

ROUTING SLIP

DIVISION OF WILDLIFE REFUGES

DATE: 8-25 1941

✓ MR. SALYER ful
 ① ✓ ~~MRS. WOODEN~~ shaw
 ✓ MR. ELMER 9
 MRS. GARVIN _____
 ✓ ~~MR. BUMONT~~ PAD 10-8

SECTION OF HABITAT IMPROVEMENT:

~~Mr. Katichek~~ _____
~~Mr. Smith~~ PND
~~Mr. Griffith~~ REC 3/13/42
~~Miss Cook~~ mc

SECTION OF OPERATIONS:

✓ ~~Mr. Krummes~~ WK 10/2/41
~~Mr. Gustafson~~ WK 10/13
 ② ~~Miss Baum~~ WZ
 Mrs. Kricun _____

SECTION OF ERA:

~~Mr. Regan~~ WZ 10/15/41
~~Dr. Bourn~~ WZ 10/2/42
 Mrs. Fishman _____

SECTION OF LAND MANAGEMENT:

✓ ~~Mr. Farnshaw~~ 9/27/41
~~Mr. Ackerson~~ 9-23

STENOGRAPHERS:

~~Miss Wherley~~ WZ 10-15-41

SECTION OF STRUCTURES:

✓ ~~Mr. Taylor~~ WZ 11/4

REMARKS:

Brigantine Quarterly
May-July 1941

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UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

OFFICE OF REGIONAL DIRECTOR

1140 PARK SQUARE BUILDING
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

REGION 5

NEW ENGLAND STATES
NEW YORK
PENNSYLVANIA
NEW JERSEY
DELAWARE
MARYLAND
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
VIRGINIA
WEST VIRGINIA
OHIO

August 23, 1941.

Mr. Albert Stadlmeir,
Brigantine National Wildlife Refuge,
P. O. Box 171,
Absecon, New Jersey.

Dear Mr. Stadlmeir:

I read with interest your Quarterly Narrative Report of conditions on the Brigantine Refuge.

We believe that it will be desirable to initiate as far as possible specific records of the breeding ducks so that from one year to another, comparisons may be made of the use of the area for breeding purposes and for the results in birds developing up to the stage of flight. Such records will serve an excellent basis for comparison over a period of years.

In connection with the establishment of the cover on the islands in the natural ponds, it may be interesting to study the best type of cover to serve for food and nesting purposes.

We appreciate the value of such a museum as you indicate but the demand upon our resources for development activities is too great at the present time to justify an expenditure of funds for such an activity. In the meantime we must, of course, make the refuge, itself, serve so far as possible as an outdoor museum.

Very truly yours,

S. B. Locke,
Regional Director.

CC-Washington Office
SBL:EAG

Brigantine National Wildlife Refuge,

Quarterly Narrative Report

May, June and July, 1941

Index

	Page
I. General,	I
a.- Weather conditions,	I
b.- Water Conditions,	I
c.- Fires,	I
II. Wildlife,	
a- Waterbirds,	I-2
b.- Breeding,	2
c,- Feed and Cover,	2
d,- Upland Game,	3
III. Refuge Developement,	3
a,- Ponds,	3
b,- Building Construction,	4
IIII. Public Relations,	4
a,- Visitors,	4-5
b,- Cooperation,	5

U.S.Department Of The Interior,

Fish And Wildlife Service

Absecon, N.J.

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M.W.

I.

I. General,

A.- Weather Conditions,

Rainfall for the months of May, June and July has been slightly ~~below~~ below normal, While temperature for the same period has been slightly above normal. We have not had any extreme storms to cause any tidal floods in this area. Because of favorable weather conditions it has been a good breeding season for Clapper Rails, Willet, Piping Plover, Black Ducks, Mallards, Wood Ducks, Laughing Gulls, Skimmers and Terns in this district.

B.- Water Conditions.

For fresh water we are dependent upon rainfall, and the overflow from Daughy Creek. The ponds on the Brigantine National Wildlife Refuge are kept clean by the daily tidal flows which gives them a good supply of clean water. Progress is being made with putting plugs in the tidal ditches which holds the water at six inches below the top of the marsh. This daily inflow of tidal water tends to retard stagnation in the ponds. Rainfalls have been sufficient to keep the water in the ponds in a brackish condition. There is also a good supply of Killifish in all the ponds, that come and go with the tides. These fish help to keep the ponds free from objectional growths.

C.- Fires.

There has not been any fires on the Brigantine Refuge during the past quarter.

II. WILDLIFE.

A.- Waterbirds.-

On June 26 I saw two broods of young Black Ducks with the old ducks on Hummock Cove, consisting of seven and eight young ducklings. Good numbers of Black Ducks, Mallards and Wood Ducks have bred along the

Mullica and Wading Rivers in the vicinity of the refuge. It is a common sight to see Black Ducks and Mallards using the ponds on the refuge during evening hours. Good numbers of these same ducks have bred along the Great Egg River and tributaries, and along the Maurice River. Of course there are also many other places in New Jersey where these birds breed.

B.- A good number of Clapper Rails also bred on the Brigantine Refuge, and I saw several flocks of young downy rails about the refuge the later part of July and beginning of August. The newly formed islands in the dug ponds on the refuge will tend to furnish good harbor and resting places for the rails during the severe Northeast storms which occur during the Fall. The high tides driving the birds to seek shelter along the bottom lands. Many of these birds will be saved by using the islands for shelter.

