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~~Miss Ruth~~ ~~Mr Henderson~~
~~Mr Redington~~
~~Mr. J. H. Brown~~
~~Miss Ruth~~

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
BUREAU OF BIOLOGICAL SURVEY

IN REPLY REFER TO

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Humper, Nebraska
April 11, 1933.

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

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4/21/33*
*Mr Young should
see this
part*

Dear Sir:

Inclosed herewith you will find Quarterly Report
on Reservation Wild Life and Activities Appurtenant There-
to for the Crescent Lake Migratory Bird Refuge covering
the Third Quarter of the Fiscal Year 1933.

Very truly yours,

William T. Krummer

Acting Supervisor,
Crescent Lake Migratory Bird Refuge.

Jan - March 1933

CRESCENT LAKE MIGRATORY BIRD REFUGE

QUARTERLY REPORT ON RESERVATION WILD LIFE AND ACTIVITIES
APPURTENANT THERETO

THIRD QUARTER

FISCAL YEAR 1933

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

1. Birds - No waterfowl were present on the Refuge until about March 1, at which time the larger lakes on the West Division began to clear of ice. Prior to this time the only birds wintering on the refuge were ring-necked pheasants, prairie hens, and sharp-tailed grouse. The pheasants were concentrated in three places, a small band near the Abbott-Boyd Ranch Headquarters, a small band on the north end of Island lake, and a band at Refuge Headquarters. As many as 24 birds were counted at one time in this latter band. Several large coveys of prairie hens and grouse (from 30-50 birds in each covey) were scattered over the refuge.

On February 22 a large flight of ducks numbering several thousand, apparently mallard and pintail, passed over Island Lake going north. The first waterfowl to stop on the refuge after the opening of the lakes were mallard and pintail. These were quickly followed by canvas back, red-head, scaup, and mergansers. On March 3 the only lakes open were Island, Crescent, Blue, Shafer, and part of Hackberry. About 10,000 birds were resting on the refuge parts of these lakes.

On March 4 and 5 a severe blizzard raged over this region again closing the lakes and forcing all waterfowl south to the North Platte River. The larger lakes were again open a few days after the storm and a census taken on March 9 listed 5000 birds on the refuge, mostly canvas back, mallards and mergansers. By March 15 gadwell, shovellers, baldpate, and green-wing teal had started to come in. A count made on March 24 listed 25,000 waterfowl resting on the lakes of the Refuge.

Canada and snow geese have passed thru in large numbers. One band of 900 snow geese spent about two weeks on Roundup Lake. Whistling Swan have also been seen. The long-billed curlew made their first appearance during the last week in March.

Birds (Cont) - Birds observed and definitely identified during the period.

Waterfowl

Mallard
Gadwell
Blue-wing teal
Green-winged teal
Pintail
Shoveller
Baldpate
Canvas back
Redhead
Scaup
Bufflehead
Ruddy
American merganser
Red-breasted merganser
Hooded merganser
Coot
Whistling Swan
Canada Goose
Snow Goose
Gull
Pied-billed grebe

Shore Birds

Long-billed curlew
American bittern
Killdeer
Sanderling

Insectivorous

Magpie
Crow
Blue jay
Mellow-headed blackbird
Red-winged blackbird
Brewer blackbird
Meadow lark
Horned lark
American robin
Northern Shrike
Slate-colored junco
Flicker

Upland Game Birds

Ring-necked pheasant
Prairie hen
Sharp-tailed grouse

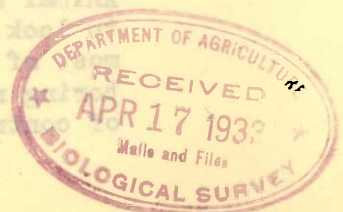
Birds of Prey

Bald Eagle
Prairie falcon
Marsh hawk

2. Animal Life -

(a) Muskrats - Island, Christ, Shafer, Crane, and Smith Lakes were opened to public trapping under permit during the month of March. Six permits to trap were issued. The number of rats taken was small due, mainly, to the high winds that prevailed during the trapping season. Muskrats were taken from the lakes as follows: Island, 306; Crane, 74; Smith 53; Shafer, 22; and Christ 29.

