

BRIGANTINE

QUARTERLY NARRATIVE REPORTS

FEBRUARY 1941 - JANUARY 1942

ROUTING SLIP

DIVISION OF WILDLIFE REFUGES

DATE: 2-10-1939 42

✓ MR. SALYER: _____

SECTION OF HABITAT IMPROVEMENT:

① ✓ ~~MRS. WOODIN:~~ Nov 3/6 3Mr. Kubichek WIK✓ MR. EIMER: DE 3/42Mr. Smith PAH 2/17/42

MISS GARRISON: _____

~~Mr. Griffith~~ REG 3/24/42✓ ~~Don Munt~~ PAD 3/30~~Miss Cook~~ WIC 4-2-42

✓ SECTION OF OPERATIONS: _____

SECTION OF ERA:

✓ ~~Mr. K...~~
Mr. Ball W 3/22Mr. Regan WIC 3/24/42✓ Mrs. Watkins W~~Dr. Bourn~~ WSP 3/24/42

Mrs. Kricun _____

Mr. Sommers _____

~~Mr. Gustafson~~ W 3/23

Miss Riley _____

✓ SECTION OF LAND MANAGEMENT: _____

STENOGRAPHERS:

~~Mr. Earnshaw~~ W 3/12~~Miss Whorley~~ W 2-17-42~~Mr. Ackerknecht~~ W

✓ DIVISION FILES:

SECTION OF STRUCTURES: _____

~~Mr. Taylor~~ W 3/26

REMARKS:

Biogentive quarterly
November-January 42

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FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
AND REFER TO

R
Brigantine
REPORTS

(Quarterly Narra-FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
tive

Nov. - Jan.) OFFICE OF REGIONAL DIRECTOR

1140 PARK SQUARE BUILDING
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

REGION 5

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

February 9, 1942.

The Director,
Fish and Wildlife Service,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

We are enclosing, herewith, Quarterly Narrative Report for the
period November, 1941 to January, 1942, for the Brigantine Refuge.

While on a recent trip to the refuge, I discussed with Mr.
Stadlmeir the necessity for advancing the completion of the head-
quarters improvements as much as possible, particularly as con-
cerns CCC labor.

Very truly yours,



S. B. Locke,
Regional Director.

Enclosure



REGION 3
NEW ENGLAND STATES
NEW YORK
CONNECTICUT
MASSACHUSETTS
RHODE ISLAND
VIRGINIA
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
MARYLAND
DELAWARE
NEW JERSEY
PENNSYLVANIA

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

(Quarterly Narrative Service)
REPORTS
Brigantine
Nov. - Jan. 1942

OFFICE OF REGIONAL DIRECTOR
110 PARK SQUARE BUILDING
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

ADVISE ONLY THE REGIONAL DIRECTOR
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
AND RETURN TO

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[Signature]
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Regional Director.

Enclosure



R
Brigantine

March 10, 1942

MEMORANDUM for Mr. Lincoln:

The following is an excerpt taken from the Brigantine National Wildlife Refuge Quarterly Report for the period November, 1941 to January, 1942:

"One of the most common of these species to be found here is the Atlantic Brant. These birds were first noted on the refuge on September 29, 1941 for this season. Brant reached their peak in this vicinity during the month of November when there were about 35,000 of the birds in Reeds Bay and immediate vicinity of the refuge. Top peak for Brant in Atlantic County was about 45,000 birds, and it is my opinion that is about 95% of the total Brant population in New Jersey, there being some birds in Barnegat Bay and Tuckerton Bay. I feel there has been a noted increase in Brant in this section for this season.

"Due to the loss of eel grass in this area the chief food for the Brant seems to be the so called Bay Cabbage. Apparently this food agrees with them for the birds appear to be in a good healthy and active condition. It is fortunate for the birds that they have a good supply of this cabbage as it certainly takes a considerable amount to provide food for such a number of fowl in a given area. However as a result from this food I would gather from remarks that I occasionally hear from gunners their meat is unfit for food purposes. Occasionally a small flock of Brant may be observed feeding out on the meadows but this is rare as they seem to prefer feeding in the water when conditions permit.

