

CRESCENT LAKE

QUARTERLY NARRATIVE REPORTS

JULY 1932 - MARCH 1935

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JULY 1932 to MARCH 1935 .

File No
8
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
BUREAU OF BIOLOGICAL SURVEY
Miss Ruth

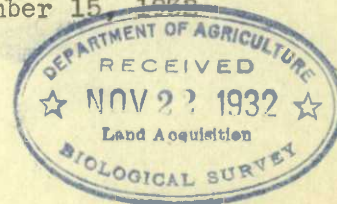
IN REPLY REFER TO

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Mumper, Nebraska

November 15, 1932

Chief,
Bureau of Biological Survey,
Washington, D.C.



Dear Sir:

Inclosed herewith you will find Quarterly Report on
Reservation Wild Life and Activities Appurtenant Thereto for
the Crescent Lake Migratory Bird Refuge for the First Quarter
of the Fiscal Year 1933.

Very truly yours,

William J. Krummes

Acting Supervisor,
Crescent Lake Migratory Bird Refuge.

*Very interesting indeed
RD*

July - Sept 1932

JWC

CRESCENT LAKE MIGRATORY BIRD REFUGE

QUARTERLY REPORT ON RESERVATION WILD LIFE AND ACTIVITIES
APPURTENANT THERETO.

FIRST QUARTER

FISCAL YEAR 1933

I. Report on the wild life observed during the period.

1. Birds observed and definitely identified.

Note: Underlined species found nesting on refuge, symbol
legend: (A) Abundant, (F) Frequent, (C) Common,
(O) Occasional.

Waterfowl

Mallard (A)
Pintail (F)
Gadwell (F)
Blue-winged Teal (A)
Green-winged Teal (A)
Canvas Back (C)
Red Head Duck (C)
American Widgeon (F)
Shoveller (A)
Ruddy Duck (C)
Coot (A)
Western Grebe (F)
X Hobbsell Grebe (O)
Eared Grebe (F)
Pied-billed Grebe (F)
Common Tern (A)
BlackTern (A)
White Pelican (O)

Game Birds

Prairie Hen (F)
Prairie Sharp-tailed Grouse (F)
Ring-necked Pheasant (C)
Mourning Dove (F)

Birds of Prey

American Eagle (O)
Golden Eagle (O)
Burrowing Owl (C)
X American Goshawk (C)
Marsh Hawk (C)
Sparrow Hawk (O)
X Prairie Falcon (C)

Shore Birds

Avocet (F)
Long-billed Curlew (F)
Willet (C)
Stilt (O)
Western Sandpiper (A)
Killdeer (A)
Wilson Snipe (C)
Semi-palmated Plover (O)
Wilson Phalarope (A)
Lesser Yellowlegs (C)
Greater Yellowlegs (C)
Greater Blue Heron (C)
Black-crowned Night Heron (A)
American Bittern (F)

Insectivorous

Red-winged Blackbird (A)
(F) Yellow-headed Blackbird (A)
Brewer Blackbird (O)
Meadowlark (Eastern and western) (A)
Horned Lark (A)
Lark Bunting (O)
Brown Thrasher (O)
Red-bellied Woodpecker (O)
Barn Swallow (C)
Whip-poor-will (O)
Night Hawk (F)
Kingbird (C)
Blue Jay (O)
Vesper Sparrow (A)
Yellow Warbler (O)

Nov 1932

Birds (cont)

Ducks
swc

As near as could be counted (about 1300 pair of ducks nested on the refuge during this last season. It is my opinion that not many over 50% of the actual birds nesting are counted during a census.)

During the last part of September many widgeon and shoveller ducks began to come in from the lakes farther north. On the first of October their number was estimated at 6000-7000.

During the second and third weeks of August the curlew left the lake country and concentrated about 10 miles south of the refuge in dry, hilly country. They left this concentration point on the migration flight during the last week of August.

The Avocets were starting their migration flight on the first of October.

2. Animal Life

Occasional antelope were observed on the refuge during the three month period, but as these animals move on and off the refuge continually they cannot be counted as residents of the refuge.

