15 per cent more sunshine during last month than during an average September.

Moreover, it was one of the mildest Septembers on record, with an average daily excess of temperature of 2.3 degrees.

Farms Hard Hit Though

But all of these favorable statistics for resort business had an opposite effect on rural Atlantic County, for only one one-hundredth of an inch of rain was recorded during the entire 30 days, an all-time record low since the local Weather Bureau office was opened in 1874. The result was crop damage estimated at more than \$500,000.

In brief, these were Deitch's findings:

Average daily temperature was 69.1 degrees, 2.3 above normal; aver-

age afternoon maximum temperature was 75.5 degrees and the average early morning reading was 62.5; highest recording was 94 degrees on the first day of the month and lowest was 50 on the 30th; rainfall deficiency was 2.64 inches; total wind movement was 10,553 miles, or an average hourly velocity of 14.7 miles an hour, prevailing wind was from the South; there were 15 clear, 12 partly cloudy and three cloudy days; there were 297 hours of sunshine, or 80 per cent of a possible maximum of 100 per cent; 100 per cent of sunshine was noted on nine days.

Warmer This Year

Since last January 1, Deitch said, a total of 418 degrees of "excess temperature" have accumulated, an average daily excess of 1.5 degrees. So far this year there has been a deficiency of 4.85 inches of rainfall.

Under the heading of "phenomena," Deitch listed the brilliant aurora borealis that lit the Northern sky on September 18, a thunderstorm on the 7th, and dense fogs on the 10th and the 23rd.

I. General.

A. Weather Conditions.

Rainfall in this section has been considerably below normal for the past quarter. The month of September has shown the least rainfall in a great many years according to the reports of the U.S. Weather Bureau at Atlantic City, N.J.

B. Water Conditions.

At present we have no fresh water ponds on the Brigantine National Wildlife Refuge. Water levels in the ponds are maintained by tide flows, and frequent high tides have kept the ponds clean and free from objectional growths. Where plugs have been installed in the ditches water levels in the ponds have been maintained at 6 inches below the marsh level.

C. Fires,

We have had no fires on the refuge during the past quarter.

II. Wildlife.

A- Water birds,

Fifteen pairs of Black Ducks used the refuge throughout the entire season. And during the evening hours I have observed as high as 75 Black Ducks and Mallards feeding in the ponds and about the marshes. On August 28th I noted a total of 600 Black Ducks, and 70 Mallards on the refuge proper. On August 21 I noted one old Wood Duck and six young ducklings in Doughty's Creek. And again on September 10 I saw nine Wood Ducks in the same creek.

About 250 pairs of Laughing Gulls nested on the Egg Island area this year. I also found 17 Terns nests, and 15 Piping Plover's nests along the gravelly stretches that have been blown in from channel dredgings. I also

found three Clapper Rails with their young broods on August 9, However from the calls that I hear in the evening from different parts of the refuge I feel certain that many more broods were hatched out on the refuge.

2. On September 29 about 5,000 Brant came into Reed's Bay adjoining the refuge, These were the first arrivals for this season that came to my notice, On the same day there were 500 Green Wing Teal and 65 Pintails in the ponds and about the marshes on the refuge. On September 23 seventeen Canada Geese alighted on the refuge marshes for several hours before leaving again, These may have been geese that bred in this district during the past season.

3. The peak of the shore bird migration arrived during the later part of August, And on August²⁴ I observed the following numbers and species about mud flats and marshes on and around the refuge area; 6,000 Black Bellied Plover, 3,000 Lesser Yellowlegs, 1,000 Greater Yellowlegs, 8,000 Knots, 7,000 Dowitchers, 7,000 Semi Palmated Plover, 15,000 of the smaller Sandpiper families, 2,000 Turnstones, 800 Curlew and 25 Willet. At times the air was literally alive with these birds and they made a beautiful sight as they would rise up at times and bank in the air before alighting again.

During the season I noted two broods of young Woodcock with the old bird along the bottomlands bordering the refuge.

3. Food and Cover.

There is a good supply of Widgeon Grass (*Ruppia maritima*) in the natural salt ponds on the refuge, This grass is also establishing itself in the dug ponds created about the refuge. Eel Grass, (*Zostera marina*) is still scarce in this area, Although it has shown considerable improvement in parts of

Barnegat Bay. Bay Cabbage is still plentiful in all the bays in this section. The Eel Grass brought from Chesapeake Bay and transplanted in the local bays has just about all died out, and apparently something is still wrong with our local waters that kills off this grass. However I plan to secure more of this grass and continue to experiment with it to see what results may be obtained.

B. Upland Game.

We have several covies of Quail on the refuge, and I have observed two broods of young birds with the old bird. I also saw 5 Ring Neck Pheasants at different times. I also flushed one Ruffed Grouse on August 29, and again one of the same birds on September 17 along the bottomlands near Doughty's Creek. From time to time I have come across the markings of f rabbits on our present headquarters site.

III. Refuge Developments,

A. Work has continued on the dyke, and 1100 lineal feet of sod bank has been laid up for the quarter. The dredge has piled up 8945 cubic yards of earth into the embankment for the fresh water lake. In addition 8 more plugs have been placed in the ditches for the quarter. This brings the total number of these plugs to a total of 38 plugs completed.

B. Work has also begun on the headquarters buildings, and the Refuge Manager's dwelling has progressed to a point where roof boarding is now under way. Attached are some pictures taken with my own camera to show the progress on this construction up to September 30th. The forms are almost completed for pouring concrete in the basement walls of the Utility Building. When these walls are completed I plan to have the contractor ^{begin} the well drilling,

Under conditions it is hardly practical to begin the well drilling before the basement walls have been completed, as the well is to be inclosed within a portion of the basement walls. It would be very inconvenient to carry on both operations at the same time.

