

BRANCH OF WILDLIFE REFUGES NARRATIVE REPORTS

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Stenographers

REFUGE BURFORD LAKE

PERIOD Sept - Dec 1958

BURFORD LAKE WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA
NARRATIVE REPORT
SEPTEMBER, OCTOBER, NOVEMBER, DECEMBER
1958

PERSONNEL:

Charles R. Bryant, Refuge Manager

Don E. Redfearn, Assistant Refuge Manager

Mrs. V. Fay Pope, Clerk-Typist

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I. GENERAL

A. Weather Conditions.

Readings from the weather station at Dulce are not available but it is doubtful if they would mean very much because of the distance from the Burford Lake Area.

It has been a very dry fall with only one snow storm occurring on November 15. This storm dropped about 5 inches and seemed to have a fairly good water content.

B. Habitat Conditions.

1. Water.

There has been little or no loss of water by evaporation during the fall months. Consequently water levels on all major lakes of the reservation at the close of the period remain much the same as when the period commenced.

Burford Lake covers about 1,000 surface acres; Stone Lake covers about 400 surface acres and is within 95% of capacity; Hayden Lake covers about 30 acres and is within 95% of capacity; Enbom Lake is full at close of period; Horse Lake covers about 325 acres and is about 80% of capacity; Dulce Lake covers about 100 acres and is about 80% of capacity; LaJara Lake covers about 250 acres and is 85% of capacity.

2. Food and Cover.

Food for waterfowl on all the lakes was in great enough quantity to take care of all their needs and then some. The main foods available were sago pondweed, widgeon grass, horned pondweed, prairie bulrush and a very rank growth of smartweed.

There is not much cover produced along the lake margins and about the only cover available is the roundstem bulrush in Hayden and LaJara Lakes and the cattail growth in Enbom Lake. Roundstem growths in Stone Lake made a good start this year and could very well make a marked change in the waterfowl use of this lake.

II. WILDLIFE

A. Migratory Birds.

The migration buildup that commenced in August reached its

peak about the first week in November when a total of 30,287 ducks and coot were estimated. Half of the total was Coot.

Fourteen Canada Geese were observed on Horse Lake on November 15 and nineteen were observed on Stone Lake on December 9.

The snow storm of November 15 brought cold weather that started freezing the lakes and pushed the birds on south. By December 9 only 2,600 ducks and coot remained and use was restricted almost entirely to Hayden and Stone Lakes.

III. REFUGE DEVELOPMENT AND MAINTENANCE

No development or maintenance was carried on during the period.

VI. PUBLIC RELATIONS

A. Refuge Visitors.

Lloyd Gunther, Assistant Refuge Supervisor, R.O., inspected the area on September 5.

B. Hunting.

A special deer hunt was held on a portion of the reservation in September. The hunt was a success from the standpoint of the few participating hunters, as all were successful in getting an animal, but not from the standpoint of the tribe. The tribe had hoped to realize a large monetary return from the hunt, but only 30 permits were taken at the tune of \$15.00 each.

Permits for waterfowl hunting showed even less return. About 30 of these permits were sold at the rate of \$5.00 each. Accurate information on success is not available but from the few contacts made it appears the hunter might as well kept his \$5.00 fee.

VII. OTHER ITEMS

A. Items of Interest.

The tribe was to hold an election in November to vote on new Council members, but a new set of by-laws was adopted changing the membership of the Council from 18 to 10 and having the chairman of the Council be the individual amassing the highest number of votes rather than the old method of having the Council body select their own chairman. Election under these new by-laws is scheduled for June of 1959.

It is difficult to ascertain what effect this is going to have on the Bureau's chances of renewing an agreement effective July 1, 1959.