Muskrats are common on most of the lakes within the refuge but on only three lakes, Island, Christ, and Shafer, are they abundant enough to make trapping necessary.

Coyotes are numerous and are more or less of a nuisance to surrounding ranches, they undoubtedly do a great deal of damage to bird life as well. A trapping or poison campaign against them will be necessary this winter.

Jack rabbits are abundant on the west part of the refuge.

3. Reptile Life

Bull snakes and Garter snakes are abundant. It is my opinion that the Bull Snakes and larger Garter Snakes represent one of the principal hazards to the raising of the young waterfowl. On several occasions I have seen definite signs of their destructiveness. Early in July, on the shore of a small alkali lake, I located four avocet nests each with four eggs. A visit to these same nests two days later found them empty with no sign of the empty shells which would indicate hatching or the visit of any other predator. Many such indications were found.

Next summer a detailed study of nest depredation will be carried out to verify the above opinion.

II. Other Activities

1. Grazing

About 3500 head of cattle have been grazing on the East Division of the refuge during the last quarter. This division is used by the Abbott-Boyd Co. as summer range. Moving these cattle from the summer range to the winter range (West Division of the Refuge) had just began on October 1. The summer range at the time of moving, September 30, had been grazed close but in my opinion had not been overgrazed. The winter range was in good shape to receive the cattle altho shorter than normal because of the drought. The drought was also responsible for the winter range hay-meadows cutting about 300 tons short this summer.

No other big game animals other than the few antelope mentioned above are found on the refuge.

2. Protection

During the summer months it was my policy to visit every ~~part~~ part of the refuge at least once a week. With the opening of the season on Migratory Birds on October first a great part of my time will be spent in patrolling.

No violators were apprehended during the quarter. The local residents are entirely in favor of the refuge and as a consequence offer no protection problem. Many of them, in fact, cooperate in preventing violations by strangers who act either in ignorance or on purpose.

Many of my Sundays during the quarter were spent at the Island Lake fishing camp checking the catches made by fishermen to see that the State limit was not exceeded.

The fire hazard was low until the range grasses started to dry out during September. Since then a sharp lookout is kept for fires. Local residents and materials for fighting fire are available near at hand so that crews could be placed on a fire almost as soon as discovered. No fires have been reported in this vicinity so far this season.

3. Improvements and Developements

A tile drain system from the headquarters building was laid during July at a cost of \$55.

Improvements and Developements (Cont)

The grass and weeds around the headquarters building and in the adjacent grove were mowed and hauled away. This waste was spread on sandy places on the roads leading into the headquarters site.

Spent nine days during the month of September with Mr. A.C. Martin of the Food Habits Research Division making a study of the aquatic plants and other duck food sources on the refuge. Found that the food supply had decreased since the first examination in 1930. This is, no doubt, due to the low water of the last two years. A rise in water levels would unquestionably increase food content of the lakes.

A start was made on a herbarium which is to eventually include all plants found on the refuge, both aquatic and upland.

Posted fire warning and camp cleanup signs around Island Lake fishing camp and placed trash receptacles there for debris from the camps.

Carried on experiments to determine best method of boundary ~~post~~ posting to withstand cattle damage. Found that ten foot post set three feet in the ground, the post studded with mowing machine sickle sections, kept cattle from rubbing them over. Replaced what boundary posts I could with the money available.

4. Public Relations

Public relation activities for this quarter consisted mainly of visits to the Island Lake fishing camp explaining purposes of the refuge and describing boundaries.

5. Miscellaneous Activities

Discovered sick ducks late in August on Black Steer Lake which lies just to the north of the refuge. Made several visits to this lake gathering what weakened birds I could find. Sent four sick birds (2 ducks, 1 killdeer, 1 bittern) to Mr. Kalmbach in Denver. Mr. Kalmbach definitely identified the trouble as the common Duck Sickness. Of six sick birds picked up and brought to Headquarters, given fresh water and food, only one survived and was released.

Respectfully submitted,

William T. Hummer

Acting Supervisor,

Crescent Lake Migratory Bird Refuge.