C. Equipment.

We have one $\frac{1}{2}$ Ton Chevy Pickup Truck which is in good condition. Then we have the patrol Motorboat Laughing Gull, F.W.S-187. This boat has been painted throughout and is in good running order. We also have fire fighting equipment which is practically new. In addition we also have a fair supply of mechanic tools. All of this equipment has been kept painted, and the tools kept well cleaned and oiled and in good condition.

Our present office equipment consists of one filing cabinet, one desk and three chairs. All in good condition.

I regret to report that we must vacate our present office. On account the present lessor is vacating the premises because of business conditions. It is not an easy matter to secure office space hereabout to meet up with Government specifications. However I hope to find new office space either in Absecon or Pleasantville in the near future. I would be pleased if it was possible to move right into our refuge office so that I could be right on the job. Along these lines I again wish to suggest that we strain every effort to complete our headquarters buildings soon as possible.

IV. Public Relations.

A. General Public.

During the past quarters we have had quite a number of visitors to the refuge area for bird studying purposes. Some have come from points

as distant as Philadelphia and New York City, and section roundabout. Members of local Boy Scout and Girl Scout Troops, as well as the Camp Fire Girls have also been frequent visitors.

Many local sportsmen and nature lovers have shown a keen interest in the development of the refuge, and I have heard many favorable comments on the project. The local Press of Pleasantville and Atlantic City have given us occasional write ups from information passed on to them through our Press Releases. These have also been very helpful and instructive.

B. Official.

Mr. Lundeen of the Boston Office has been a frequent visitor to the refuge in connection with our work program. Mr. Radway from the Land Acquisition has also visited the refuge on different occasions. Mr. Sutherlin, our Refuge Supervisor, has called at intervals to confer on refuge matters. I have always found these visits to be helpful and instructive.

V. General.

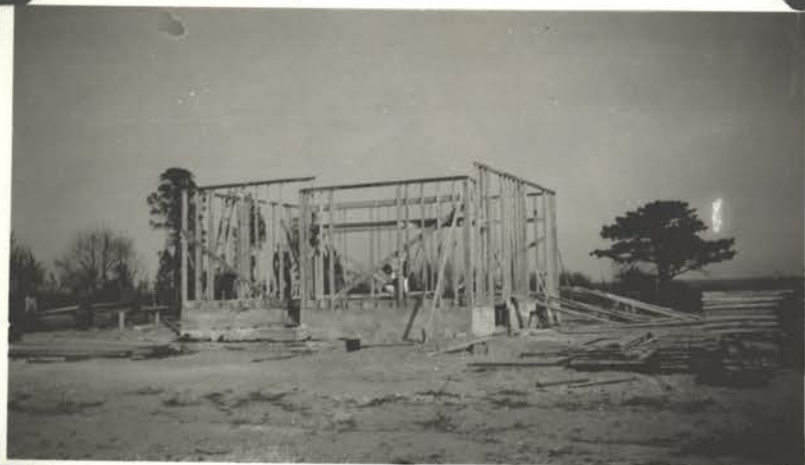
On September 11, 12 and 13 I attended the Regional Conference held at Boston, Mass. Many interesting and valuable points were brought out at this conference, and I am sure that we all returned to our posts of duty with a clearer insight of our work, and a broader vision of the plans now in process of making by all Divisions of the Fish and Wildlife Service harmoniously working together, not only in the Federal service, but also in cooperation with the several State Departments engaged in similar lines of work. The objective may seem distant, but our efforts are assuredly in the right direction. We today are building that posterity may also enjoy the same pleasure we have enjoyed in the great outdoor life. Along these lines I feel that time will fully justify all the efforts that are being put

forth to forge the Brigantine National Wildlife Refuge into the great system of our National Wildlife Refuges now being worked out and perfected in our country.

Respectfully Submitted,

Albert Stadlmeir

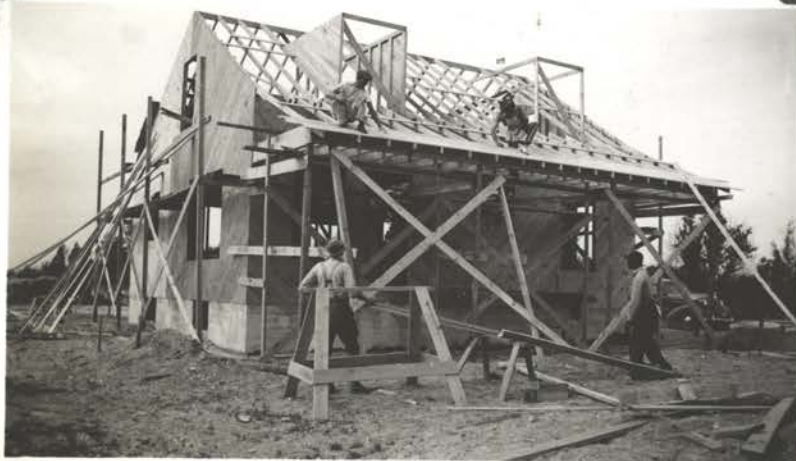
Albert Stadlmeir,
Laborer-Patrolman,
Brigantine National Wildlife Refuge,
Absecon, N.J.



Refuge Dwelling September 15, 1941



Same September 23, 1941



Same September 30, 1941,



Looking out across marsh from second floor window
dow



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
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OCT 11 1941

