

ROUTING SLIP

BRANCH OF WILDLIFE REFUGES

DATE: 194

MR. SALYER

MR. KRUMMES

MR. DUMONT VAD 2-2-49

MISS BAUM

SECTION OF HABITAT IMPROVEMENT:

~~MR. GRIFFITH~~ PEG 12-1

DR. BURN 9-28

~~MISS COOK~~      *Just*      11-30

SECTION OF OPERATIONS:

~~MR. BALL~~

~~MR. REGAN~~ *JPR 12/2/48*

SECTION OF LAND MANAGEMENT:

~~MR. KENT~~ *JK*

MR. ACKERKNECHT *we*

SECTION OF STRUCTURES:

MR. TAYLOR *Nov 7 1/2*

MR. JOHNSTON

STENOGRAPHERS:

R.S.

# NARRATIVE REPORT

REFUGE: CALHOUN

PERIOD: MAY - AUGUST 1948

WS 13  
9/28

CALHOUN AND BATCHTOWN REFUGES  
NARRATIVE REPORT  
MAY, JUNE, JULY, AUGUST, 1948



I. GENERAL

A. Weather Conditions:

This was a cooler summer than in 1947, with maximum temperatures lower in every month but June, which had a 2° higher reading. July and August were much cooler, with maximums of 94° and 86°, respectively, compared to 101° and 102° in 1947. July had 6.41" more rain than in 1947. Rainfall for the period was 6.40" greater than last year, although June and August were drier.

Relative readings are shown below:

Month	Year	Maximum	Minimum	Precipitation
May	1947	88	38	2.58
	1948	82	45	2.99
June	1947	94	48	4.27
	1948	96	55	3.96
July	1947	101	53	2.87
	1948	94	56	9.28
August	1947	102	62	.56
	1948	86	53	.45
1947 Total				10.28
1948 Total				16.68

Precipitation was 6.40" greater than 1947, but 10.67" less than in 1946.

B. Water Conditions:

The river stages were lower this year than in 1947. There was no prolonged high water this season. One flash rise the last part of July did not last long enough to do any damage to food. It did, however, carry more trash in the river than is often the case in high water. Some signs were destroyed and others damaged.

The high reading for the summer of 1947 was 28.6 feet, compared to only 16.2 feet this season.

The fluctuating in pool levels due to dam manipulation was bad, as it often happened over the week ends, causing complaints from fishermen. Low water this year favored plant life, and vegetation has come back good in most areas.



The comparison of pool levels with the same period in 1947 is shown below:

Month	1947			1948		
	High	Low	Difference	High	Low	Difference
May	22.6	15.7	6.9	15.8	14.7	1.1
June	27.5	16.5	11.0	15.4	14.3	1.1
July	28.6	14.4	14.2	16.2	14.7	1.5
August	15.2	14.3	.9	15.3	14.8	.5

Maximum monthly variation in 1948 was 1.5 feet, compared to 14.2 feet in 1947. In 1948, variations were very slight, while with the exception of the .9 variation in August, the 1947 readings varied more than 7 feet. Water levels this year can be considered favorable, with fairly stable conditions obtaining throughout the period.

## II. WILDLIFE

### A. Migratory Birds:

#### 1. Populations and Behavior:

##### (a) Waterfowl:

Most ducks had left the area by the beginning of this report period, except for the limited number that remained all summer. Wood ducks showed an increase in broods this year, with larger broods being observed than last year. More favorable weather and water conditions contributed to increased production in the area. Almost all islands and other areas checked had some broods present, and several broods were observed back in the hills.

In 1947 only 14 broods were observed, including 13 broods of wood ducks and one mallard brood. This year 66 broods of wood ducks and 2 broods of mallards were seen. A comparison of 1947 and 1948 is shown in the following table:

Species	Broods seen		Young seen	
	1947	1948	1947	1948
Wood duck	13	66	67	531
Mallard	1	2	12	16
Totals	14	68	79	547

##### (b) Egrets:

Egrets have returned to this portion of the river in normal numbers this year. In 1947 the peak numbers were 30, compared to

200 in 1946. It is estimated that 1,500 of these birds now occur in the portion of the lower pools covered in the scope of this report.

(c) Shorebirds:

Lower, normal stable water levels this summer contributed to an increase of shorebirds on the lower portions of the river. High water last summer so reduced habitat that shorebirds were very limited.

2. Food and Cover:

Food and cover is as good on the lower pools as it has been for several years. Areas in Pools 25 and 26 have abundant vegetation, while the Stump Lake Area is the best it has been since we acquired land on Swan Lake. There is a considerable amount of sago, American pondweed, millet, cut-grass, and smartweeds. Sagittaria made exceptionally thrifty growth.

The Batchtown area has abundant smartweed on most ridges, comparing favorably with conditions which prevailed there in 1943. Sago and American pondweed is quite common in the water areas, while the ridges and islands have heavy smartweed-millet stands.

D. Fur Animals:

(a) Muskrats:

Muskrat sign is more common than last year. The increase is probably due to more favorable water conditions. All indications point to an increase in this species.

(b) Minks:

Minks have come back this year as a result of more favorable water conditions.

(c) Skunk:

Three skunk were seen one day while boundary lines were being brushed. This is the first time skunk have been seen in this area.