"On December 19 I captured two Brant on one of the flats at low tide by means of using a throw net. These two birds were shipped to the Wisconsin Department of Conservation at their Game Farm at Poynette, Wisc. I received word that these birds arrived at their destination in fine condition which was pleasing to hear as it was almost a three day journey for the birds. I found it rather a slow process to capture these birds as I had to wait for the birds to go onto a spotted area in order to spring the trap on them.

"At the time I sprung the net there were about 5,000 Brant close by. Immediately they all took wing with a great noise and alarm and left the area and it was several days before they would return again although they had used that flat regularly before I captured two of

their number. This will indicate just how wary these birds are. Formation of ice prevented further action at the time and I do not expect we will be able to try again before Spring after the ice has gone out of the bays."

This information may be of some importance in connection with next fall's hunting regulations covering brant.

A. C. Elmer,
Acting Chief,
Division of Wildlife Refuges.

ACE:egg

Brigantine National Wildlife Refuge
Quarterly Narrative Report
November, December and January.

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I.

I. GENERAL.

A.-Weather conditions,

Again rainfall in this section has been considerably below normal for the past quarter, In addition to being an extremely dry season, we have also had a very moderate temperature. There was never more than a thin coating of ice on the refuge ponds up to the end of December. Our first real freeze up came during the week of January 4 to 10, During this week all the refuge ponds and local bays and creeks were frozen over solid. This forced all the wildfowl in this area near to the coastal inlets in order to find open water to feed in. This lasted about one week, when we had a soft spell of weather which opened up all the bays and creeks, and they have been open up to this date, of January 31, 1942. Thus affording good feeding conditions once more for the fowl in this district.

B.-Water conditions.

So far we have no fresh water ponds on the Brigantine National Wildlife Refuge, and water levels in the ponds are maintained by tidal flows, and frequent high tides keep the ponds clean and free of objectionable growths.

Water levels in the ponds are controlled by plugging up the outlets so as to keep the water levels at about six inches below marsh level. So far these plugs have proved efficient for this purpose.

C.-Fires.

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

II. Wildlife.

A.-Waterbirds.

During the Fall Migration period there has been a steady increase of wildfowl to the refuge and vicinity, Including a greater portion of the species of waterfowl common to the Atlantic coast during the Winter season.

One of the most common of these species to be found here is the Atlantic Brant, These birds were first noted on the refuge on September 29, 1941 for this season. Brant reached their peak in this vicinity during the month of November when there were about 35,000 of the birds in Reeds Bay and immediate vicinity of the refuge. Top peak for Brant in Atlantic County was about 45,000 birds, and it is my opinion that is about 95 % of the total Brant population in New Jersey, there being some birds in Barnegat Bay and Tuckerton Bay. I feel there has been a noted increase in Brant in this section for this season.

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On December 19 I captured two Brant on one of the flats at low tide by means of using a throw net, These two birds were shipped to the Wisconsin Department of Conservation at their Game Farm at Poynette, Wisc. I received word that these birds arrived at their destination in fine condition, which was pleasing to hear as it was almost a three day journey for the birds. I found it rather a slow process to capture these birds as I had to wait for the birds to go onto a spotted area in order to spring the trap on them.

At the time I sprung the net there were about 5,000 Brant close by, Immediately they all took wing with a great noise and alarm and left the area, and it was several days before they would return again, although they had used that flat regularly before I captured two of their number. This will indicate just about how wary these birds are. Formation of ice prevented further action at the time, and I do not expect we will be able to try again before Spring after the ice has gone out of the bays.

