

ROUTING SLIP

DIVISION OF WILDLIFE REFUGES

DATE: May 26 194 7

____ MR. SALYER _____
____ ~~MR. KRUEGER~~ W 9/1 _____
____ ~~MR. DUMONT~~ PAD 7-2 _____
____ MISS BAUM _____

SECTION OF HABITAT IMPROVEMENT:

~~Mr. Griffith~~ REG 6-13
~~Dr. Bourn~~ WSB 5/27
~~Miss Cook~~ JWC 6-19

SECTION OF OPERATIONS:

~~Mr. Ball~~ J. B. 3
~~Mr. Regan~~ WGR 7/2/47

SECTION OF LAND MANAGEMENT:

~~Mr. Kent~~ AK 7/2
~~Mr. Ackerknecht~~ AK 7-23

SECTION OF STRUCTURES:

~~Mr. Taylor~~ W 10/1

STENOGRAPHERS:

AK 6-23-47

REMARKS:

CALHOUN NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE NARRATIVE REPORT

JANUARY - APRIL 1947

and

Summary of Year's Activities

Return to: Miss Cook

Summarization of Activities on
Calhoun Refuge
May 1, 1946 to April 30, 1947

Weather throughout the year was slightly subnormal, with cool weather prevailing. This spring temperatures were cool and delayed spring growth of vegetation.

A heavy rain in late August broke a dry spell when 9" fell in 11 hours. In the fall period 17.61" of rain fell, while the spring period had 10.15". February was extremely dry.

Pool levels were fairly constant all year, with only mild fluctuations of less than 1' until the March rise of 9.9'. This exceeded the January 1946 rise by 2.2'. There was no winter drawdown.

Swan Lake is silting in badly and should be protected by dikes if it is to be maintained as a waterfowl area.

Wood ducks made up the bulk of nesting ducks. Thirty-eight broods were observed, totaling 321 young, compared to 462 in 1945. Only two broods of mallards were seen.

The fall flight through this area was much larger than in 1945. The peak concentration of 1,051,200 on November 3 exceeded the peak of 500,000 in 1945 by more than double the 1945 figure. A good idea of the waterfowl picture is illustrated by the fact that this spring only 400,330 birds appeared at peak concentration, compared to 540,800 in 1945. Coot were extremely low, with a peak of only 5,000, compared to 400,000 in 1945.

The goose flight was about the same, except for an increase in blues and snows.

On opening day of the duck season last fall 600 hunters were out in the vicinity of Swan Lake. Ninety-four were checked, and they averaged 1.21 birds each.

About 20,000 mallards overwintered in the open river between Swan and Gilbert Lakes.

Food and cover conditions were improved, with good stands of sago in Swan Lake. Good marginal stands of smartweed, millet, and rice cut-grass developed.

Fur animals continued low except for raccoon, which increased somewhat.

A minor outbreak of lead poisoning occurred in January, when several ducks were found dead.

Eight violations were tried in State courts. Total fines of \$650.00 and total costs of \$23.00 were assessed.

Egrets continued common, and 1,200 occurred on Swan Lake during the summer peak.

CALHOUN REFUGE
NARRATIVE REPORT
JANUARY, FEBRUARY, MARCH, APRIL, 1947

I. GENERAL

A. Weather Conditions:

Temperatures were cooler than for the same period last year, with maximum readings lower all four months and minimum readings lower in all months but April. February and March were much colder than in 1946.

Relative readings are shown below:

Month	Year	Maximum	Minimum	Precipitation
January	1946	60	5	1.60
	1947	56	2	
February	1946	68	24	.00
	1947	59	5	
March	1946	89	34	2.95
	1947	63	12	
April	1946	89	34	5.60
	1947	84	38	
				10.15"

February was extremely dry.

B. Water Conditions:

High water did not occur this year until April, while January 1946 had high water. Prior to the April rise the river fluctuated mildly, from a few inches to one foot. Comparison with 1946 is shown in the following table:

	1946		1947	
	High	Low	High	Low
January	21.7	14.0	15.4	14.6
February	15.8	14.4	15.5	14.5
March	19.4	14.9	15.9	14.5
April	19.1	14.7	24.6	14.7

The March rise of 9.9' was greater than the January 1946 rise, which reached 7.7'. In 1946, however, the January low of 14.0' was .7' less than the March 1947 low.

II. WILDLIFE

A. Migratory Birds:

1. Populations and Behavior:

(a) Waterfowl:

Waterfowl in general showed a decrease this spring, except in canvasback and scaup, where an increase was noted. Mallards overwintered, with 20,000 present in the area on January 2. The peak concentration of mallards was 150,000 on March 14 as compared with 200,000 last year. By April 25 most mallards were gone.

Decreases occurred in mallards, baldpate, pintail, blue-winged teal, and woodies, while increases were noted in green-winged teal, redheads, canvasback, and scaup. However, because of the limited number of birds represented in the latter category the increases are not significant.