(d) Raccoon:

Raccoon sign is general throughout the bottoms, and the general opinion is that this species is on the increase. Last



year a lot of young were lost due to high water. The low price of raccoon pelts during the past few years has discouraged hunters from taking this animal.

#### E. Predaceous Birds:

Most of the eagles had left the area before the beginning of this report period. Red-tailed hawks are observed daily and show some increase. There are 25 estimated in the vicinity of Swan Lake at the present time.

Thirty turkey vultures were observed in the area. They were feeding on dead fish.

#### F. Fish:

The pool fluctuations, while not of too great proportions, have created unfavorable fishing conditions off and on throughout the summer. Some of the lakes where good catches are usually made have shown poor success this summer. Many of these lakes are silting in and getting more shallow each year. In the Batchtown area, especially in the Gilead Slough, where siltation has been limited, good catches have been reported all season. Drawdowns in Pool 26, which often occurred over week-ends, of a few inches to a foot, plays havoc with week-end fishing, creating wrath among the anglers. Fishing pressure has been increasing, and boat liveries in this area have been busy all summer. In the early part of the season some fairly good catches were made, but success has lessened as the weather warmed up.

### III. PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

#### A. Posting:

The red lands in this vicinity have approximately 66 miles of boundary still to be posted. In the three closed areas (Gilbert Lake, Swan Lake, and Batchtown) there is a total of 26 miles of boundary line. These have all been posted, but require annual maintenance. At the present time all except 2 miles of closed area line have been reconditioned, and the remaining line will be gone over in the near future. Closed area lines required considerable brushing this summer. One mile of posting was taken out by high water and had to be replaced. The entire 26 miles of closed area boundary will be checked shortly before the hunting season to make sure that all signs are in place and in good condition.

## IV. ECONOMIC USE

## E. Other Uses:

Seven permits for sharecropping were issued during the period, as follows:

Permittee	Address	Acres	Use
John Sherman	Grafton, Ill.	30	Corn
August Teppmeyer	Deer Plain, Ill.	10	Soy beans
Mrs. Katie Sevier	Deer Plain, Ill.	6	Corn
Henry C. Weigal	Golden Eagle, Ill.	20	Corn
W. F. Duncan	Grafton, Ill.	6	Corn
H. G. Bimslager	Golden Eagle, Ill.	80	Corn
Joe Navarre	Deer Plain, Ill.	6	Corn

## VI. PUBLIC RELATIONS

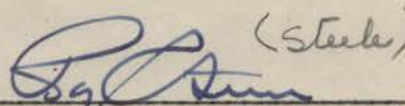
## A. Recreational Use:

A lot of camping, fishing, boating, and picnicking was done on both the Illinois and Mississippi Rivers this summer.

## E. Fishing:

Bass fishermen have not been very successful this year as the water was muddy most of the season. With the advent of warm weather, bass went to deep water and would not hit lures. Good catches of bluegills were made.

Commercial fishing has been good in this area. A good demand and high prices have encouraged fishermen to go out. Lots of big catfish were taken, some reaching 70 pounds. Fishermen report a very good season.

 (Steele)  
Superintendent, Upper Mississippi  
River Wildlife and Fish Refuge.

September 1, 1948.

APPROVED SEP 7 1948

  
ACTING REGIONAL DIRECTOR



## WATERFOWL

Refuge Upper Miss. Lower PoolsMonths of Mayto August1948

(1) Species  Common Name	(2) First Seen		(3) Peak Concentration		(4) Last Seen		(5) Young Produced		(6) Total
	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 Cackling goose Brant White-fronted goose Snow goose Blue goose									
III. <u>Ducks:</u> Mallard Black duck Gadwall Baldpate Pintail Green-winged teal Blue-winged teal Cinnamon teal Shoveller Wood duck Redhead Ring-necked duck Canvas-back Scaup Golden-eye Buffle-head Ruddy duck	8	6/10	16	6/18	8	6/18	2	16	16
	1	5/6	531	7/14	10	8/2	66	531	531
IV. <u>Coots:</u>									



## SUMMARIES

### Total Production:

Geese \_\_\_\_\_

Ducks 547

Coots \_\_\_\_\_

Total waterfowl usage during period 547

Peak waterfowl numbers 547

Areas used by concentrations Scattered over all areas.

Principal nesting areas this season Calhoun Point and

Long Lake areas.

Reported by Edward A. Davis

## INSTRUCTIONS

- (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 during the period. 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 Upper Miss. Lower PoolsMonths of May to August

1948

(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		4	5/5	100	8/11	100	8/11	1	50	50	300
Egrets		1	5/12	500	8/11	500	8/11	-	-	-	1500
II. <u>Shorebirds, Gulls and Terns:</u>											
Gulls		100	5/3	300	5/25	5	8/11				2000
Terns		150	5/3	500	5/25	3	8/11				3000

(over)



(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
III. Doves and Pigeons:					
Mourning dove					
White-winged dove					
IV. Predaceous Birds:					
Golden eagle					
Duck hawk					
Horned owl					
Magpie					
Raven					
Crow	5	5/5	1000	6/20	25
				8/11	10,000
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 Upper Miss. Lower Pools Months of May to August, 1948

(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 specifically requested. List introductions here.
	Nothing under this.									



## 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.