A great many Piping Plover also nested in and around the refuge. We also had several pairs of Willet on the refuge during the Summer. These birds are rare in this part of New Jersey, being most common in Cumberland County. Several Yellowlegs also spent the Summer on the refuge. I was not able to locate nests of either of these birds so am not in position to report whether they nested or not. The latter part of July we had an influx of Curlew, Knots, Dowitchers, Semi-Palmated Plover and Sandpipers to the refuge. Apparently these birds are the beginning of the Fall Migration.

Hundreds of Laughing Gulls and Terns used the refuge and adjoining areas for nesting purposes. Several Great Blue Herons, and three American Egrets have been using the refuge for a Summer home. Apparently these birds have been enjoying the Killifish that abound in the ponds.

C.- Feed and Cover.

There is a good supply of Widgeon Grass in the natural ponds on the refuge. This grass has been very prolific and is in a good healthy

condition, Widgeon Grass has also been planted in the dug ponds and is beginning to show improvement, and it now looks like this grass will also establish itself in these dug ponds. This will add greatly to the food supply on the refuge.

Eel Grass is still a failure in general, Occasionally small patches of this grass will be found that appears to be healthy, But in time these too disappear. Our last plantings of Eel Grass taken from Chesapeake Bay have just about died out, although there is still some signs of life in the beds that were planted. It is my intentions to fence in the next planting to keep away the so called Bay Cabbage which forms a literal carpet on the bottom of our coastal flats. I some time wonder whether or not this cabbage retards the growth of Eel Grass, as I fail to see just how anything could survive underneath the carpet of cabbage.

D.- Upland Game.

There are several covies of Quail on the refuge, I have also noted one flock of young pheasants along with the mother bird. Quite a few rabbits are to be noted along the bottomlands. On May 15 I saw a family of three young Woodcock with the old bird. On June 13 I saw another flock of three young Woodcock also with the old bird. There has been a good number of Woodcock that nested in this district this season.

III. Refuge Developement.

Twenty eight ponds have been dug on the refuge, and the ground has piled up in the center of the ponds to form islands, These islands are gradually becoming grassed over and in time will form nesting and sheltering spots for the birds on the refuge. Widgeon Grass has been planted in all the ponds which we hope in time will establish itself successfully. The ponds on the refuge are used regularly by Black Ducks, Mallards, Shore Birds, Gulls and Terns, and other wildbirds.

Construction on the dyke that is to form the fresh water lake is going along slowly, And it will be some time at present rate of progress before much can be reported on this project, However suffice to say that it is progressing.

Construction has also started on the Administration Buildings, The concrete forms for the cellar walls on the Manager's House are about completed and ready for pouring. Excavation has also been started on the Utility Building. Headquarters site has been partially cleared off and shows improvement.

Plugs have been built in some of the ditches to control the water levels in the ponds, And also to exclude tidal action from other parts of the refuge. These plugs all being kept six inches below marsh level.

b. Equipment.

The Motorboat Brant has been hauled out and cleaned and painted, and is in good running order. All equipment on the boat is in good condition. The Cheve Pickup Truck in use on the refuge is also in good running order. The Fire Prevention^e equipment is kept at the present office, and is all in good working order. All tools on hand are kept clean and in good working order.

IIII. Public Relations.

a. There have been quite a few visitors to the refuge from among members of the Audubon Society who come to the refuge to observe and study bird life. Quite a number of persons visit the refuge who are interested in local wildlife development, and I hear many favorable comments on our program.

b. Mr. Richard Griffith^s visited the refuge on May 20, and inspected the dug ponds and other developments.

Mr. Jackson was a visitor to the refuge on June 3, inspecting

work programs on the refuge, Also visited the C.C.C.Camp at Port Republic to confer with Mr.Sadosuk on developement plans.

Mr.Taylor visited the refuge on June 25, To confer on dyke construction and other work projects.

Mr.Deck of the Saturday Evening Post was a visitor on May II, To gather information on refuge program. He is covering the system of refuges established along the Atlantic Coast.

Mr.Irving Street of Atlantic City is a frequent visitor to the refuge. Mr.Street is an ardent supporter of our work. Warden Dana Saxton has accompanied me several times on boat trips, Agent Robert Hawley has also called several times for conference on local conditions, and also to make boat trips.

Mr.Sutherlin, Refuge Supervisor, has also paid several visits to the refuge, and given me valuable help and information. I feel that our public relations have been cordial and favorable. I also wish to report very cordial cooperation with Mr.Sadosuk, Camp Superintendent, and feel that all possible progress in work programs is going along in good manner.

I look forward to the time when we may see our way clear to build a small museum on the refuge, containing specimens of native birds and animals. I am certain that such a museum would be visited by thousands of interested *Persons* from New York, Philadelphia, as well as local students of wildlife, and other interested persons. Many of these persons already make regular visits to the coast to observe and study our wild birds. Such a museum would be helpful and instructive, and do much to promote public support and interest in our work.

Respectfully Submitted,
Albert Stadlmeir
 Albert Stadlmeir,
 Patrolman-Laborer,
 Brigantine National Wildlife Refuge.

and progress on the refuge, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service

is pleased to enter into a cooperative plan.

Mr. Taylor visited the refuge on July 11, 1941, and on July 12, 1941.

It was also very helpful.

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