The following table shows arrival dates, departure dates, peak concentration, and comparison with 1946:

Species	Arrived	Departed	Increase or Decrease	Peak Concentration 1946	1947
Mallard	Winter resident	April 25	decrease	200,000	150,000
Black duck	Feb. 7	April 4	same	1,500	1,500
Gadwall	March 13	March 18	--	--	500
Baldpate	March 13	March 31	decrease	25,000	10,000
Pintail	Jan. 27	April 8	decrease	300,000	200,000
G.W.teal	Jan. 27	March 28	increase	--	2,000
B.W.teal	March 6	still here	decrease	5,000	2,000
Wood duck	March 17	still here	decrease	4,000	1,000
Redhead	Jan. 2	Feb. 14	increase	--	30
Ring-neck	--	--	--	--	8,000
Canvasback	Jan. 2	April 7	increase	300	5,000
Scaup	Jan. 2	April 28	increase	5,000	20,000
Goldeneye	Jan. 2	April 7	--	--	300
			Decrease of		
TOTAL			139,470	540,800	400,330
Coot	March 15		Decrease	400,000	5,000

(b) Geese:

Although Canada geese did not stop at Swan Lake in any numbers good flights passed through. They were first observed on January 10. The peak concentration of 100 occurred on March 20.

Blue and snow geese showed an increase. The first arrival was February 18, and the March 20 peak concentration was 500, compared to 105 in 1946.

2. Food and Cover:

Food was plentiful for waterfowl this spring. Many machine picked cornfields were flooded and considerable corn was thus made available to ducks.

D. Fur Animals:

(a) Muskrats:

Muskrats, never very plentiful, are decreased somewhat over last spring and are only rarely seen.

(b) Minks:

The mink population continues very low.

(c) Raccoon:

This species increased somewhat. Because of low prices last year few were taken. The district ranger observed some trappers releasing raccoon after trapping them because of low fur value.

E. Predaceous Birds:

Hawks and owls remained static. Eagles were common, with 50 being observed in a single day.

VI. PUBLIC RELATIONS

B. Refuge Visitors:

January 9 -- Frank Bellrose, Illinois Natural History Survey, checked on lead poisoning.

January 14 -- Jerome H. Stoudt, Fish and Wildlife Service, checked on lead poisoning.

February 25 -- C. C. Swears, Pittman-Robertson, checked on leased land.

F. Violations:

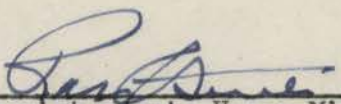
In cooperation with State Wardens, four men were apprehended hunting ducks in closed season and possessing wild ducks. Upon entering pleas of guilty, each of the four men was fined \$100.00 and costs of \$3.00.

One man, apprehended shooting a duck with a rifle, plead guilty in State Court and was fined \$25.00 and costs of \$3.00.

VII. OTHER ITEMS

In January dead ducks were observed in the vicinity of Swan Lake. Sportsmen, thinking starvation was responsible, invested considerable money to buy feed. The district ranger, however, diagnosed the cause as lead poisoning and satisfactorily handled the public relations angle. No ducks examined showed evidence of starvation, and most were full of corn.

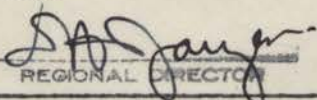
On January 14 the outbreak was checked by Biologist Jerome H. Stoudt. Eighteen mallards were examined and averaged 5.6 shot per duck. Many shot were worn down very thin, indicating that most of the lead had been assimilated. Mr. Davis, the district ranger, suggested that shot had been picked up in nearby Stump Lake, which has been heavily hunted in the past few years. Ducks from Swan Lake moved into Stump Lake after the hunting season closed.



Superintendent, Upper Mississippi
River Wildlife and Fish Refuge.

May 16, 1947.

APPROVED:



REGIONAL DIRECTOR

MAY 21 1947

3-1750
Form NR-1
(Nov. 1945)

