UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

BUREAU OF BIOLOGICAL SURVEY

IN REPLY REFER TO

CRESENT LAKE MICRATORY BIRD REFUGE

QUARTERLY REPORT ON RESERVATION WILD LIFE AND ACTIVITIES APPURIUMNANT TELERISTO.

SECOND QUARTER

Oct December 1936

- I. Report on the wild life observed during the period.
 - 1. Birds observed and definitely identified.

Waterfowl

Matlard Gadwell Blue-wing Teal Green-wing Teal Pintail Shoveller Canvas-back Redhead Buffle-head Ruddy American Golden-eye Red-breasted Merganser Coot Whistling Swan

Upland Game Birds

Canada Goose

Ring-necked Pheasant Sharp-tailed Grouse Prairie Hen

Shore Birds

Wilsons Snipe Killdeer American Bittern Greater Blue Heron Western Sandpiper Avocet

Insectivorous

Blue Jay Red-winged Blackbird Magpie Brewer Blackbird Brown Thrasher Swallow Robin Meadow Lark

Birds of Prey

Screech Owl Hoot Owl Burrowing Owl Swainson Hawk Marsh Hawk Sparrow Hawk Rough Legged Hawk

Many ducks were resting and feeding on the lakes within the refuge at the beginning of this quarter, consisting of Mallards, Blue-wing Teal, Green-wing Teal, Gadwell, Buffle-head, and Golden eye.

There seemed to be an unusual number of Buffle-head ducks this falle

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The main northern flight did not come down until Nov. 26th, at which time we had a cold wave from the north, and in two day's time, the lakes were all froze over, and the ducks mooved down to open water on the North Platte River Refuge.

A flock of 6 Whistling Swans stayed on Swan Lake for about a week in the first part of November.

A covey of about 50 Ring-necked Pheasants are wintering around Gimlet Lake, and Refuge Headquarters.

I have 250 lbs. of cracked corn and wheat, which was turned over to me by The Game, Forestation & Parks Commission, which I have been scatering around the small flowing well on the north-west bank of Gimlet Lake, at which place the Pheasants come for water.

There are several coveys of 25 or 30 Prairie Chickens, acattered over the refuge.

2. Animal Life.

Coyotes have been pretty well cleaned up within, and around the refuge, since the furs became prime this fall.

Mr. John Martin, U.S. Govt. Trapper, has been living in the small house here at headquarters, and trapping within the refuge since November lat., and has taken out 27 coyotes up to Jan. 1st. There has also been a trapper working on the Eldred Ranch, who started early in the fall, and the last I heard, he had caught 87 coyotes. Another trapper has been trapping on the Ranch belonging to Maurice Peterson, and has caught between 30 and 40 coyotes.

Muskrats are common on most of the lakes within the refuge, being most abundant on Smith Lake.

Jack Rabbits are numerous, have counted as high as 50 within the lights of the car, while driving a distance of 3 or 4 miles
at night. They started in eating the bark off of the small tree's
which have been set out around headquarters. Have wrapped all of
them with building paper, and have put a stop to this.

Antelope are frequently sighted south of the refuge, (between the refuge and Oshkosh) have seen from 6 to as high as 16 in a band, There is a band of 20 antelope which stay about 4 miles south of Camp Valley, and also another band of 20 about 8 miles south of Camp Valley.

Since the grass has dried up on the prairie, the antelope which summers in the vicinity of Blue Creek, which is south, and a little east of refuge headquarters, have mooved down to the corn fields north of Oshkosh.

II. Other Activities

1. Protection.

During the open season on migratory birds, the surveying party had use of the refuge Pickup, and left me without a car for patrolling, but I was over the gefuge once a week with Mr. Dietlein who was measuring the 33 test wells used for ground water study, and reading lake guages, and no violations were noted.

Hunters were very few in this section during the open season,

Local hunters are in favor of protecting the refuge, and show respect for the refuge boundries.

Three cars of hunters from other sections of the State stopped in at refuge headquarters during the open season to look over map of the refuge, and told me that they would have not came here to hunt if they had known that there was a refuge here.

No fires were reported during the fire season.

2. Improvements and Developments.

Telephone has been installed in east cabin, and also in basement at headquarters, which puts telephone line built by CCC in working order.

Fire caches have been equipped with buckets, sacks, and shovels.

Permanent Bench Marks have been placed on all of the most important lakes for checking water levels, and also at each of the 33 test wells used for ground water study on the refuge.

Respectfully submitted, Earl Ladd.

Acting Supervisor,

Cregent Lake Migratory Bird Refuge.



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