(b) Coyotes - Coyotes seem to be plentiful on the Refuge and at this time are feeding mainly on carcasses of cattle dead by natural means. There have been some reports from neighboring ranches that coyotes have killed one and two day old calves. Mr. Stone, trapper with the Division of Predatory Animal and Rodent Control, visited the Refuge February 16-18, to look into the coyote situation. I took Mr. Stone over most of the refuge and we also talked with several neighboring ranchers. All were of the opinion that some method of control should be instigated.



II Other Activities

1. Grazing - Slightly more than 2000 head of cattle are being fed at present on the extreme west end of the refuge. These cattle are doing some foraging in the hills of the winter range. None of this years grass is high enough for grazing so hay is still the main source of forage. About 700 head of cattle are being wintered on the Jones Meadows of the east end.
2. Protection - No violations have been noted on the refuge during this period. A sharp lookout was kept, during open water in March, for muskrat poachers, but no indications were seen.
3. Improvements and Developments - The Harris Tract of approximately 2000 acres has been added to the Refuge. This tract is especially desirable as it ties in the east and west divisions of the refuge. During this period boundary marking shields were placed along outside boundaries of this tract and boundary markers removed from the interior lines.

Work has been started on the replacing of the old boundary markers with a larger, better protected post that will withstand cattle damage. This work will be continued as fast as the posts can be obtained.

Considerable painting has been done at headquarters both interior and exterior.

Lines have been run and stakes set for the new fences setting off the Meeker Lake experimental nesting area, Island Lake Recreational Area, and at Headquarters. Bids have been submitted on materials for these projects and work will start soon after the first of April.

4. Miscellaneous Activities - Considerable work has been done toward formulating a plan of exchanges to permit rounding out of refuge boundaries. The plan resting, of course, on the passing of legislation permitting exchanges. Some owners have been interviewed and several areas have been checked examined with exchange possibilities in mind.

Respectfully submitted,

William J. Krumm

Acting Supervisor,
Crescent Lake Migratory Bird Refuge.



*Work stopped
under stop
order. President
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to proceed
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1. Grazing - Slightly more than 2000 head of cattle are being fed at present on the extreme west end of the refuge. These cattle are doing some foraging in the hills of the winter range. None of this year's grass is high enough for grazing so hay is still the main source of forage. About 700 head of cattle are being wintered on the Jones Meadows of the east end.

2. Protection - No violations have been noted on the refuge during this period. A sharp lookout was kept, during open water in March, for muskrat poachers, but no indications were seen.

3. Miscellaneous Activities - The main tract of approximately 2000 acres has been added to the Refuge. This tract is especially desirable as it lies in the east and west divisions of the refuge. During this period boundary marking shields were placed along outside boundaries of this tract and boundary markers removed from the interior lines.

Work has been started on the replacing of the old boundary markers with a larger, better protected post that will withstand cattle damage. This work will be continued as fast as the posts can be obtained.

Considerable painting has been done at headquarters both interior and exterior.

Lines have been run and stakes set for the new fences setting off the Moskey Lake experimental nesting area, 12-land Lake Recreational Area, and at Headquarters. Birds have been submitted on materials for these projects and work will start soon after the first of April.

Miscellaneous Activities - Considerable work has been done toward forming a plan of exchange to assist in the out of refuge boundaries. The plan resting, of course, on the passing of legislation permitting exchanges. Some owners have been interviewed and several areas have been checked examined with exchange possibilities in mind.

Respectfully submitted,

William J. Harrison

Acting Supervisor,
Crescent Lake Migratory Bird Refuge.