WATERFOWL

Refuge Calhoun Months of January to April, 1947

(1) Species Common Name	(2) First Seen Number Date		(3) Peak Concentration Number Date		(4) Last Seen Number Date		(5) Young Produced Broods Seen Estimated Total		(6) Total Estimated for Period
	Number	Date	Number	Date	Number	Date	Broods Seen	Estimated Total	Estimated for Period
I. <u>Swans:</u> Whistling swan									
II. <u>Geese:</u> Canada goose	15	1/10	100	3/20	100	3/20			115
Cackling goose									
Brant									
White-fronted goose									
Snow goose	50	2/18	200	3/20	200	4/20			250
Blue goose	75	2/18	300	3/20	300	4/20			375
III. <u>Ducks:</u> Mallard	20,000	1/2	150,000	3/14	20	4/25			250,000
Black duck	200	2/7	1,500	3/14	3	4/14			2,000
Gadwall	40	3/13	500	3/15	10	3/18/47			1,000
Baldpate	100	3/13	10,000	3/15	50	3/31			20,000
Pintail	5,000	1/27	200,000	3/15	2	4/8			300,000
Green-winged teal	4	3/6	2,000	3/18	2	3/28			2,500
Blue-winged teal	200	4/3	1,000	4/9	25	4/28			2,425
Cinnamon teal									
Wood duck	10	3/17	1,000	3/20	2	4/28			2,000
Red head	25	1/2	30	2/14	30	2/14			100
Ring-necked duck									
Canvas-back	75	1/2	5,000	2/21	6	4/7			8,000
Scaup	100	1/2	20,000	3/28	10	4/28			30,000
Golden-eye	50	1/2	300	2/24	2	4/7			400
Buffle-head									
Ruddy duck									
IV. <u>Coot:</u>	4	3/15	5,000	3/28	12	4/28			10,000

(over)

WATERFOWL

Total waterfowl usage during period.....619,165

619,165

Peak waterfowl numbers

492.030

Areas used by concentrations Swan, Stump, Gilbert and

Calhoun Points Lakes.

Principal nesting areas this season

Reported by Edward A. Davis

Blue 6000
Snow 6000

- | | | |
|-----|---------------------|---|
| (1) | Species: | In addition to the birds listed on form, other species occurring on refuge during the reporting period should be added in appropriate spaces. Special attention should be given to those species of local and National significance. |
| (2) | First Seen: | The first refuge record for the species during the season concerned in the reporting period, and the number seen. This column does not apply to resident species. |
| (3) | Peak Concentration: | The greatest number of the species present in a limited interval of time. |
| (4) | Last Seen: | The last refuge record for the species during the season concerned in the reporting period. |
| (5) | Young Produced: | Estimated number of young produced based on observations and actual counts on representative breeding areas. Brood counts should be made on two or more areas aggregating 10% of the breeding habitat. Estimates having no basis in fact should be omitted. |
| (6) | Total: | Estimated total number of the species using the refuge <u>during the period</u> . This figure may or may not be more than that used for peak concentrations, depending upon the nature of the migrational movement. |

Note: Only columns applicable to the reporting period should be used. It is desirable that the Summaries receive careful attention since these data are necessarily based on an analysis of the rest of the form.

3-1751

Form NR-1A
(Nov. 1945)

MIGRATORY BIRDS

(other than waterfowl)

Refuge CalhounMonths of January to April, 1947

(1) Species	(2) First Seen		(3) Peak Numbers		(4) Last Seen		(5) Production			(6) Total
Common Name	Number	Date	Number	Date	Number	Date	Number Colonies	Total # Nests	Total Young	Estimated Number
I. <u>Water and Marsh Birds:</u>										
Blue heron	1	2/2	100	3/20	10	4/30				
Egret	2	4/3	6	4/30	2	4/30				
Grebe	2	3/1	300	4/15	2	4/30				
II. <u>Shorebirds, Gulls and Terns:</u>										
Gulls	100	1/1	1,000	2/15	10	4/30				
Terns	50	1/1	300	2/15	5	4/30				

(over)

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
III. <u>Doves and Pigeons</u> :					
Mourning dove					
White-winged dove					
IV. <u>Predaceous Birds</u> :					
Golden eagle	50	1/1	50	1/1	2
Duck hawk					4/1
Horned owl					
Magpie					
Raven					
Crow	100	1/1	2,000	3/1	50
					4/30
Reported by					Edward A. Davis

INSTRUCTIONS

- (1) Species: Use the correct names as found in the A.O.U. Checklist, 1931 Edition, and list group in A.O.U. order. Avoid general terms as "seagull", "tern", etc. In addition to the birds listed on form, other species occurring on refuge during the reporting period should be added in appropriate spaces. Special attention should be given to those species of local and National significance. Groups: I. Water and Marsh Birds (Gaviiformes to Ciconiiformes and Gruiformes)
II. Shorebirds, Gulls and Terns (Charadriiformes)
III. Doves and Pigeons (Columbiformes)
IV. Predaceous Birds (Falconiformes, Strigiformes and predaceous Passeriformes)
- (2) First Seen: The first refuge record for the species for the season concerned.
- (3) Peak Numbers: The greatest number of the species present in a limited interval of time.
- (4) Last Seen: The last refuge record for the species during the season concerned.
- (5) Production: Estimated number of young produced based on observations and actual counts.
- (6) Total: Estimated total number of the species using the refuge during the period concerned.

