

## ROUTING SLIP

DIVISION OF WILDLIFE REFUGES

DATE: 5-7 1941☒ MR. SALYER① ☒ ~~MRS. WOODEN~~ Nhet☒ ~~MR. ELMER~~ ACE☐ MRS. GARVIN☒ ~~MR. DUMONT~~ PAO

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## REMARKS:

Brigantine Quarters  
February - April 1941Return to: Cook

Brigantine National Wildlife Refuge  
Quarterly Narrative Report  
February, March and April 1941

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V.V.  
P.L.

## I. GENERAL.

### A. Weather Conditions.

:	:	Rainfall	:	Snowfall	:	Temperature	:	Mean 1941	:	Normal Mean	:
:	:	1941: Normal	:	1941 : Normal:	:	Max. : Min.	:	Max.: Min.	:	Max. : Min.	:
:	:	Feb. : 3.09: 3.36	:	14.3 : 5.2	:	45 : 17	:	38.5: 26.1	:	40.4 : 26.7	:
:	:	Mar. : 2.86: 3.60	:	5.7 : 2.3	:	54 : 17	:	44.5: 29.1	:	45.2 : 31.9	:
:	:	Apr. : 2.48: 3.05	:	:	:	59 :	:	:	:	52.1 :	:
:	:	Total: 8.43: 10.01	:	2.00: 7.5	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
:	:	Extremes :	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:

The above readings were taken from the Atlantic City station of the U. S. Weather Bureau, located on the Steel Pier, over the Atlantic Ocean. The Rainfall was below Normal for March and April and this would indicate about Normal Snowfall and average Temperature.

### B. Water Conditions.

The water level in Lilly Lake has remained about the same. Rainfalls for April have been below normal and there has been no serious ice conditions.

### C. Fires.

We had one fire on April 15 that burned about 15 acres of underbrush on the proposed refuge area. This fire has been reported under separate cover. There is no property damage. The fire ran over that portion of the area of the proposed refuge headquarter site and will be cleared up by the CCC Camp at Port Republic in connection with the program of erecting headquarter buildings.

## II. WILDLIFE

### - A. Waterbirds.

#### 1. Populations and Behavior.



There has been a concentration of about 30,000 Brant in and about the refuge. Most of these birds remained until about the middle of April and at this date, April 30 we still have about 10,000 Brant left in this area. We had about 15,000 Black Ducks in and about the refuge area up until April 1. Many of these birds have remained to nest in this area, and are to be seen daily in pairs feeding in the ponds, scattered about the refuge. With the active program being carried on at present by the CCC personnel, it is hardly to be expected that any of these birds will **nest** on the refuge proper but in nearby vicinity altho using the refuge for feeding and resting. We also have had a considerable number of Mergansers and Scaup using the refuge during March and April. In addition there has been about 500 Canada Geese using the refuge area and nearby islands.

During April there has been quite a large migration of shore birds including various species as indicated on accompanying chart.

## 2. Food and Cover.

During the month of April with the aid of the CCC personnel we have secured considerable widgeon grass from ponds in the surrounding area which has been transplanted into 23 of the ponds that have been constructed on the refuge. We will not be able to judge of the success of this experiment for a couple months time at least.

On April 21 in company with Mr. Herholdt, I proceeded to the Black Water River Refuge at Cambridge Maryland where we contacted Mr. Black of that refuge. Then with Mr. Black and some of the N.Y./A. boys from his refuge we proceeded to a point along the Chesapeake Bay at Hoopers Island where we secured a load of eel grass.

Species	2-6-41	2-14-41	3-12-41	4-4-41	4-12-41	4-18-41	4-23-41	4-24-41	
American Bittern ✓						3	2	2	
American Egret									
American Merganser ✓	1000		900	1000	500	300	250	300	
Bald Eagle									
Bald Pate									
Black-bellied Plover ✓				4	10	50	50	44	
Black Duck ✓	6500	200	5000	1500	1000	500	100	150	
Blue Heron ✓						3	4	3	
Blue Wing Teal									
Brent ✓	12000		15000	15000	1500	4000	500	500	
Brown Thrasher									
Bufflehead ✓			50						
Canada Goose ✓				150	150	75	45	60	
Canvasback ✓					50				
Cardinal									
Clapper Rail ✓					4	3	1	3	
Coots									
Curlew					15	30	30	55	
Golden Plover									
Greater Yellowleg ✓				70	75	300	350	300	
Green Wing Teal									
Killdeer									
Knot									
Least Sandpipers									
Lesser Yellowleg									
Mallard ✓				100	50	25	22	15	
Marsh Hawk ✓	2			3	4	2	1	2	
Robins									
Sanderling ✓	50			5	1000	500	500	600	
Scarlet Tanager									
Scaups	500	1000							
Woodcock ✓					2		1	1	