I estimate that 35,000 was the peak number for Black Ducks during the month of December around the refuge and nearby vicinity. I also feel there was a substantial increase in these birds for this area this past season, and they made good use of the ponds on the refuge. There also seemed to be an increase of Mallards around the refuge. Pintails and Green Wing Teal were also quite common in this area during the months of October and November, and I would estimate the top number to be about 10,000 Pintails and 4,000 Green Wing Teal. On December 18 I observed 25,000 Pintails and 15,000 Black Ducks on the Killcohook National Wildlife Refuge at Pennsville, N.J.

Next in order to the Black Ducks I feel that Scaup were the most plentiful in this area, and I observed about 15,000 Scaup in Reeds Bay adjoining the refuge on December 9, in about equal proportions of the Greater and Lesser Scaups. Some of the other species noted from time to time were the Ruddy Ducks, Buffleheads, Shovelers, Baldpates and Goldeneyes. On December 9 I observed one flock of 25 Canvasbacks in Reeds Bay, These birds have been extremely scarce in these parts this past season.

For a few days in November we had about 50 Canada Geese on the refuge, But since these birds left geese have also been very scarce on and around the refuge.

There has been about 300 Canada Geese in Great Egg River near Job's Landing in Atlantic County. Apparently these geese intend to spend the Winter in that area. Years back when we had a good supply of Eel Grass in our coastal bays large numbers of Canada Geese spent the winter in these parts, and I dare say that the lack of food is the reason that more do not remain along our coast at present.

On one visit to Egg Island, near Fortescue, N.J. on December 18, 1941 I observed about 10,000 Snow Geese and 45 Blue Geese feeding on the meadows. These birds do certainly root up the meadows, and it calls for a large supply of food to satisfy their needs.

On January 22, 1942 I cooperated in taking the Waterfowl Inventory along the New Jersey coast. We left the Lakehurst Naval Air Station at 8.00am on board the Airship G-I. First we headed for the Raritan River and Bay, and then that portion of Lower New York Bay bordering along the New Jersey side. Then we covered on down along the coastal bays and tributaries to Cape May, N.J. Then up Delaware Bay to Egg Island and Maurice River, And then return to Lakehurst again at 5.00pm.

On this trip we estimated about 99,650 Black Ducks, 2,700 Mallards, 5,000 Pintails, 41,500 Greater Scaup, 40,000 Lesser Scaup, 21,500 Golden-eyes, 550 Baldpates, 50,000 Brant, 250 Canada Geese, 8 Whistling Swan, and 10,000 unidentified species, Making a total of 289,158 wildfowl for the area covered. No doubt but some of the unidentified species were Ruddy Ducks and Buffleheads. I did not see a Canvasback or Redhead on this trip of which I could be positive. The largest concentration of Scaups was in Raritan and Lower New York Bay, Black Ducks were fairly plentiful all along the route, but especially so in Atlantic and Cape May Counties. On this date we estimated about 40,000 Brant in Atlantic County along, The rest were divided about Barnegat Bay and Tuckerton Bay. We estimated about

8,000 Snow Geese in the flock at Egg Island on this trip. This count compares very favorably to the count taken last year, also taken during the month of January.

We have about 10,000 Herring Gulls wintering in the vicinity of the refuge. At times I observe a few of the Great Black Gull, but not in any great numbers.

B. Upland Game.

We still have about 25 Quail around the refuge headquarters that escaped the gunners during the open season. I have also counted ten rabbits on one day since the close of the season that also survived. One lonely cock Ring Neck Pheasant is all that I have observed on the refuge since the close of the season. If it had not been for the refuge I expect many of these would also have been killed. As it is we will have a small brood stock for another season. On January 20, 1942 I saw two Raccoons playing along Doughty's Creek. This is the first time I have observed any of these fur bearers on the refuge. I estimate our present Muskrat population to be about 50. This indicates an increase over last year, and in time no doubt we shall have more of these fur bearers on our refuge.