Dated January 9, 1959

Respectfully submitted,

Don E. Redfearn

Don E. Redfearn
Assistant Refuge Manager

Approved by:

Charles R. Bryant

Charles R. Bryant
Refuge Manager

W
Reviewed:

William J. Fumman

Chief, Division of Wildlife

3-1750
Form NR-1
(Rev. March 1953)

WATERFOWL

REFUGE Burford Lake Wildlife Management Area

MONTHS OF September TO December, 1958

(1) Species	(2) Weeks of reporting period									
	: 8/31-9/6	: 9/7-13	: 9/14-20	: 9/21-27	: 9/28-10/4	: 10/5-11	: 10/12-18	: 10/19-25	: 10/26-11/1	: 11/2-8
	: 1	: 2	: 3	: 4	: 5	: 6	: 7	: 8	: 9	: 10
Swans:										
Whistling										
Trumpeter										
Geese:										
Canada										
Cackling										
Brant										
White-fronted										
Snow										
Blue										
Other										
Ducks:										
Mallard	270					210				530
Black										
Gadwall	270					10				970
Baldpate	60									4410
Pintail	1350					510				4516
Green-winged teal	500					50				292
Blue-winged teal	100									130
Cinnamon teal	50									
Shoveler	180					50				710
Wood										
Redhead	400					80				774
Ring-necked						50				
Canvasback	60									812
Scaup						4				176
Goldeneye										680
Bufflehead										680
Ruddy	500					130				495
Other										
A. Merganser										2
Coot:	6700					13500				15790

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Cont. NR-1

(Rev. March 1953)

WATERFOWL
(Continuation Sheet)

REFUGE Burford Lake Wildlife Management AreaMONTHS OF September TO December, 19 58

(1) Species	(2) Weeks of reporting period								(3) Estimated waterfowl days use	(4) Production Broods: Estimated seen: total
	11/9-15 11	11/16-22 12	11/23-29 13	11/30-12/6 14	12/7-13 15	12/14-20 16	12/21-27 17	12/28-1/3 18		
Swans:										
Whistling										
Trumpeter										
Geese:										
Canada	14				19				525	
Cackling										
Brant										
White-fronted										
Snow										
Blue										
Other										
Ducks:										
Mallard	743				160				40,964	
Black										
Gadwall	2555				140				89,040	
Baldpate	1950				600				91,770	
Pintail	2855				150				174,132	
Green-winged teal	450				10				33,614	
Blue-winged teal									4,410	
Cinnamon teal									1,750	
Shoveler	215				300				20,790	
Wood									26,768	
Redhead	180				10				26,768	
Ring-necked					50				1,750	
Canvasback	525				100				17,500	
Scaup	305				10				9,954	
Goldeneye										
Bufflehead	530				2				19,614	
Ruddy	135								28,385	
Other										
A. Merganser					100				714	
R-B Merganser					100				700	
Coot:	11431				700				149,714	

(over)

	(5) Total Days Use	(6) Peak Number	(7) Total Production
Swans			
Geese	525	19	
Ducks	561,855	14,497	
Coots	149,714	15,790	

SUMMARY	
Principal feeding areas	Burford, Hayden, Stone and Horse Lakes.
Principal nesting areas	

Reported by Don E. Redfearn
Don E. Redfearn, Assistant Refuge Manager

INSTRUCTIONS (See Secs. 7531 through 7534, Wildlife Refuges Field Manual)

- (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) Weeks of Reporting Period: Estimated average refuge populations.
- (3) Estimated Waterfowl Days Use: Average weekly populations x number of days present for each species.
- (4) Production: 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.
- (5) Total Days Use: A summary of data recorded under (3).
- (6) Peak Number: Maximum number of waterfowl present on refuge during any census of reporting period.
- (7) Total Production: A summary of data recorded under (4).

PUBLIC USE

Refuge Burford Lake Wildlife Management Area

Calendar Year 1958

Total Use Visitor-Days	Hunting Use	Fishing Use	Miscellaneous Use
Est. 100			100

Where practical, by means of occasional spot checks, or other methods, show by percent and visitor-days the breakdown of the above figures and other related information:

All hunting & fishing restricted to areas other than lakes supervised by bureau

Hunting (on refuge lands):	Percent	Visitor-Days	Acres	Miscellaneous:	Percent	Visitor-Days
Waterfowl				Recreation *	None	
Upland Game				Official	100%	100
Big Game				Economic Use	None	
Supervised by refuge		by State	No. of blinds	Other	None	

Hunting (off
refuge lands): Estimated man-days of hunting on lands
adjacent to the refuge _____ (These figures
should not be included in hunting-use totals above).

Fishing:

Acres of ponds or lakes _____ and miles of streams
_____ open to fishing.

Comments:

All hunting, fishing and economic use is
controlled by the Indian Service and the
Jicarilla Tribal Council.

*(including picnicking, swimming, boating,
camping, viewing wildlife, and photographing)