This grass was in an apparent healthy condition. We placed this grass with a portion of the soil attached to the roots into burlap sacks which we kept well wetted down with salt water from the bay. These sacks were then placed in the truck encased in a canvas with layers of eel grass between layers of sea grass which also was well wetted down with salt water. In addition we took one milk can which was about half filled with eel grass and covered with salt water taken from the bay, in an effort to experiment with the different methods of transporting the grass. On April 23 this grass was transplanted into perch cove in the refuge area and marked by stakes to show location where planted. A portion of the same grass was also transplanted into turtle cove. We also placed about 100 of the eel grass plants in pond No. 2 used as an experimental pond. This grass has been placed in waters where at one time our native eel grass was very abundant and ought to serve a good experimental purpose. As in the case of the Widgeon grass planting, no doubt, we will have to wait for time to prove the success or failure of our experiment.

#### B. Upland-game

There were some observations of Quail of about 15 birds. There were also several rabbits.

### III. REFUGE DEVELOPMENT AND MAINTENANCE.

#### A. Physical Development.

All of the development work on the refuge is being done by the CCC Camp stationed at Port Republic, N.J. We now have 24 artificial salt ponds completed. Widgeon grass taken from salt ponds on nearby

marshes has been transplanted into these ponds. In addition to Widgeon grass, eel grass secured from Chesapeake Bay has also been planted in No.2 pond designated as experimental pond. It will be several months before we will be able to judge of the success or failure of these experiments.

B. Equipment

C. Planting.

In addition to the Widgeon and Eel grass planting in the pond, on April 21 in company with Mr. Herholdt of the Bombay Hook Refuge and Mr. Black of the Blackwater River Refuge, we secured a load of Eel grass from Chesapeake Bay in the vicinity of Hoopers Island. On April 23 with the aid of the CCC personnel at Port Republic, this Eel grass was transplanted in the waters of Perch Cove and Turtle Cove in the vicinity of our Brigantine Refuge.

The soil conditions in which this grass was planted differs from the bottom condition in Chesapeake Bay from which it was secured. Up to the present time I have not been able to find any soil in the vicinity of the refuge that would compare with the soil from which the grass was secured. Whether or not this will have any effect on the ultimate success of our planting remains to be learned.

I am endeavoring to locate a soil bottom in this vicinity that will be comparable to the soil bottom of Chesapeake Bay and then it is our intention to secure another load of eel grass for further experiment.

It is also my intention to secure plantings of eel grass from Barnegat Bay for transplanting in this vicinity to see what results might be obtained from this source as well as the Chesapeake Bay.

It seems to me that the success or failure of our experiments will have a very salutary effect in attracting wild birds to our refuge in the future.

#### IV. PUBLIC RELATIONS.

##### A. Visitors.

##### 1. Officials.

During wildlife week April 13-19 we had quite a number of visitors attracted to the refuge as a result of newspaper articles and the broadcast on "Your Wildlife" over station W.B.A.B. at Atlantic City on the evening of April 17. It is pleasing to see that much public interest is being exhibited in the development of the Brigantine National Wildlife Refuge and as we are able to secure more property and our plans mature, no doubt this interest will increase.

Starting April 4, Miss June Clark was assigned to this office as Stenographer-typist from the National Youth Administration of Atlantic City.

#### V. GENERAL.

I have had several conferences with Mr. John Sadosuk, Superintendent of the CCC Camp at Port Republic on work plans and development of the refuge now under way. I feel that our relationships have been very congenial. Considerable trouble has been experienced in getting the dyke to hold up and this has been a source of worry to Mr. Sadosuk. Cave ins of the dyke has slowed up this part of our program.



( - As this is all new work to me, and as I have only been here for a short time, I am not in position to make any comparison on our work progress in similiar periods of time, however, as we are now approaching more favorable weather conditions we should be able to show results for labor expended. )

In my next report I hope to be able to give fuller details on some of our projects now under way.

Respectfully submitted,

*Albert Stadlmeir*

Albert Stadlmeir  
In Charge of Brigantine  
National Wildlife Refuge

May 6, 1941