3-1752
Form NR-2
(April 1946)

UPLAND GAME BIRDS

1613

Refuge Calhoun

Months of January to April, 1947

(1) Species	(2) Density	(3) Young Produced	(4) Sex Ratio	(5) Removals	(6) Total	(7) Remarks	
Common Name	Cover types, total acreage of habitat	Acres per Bird	Number broods obs'd. Estimated Total	Percentage	Hunting For Re- stocking For Research	Estimated number using Refuge	Pertinent information not specificoally requested. List introductions here.
No upland game birds.							

INSTRUCTIONS

Form NR-2 - UPLAND GAME BIRDS.*

- (1) SPECIES: Use correct common name.
- (2) DENSITY: Applies particularly to those species considered in removal programs (public hunts, etc.). Detailed data may be omitted for species occurring in limited numbers. Density to be expressed in acres per animal by cover types. This information is to be prefaced by a statement from the refuge manager as to the number of acres in each cover type found on the refuge; once submitted, this information need not be repeated except as significant changes occur in the area of cover types. Cover types should be detailed enough to furnish the desired information but not so much as to obscure the general picture. Examples: spruce swamp, upland hardwoods, reverting agriculture land, bottomland hardwoods, short grass prairie, etc. Standard type symbols listed in Wildlife Management Series No. 7 should be used where possible. Figures submitted should be based on actual observations and counts on representative sample areas. Survey method used and size of sample area or areas should be indicated under Remarks.
- (3) YOUNG PRODUCED: Estimated number of young produced, based upon observations and actual counts in representative breeding habitat.
- (4) SEX RATIO: This column applies primarily to wild turkey, pheasants, etc. Include data on other species if available.
- (5) REMOVALS: Indicate total number in each category removed during the report period.
- (6) TOTAL: Estimated total number using the refuge during the report period. This may include resident birds plus those migrating into the refuge during certain seasons.
- (7) REMARKS: Indicate method used to determine population and area covered in survey. Also include other pertinent information not specifically requested.

* Only columns applicable to the period covered should be used.

Refuge Calhoun

April 30, 1947

(1) Species	(2) Density		(3) Removals					(4) Disposition of Fur						(5) Total Popula- tion
Common Name	Cover Types & Total Acreage of Habitat	Acres Per Animal	Hunting	Fur Harvest	Predator Control	For Re- stocking	For Research	Share Trapping			Total Refuge Furs Shipped	Refuge Income	Furs Donated	Furs Destroyed
								Permit Number	Trappers' Share	Refuge Share				
Muskrat	Most all bank rats. Cut grass, smartweed, wild millet, dead timber areas. 2900 acres in Swan and Gilbert Lakes.	19												150
Raccoon	Timber around the lakes.	29												100
Mink	Timber around the lakes.	100												30

REMARKS:

INSTRUCTIONS

Form NR-4 - SMALL MAMMALS (Include data on all species of importance in the management program; i.e., muskrats, beaver, coon, mink, coyote. Data on small rodents may be omitted except for estimated total population of each species considered in control operations.)

- (1) SPECIES: Use correct common name. Example: Striped skunk, spotted skunk, short-tailed weasel, gray squirrel, fox squirrel, white-tailed jackrabbit, etc. (Accepted common names in current use are found in the "Field Book of North American Mammals" by H. E. Anthony and the "Manual of the Vertebrate Animals of the Northeastern United States" by David Starr Jordan. "List of North American Recent Mammals" by G. S. Miller, Jr., a very good reference, is now out of print, although a revision is scheduled for publication in the near future.)
- (2) DENSITY: Applies particularly to those species considered in removal programs (public hunts, etc.) Detailed data may be omitted for species occurring in limited numbers. Density to be expressed in acres per animal by cover types. This information is to be prefaced by a statement from the refuge manager as to the number of acres in each cover type found on the refuge; once submitted, this information need not be repeated except as significant changes occur in the area of cover types. Cover types should be detailed enough to furnish the desired information but not so much as to obscure the general picture. Examples: spruce swamp, upland hardwoods, reverting agriculture land, bottom land hardwoods, short grass prairie, etc. Standard type symbols listed in Wildlife Management Series No. 7 should be used where possible. Figures submitted should be based on actual observations and counts on representative sample areas. Survey method used and size of sample area or areas should be indicated under Remarks.
- (3) REMOVALS: Indicate the total number under each category removed since April 30 of the previous year. Also show any removals not falling under heading listed.
- (4) DISPOSITION OF FUR: On share-trapped furs list the permit number, trapper's share, and refuge share. Indicate the number of pelts shipped to market and the total income to the refuge by species, including share-trapped furs and furs taken by Service personnel. Total number of pelts of each species destroyed because of unprimness or damaged condition, and furs donated to institutions or other agencies should be shown in the column provided.
- (5) TOTAL POPULATION: Estimated total population of each species reported on as of April 30.
- REMARKS: Indicate inventory method(s) used, size of sample area(s), introductions, and any other pertinent information not specifically requested.