III. Refuge Development.

A. -Headquarters Building.

There has been considerable progress during the past quarters on the headquarter buildings, as indicated by attached pictures. The Refuge Manager's house is about 40 % complete, and the office and utility building is also about 40 % complete. Present indications are that we will be able to move into our new office about April 1 if the work continues on as at present. However I do not anticipate that we will be able to move into the

manager's dwelling until a couple months later at least at the rate things are moving at present.

Plans are also under way to start work on the grease rack and the oil house, When these are completed we will be able to service our own automobiles, which will help in saving funds, and be much more convenient and efficient.

Plans are under way to move the Motorboat Laughing Gull, FWS-I87 from Nacote Creek around into Doughty's Creek on the refuge. By doing this we will save \$5.00 a month wharfage, and many miles of travel by boat for patrol work and other purposes. At present it does not appear that we will be able to proceed with building the boathouse on the proposed site for some time to come.

B.-Dyke.

Work on the dyke has gone along slowly, We still have trouble with cave-ins and slides. The weather conditions have been very favorable for this kind of work, and we have not been hampered to any great extent on account of freeze ups, with the exception of about one week during January.

For some time we have been hauling gravel for fill on the Great Creek Road on the refuge area. High tides had washed out considerable of the roadway and this fill will bring the road up high enough in time so that ordinary high tides will not cover over the roadway, which has been more or less of a nuisance to us at times. The Township of Galloway supplied the gravel used for this purpose. Whatever is accomplished in this direction at present will be a saving to us later on.

C.-Equipment.

We have one $\frac{1}{2}$ Ton Chevy Pickup Truck for use on the refuge, and for local errands. This truck is in good condition. We also have the patrol boat Laughing Gull, FWS-I87. This boat is also in good running order and

kept ready for instant use. All our fire equipment is practically new and in good working order. We also have a fair supply of mechanic tools. All this equipment receives regular attention and kept oiled and clean.

Our office equipment consists of one filing cabinet, one office desk and three chairs, All in good condition. At present we have our office in the vacated W.P.A. office on the Great Creek Road in Galloway Township. This makes us a very nice office, and is very convenient to the refuge for our work.

IIII. Public Relations.

A.-General.

During the past quarter we have had a good number of visitors to the refuge who come for bird study purposes. Many of these visitors come from points as far removed as Philadelphia and New York City. Besides these, members of our local Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts are quite frequent visitors to the refuge. I always try to make their visits interesting as well as instructive. Local Sportsmen, and other conservationists, express a keen interest in our refuge development, and I hear many favorable comments on the project. We also receive good support from the local press from information passed on to them through our Press Releases.

B.-Official.

Refuge Supervisor Mr. J. H. Sutherlin has occasionally visited the refuge in connection with official business. Regional Director S. Barry Locke has also called at the refuge several times in connection with our work. On quite a number of occasions we have received visits from Messrs Teckmeyer, Lundeen and Peterson, who come to check up on work progress. I always find these visits to be helpful.

V. General.

I feel sure that the past quarter has shown a marked advancement in our building and construction program, And now we can begin to discern the gradual upbuilding of a program that shall develop into the full reality of the project that lies ahead. We meet obstacles that must be overcome, and then go forward to greater perfection. No doubt but that our national crisis may hinder part of our program for a time, And no one should doubt but that every effort should be made to win this war to save humanity from an awful fate. And some day posterity will view the results of our efforts, and say that we planned well and wisely.

Respectfully Submitted.

Albert Stadlmeir

Albert Stadlmeir,
Laborer-Patrolman In Charge,

January 31, 1942.



Headquarter Buildings November 25, 1941.



Headquarter Buildings December 20, 1941.



Utility Building December 20, 1941.



Buildings and their first baptism of snow I-IO-42.



Looking across Reeds Bay from Refuge January 10, 1942.
Reeds Bay frozen solid, No place for wildfowl
to feed here.