

July-Sept 1935

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
BUREAU OF BIOLOGICAL SURVEY

IN REPLY REFER TO

11/8/35

CRESCENT LAKE MIGRATORY BIRD REFUGE

QUARTERLY REPORT ON RESERVATION WILD LIFE AND ACTIVITIES
APPURTENANT THERETO.

FIRST QUARTER (*July-Sept 1935*) FISCAL YEAR 1936

I. Report on wild life observed during the period.

1. Birds observed and definately identified.

Waterfowl

- ✓ Mallard
- ✓ Blue-winged Teal
- ✓ Green-winged Teal
- ✓ Canvasback
- ✓ Red-head
- ✓ Pintail
- ✓ Ruddy
- ✓ Shoveler
- ✓ Baldpate
- ✓ Lesser Scaup
- ✓ Gadwall
- ✓ Coot
- ✓ Horned Grebe
- ✓ Pied-billed Grebe
- ✓ Western Grebe
- ✓ Black Tern
- ✓ Common Tern
- ✓ White Pelican
- ✓ Herring Gull
- ✓ Ring-billed Gull

Upland Game Birds

- ✓ Sharp-tailed Grouse
- ✓ Prairie Chicken
- ✓ Ring-necked Pheasant

Shore Birds

- ✓ Black-crowned Night Heron
- ✓ Greater Blue Heron
- ✓ American Bittern
- ✓ Long-billed Curlew
- ✓ Killdeer
- ✓ Semi-Palmated Plover
- ✓ Upland Plover
- ✓ Lesser Yellow-legs
- ✓ Wilson Snipe
- ✓ Western Willet
- ✓ Wilson Phalarope
- ✓ Western Sandpiper
- Godwit

Birds of Prey

- ✓ Prairie Falcon
- ✓ Marsh Hawk
- ✓ Osprey
- ✓ Sharp-shinned Hawk
- ✓ Rough-legged Hawk
- ✓ Western Red-tailed Hawk
- ✓ Swainson's Hawk
- ✓ Sparrow Hawk
- ✓ Bald Eagle
- ✓ Short-eared Owl
- ✓ Burrowing Owl
- Barred Owl
- Barn Owl

*Carded
BWM*

FILE COPY
MIGRATORY WATERFOWL DIVISION

Insectivorous

California Red-wing Blackbird	Least Fly-catcher
Eastern Red-wing Blackbird	Robin
Brewer Blackbird	Barn Swallow
Yellow-headed Blackbird	Blue Jay
<u>Magpie</u>	Logger-head Shrike
White-crowned Sparrow	Night Hawk
White-throated Sparrow	Meadow Lark
King Bird	Brown Thrush
Red-shafted Flicker	Western Wood Pewee
Blue Bird	Arkansas Kingbird.

1935
ducks
JWC
(An estimate taken during the nesting season indicated about 800 pairs of ducks nesting on the refuge. This is due I am pretty sure to the lack of cover at the start of the nesting season, due to the mowing of the hay within the nesting area's as, a short time before the start of the nesting season, ducks were abundant on the refuge, an estimate indicated approximately 14000 ducks at this time.) These ducks gradually left this section of the country, and at the start of the nesting season there was approximately 8000 ducks (including Coot) on the refuge, which remained for the summer.)

During the spring and early summer, all of the lakes on the refuge were on the raise, the height of this rise was reached on June 20th., at which time all of the lakes began to rapidly fall. By August 8th water levels had become so low that the potholes in this section of the country had dried up, and ducks which had been staying on these potholes moved in to the larger bodies of water. A count taken at this time in cooperation with More Game Birds in America showed that 10.182 ducks were on the refuge, including Crescent Lake on which ducks were most abundant. This count was of ducks actually seen, only, and no doubt there were numerous ducks which were not observed.

During the third week in July the Long-billed Curlew started migrating and were practically all gone by the middle of August.

2. Animal Life.

Antelope were occasionally observed on the refuge during the quarter, these being sighted in the vicinity of Crane Lake.

Coyotes were cleaned up during the winter of 1934 and 1935, and no signs of them were found during the summer, although signs of coyotes along the shores of the lakes have been found this fall, and they can be heard howling in the vicinity of Island Lake almost every night,

Muskrats have been found on Smith; Shaffer, Island; Crane; Hackberry; and Gimlet Lakes, being most abundant on Smith Lake, but are not abundant enough to make trapping necessary.

Jackrabbits are abundant over the entire refuge.

3. Reptile Life.

Garter Snakes, Blue Racer, and Bull Snakes are abundant but no signs of nest depredations that could be charged to these were found during the nesting season.

II. Other Activities.

1. Grazing.

About 3500 head of cattle have been grazing on the east part of the refuge during the summer, this end of the refuge being used as a summer range by the Abbott Ranch. This part of the refuge has been grazed short, but is in a much better shape than it was during the fall of 1934.

The west part of the refuge which will be used by the Abbott Ranch as a winter range is in very good shape to receive these cattle when they are transferred from the summer range.

2. Protection.

During the summer the entire refuge has been patrolled each week. No violators were apprehended during the quarter.

During Saturdays and Sundays on which days fishermen were most numerous, the recreational areas were patrolled.

The fire hazzard has been low up until the present time, but alookout for fire will have to be kept from now on. It is my plan to place a telephone at the Island Lake Fish Camp, so that any fires sighted from there can be immediatly reported, this can be done by constructing only one mile of telephone line.

3. Improvements and Developments.

Road signs have been made and the main traveled road from Refuge Headquarters to Alliance has been marked, and I have

been told by people that came over this road, that do not know the road, that it is very easy to follow now that it has been marked.

One of the windmills on the Harris place on Crane Lake has been taken down and moved to the Island Lake Recreational Area, also a stock tank was moved from the Harris place and placed by this windmill, this supplies a plenty of water for fishermen to clean their fish, and to keep the fish cleaning table cleaned up.

Weeds and grass has been mowed around refuge headquarters and this grass and weed's has been placed on the road west of headquarters which was becoming impassable.

A part of the glass in the Observation Tower was broken out, these glass'es have all been replaced.

The Crane Lake Recreational Area has been posted with Recreational Area Boundry Signs.

Signs reading(No Fishing On This Side Of Lake)which were on the west side of Island Lake, where fishermen had to go some distance down into this closed area before they came to one of these signs, have been moved up to where the main traveled road enters this area, and no trouble has been had keeping fishermen out of this area since the moving of these signs.

All of the out buildings on the Harris Place on Crane Lake have been torn down, and the lumber from them has been piled up. This lumber will be hauled over to refuge headquarters in the near future, and this area will be cleaned up.

There were also (4) old boats left by these people when they vacated, these boats were all rotted out, and fishermen had calked them with rags so that they could get out onto Crane Lake with them. These boats were in such poor shape that even after they had been calked it almost kept one person busy bailing the water out of them while in use. These boats have been torn up, as I was afraid that someone would be drowned by using them.

4. Public Relations.

Most every Sunday was spent at the Island Lake Recreational Area among fishermen.

Respectfully Submitted,

Earl W. Ladd.

Acting Supervisor,
Crescent Lake Migratory Bird Refuge.



been told by people that came over this road, that do not know the road, that it is very easy to follow now that it has been marked.

One of the windmills on the Harris place on Grane Lake has been taken down and moved to the Island Lake Restorational Area, also a stock tank was moved from the Harris place and placed by this windmill, this supplies a plenty of water for fishermen to clean their fish, and to keep the fish cleaning table cleaned up.

Weeds and grass has been mowed around refuge headquarters and this grass and weed's has been placed on the road west of headquarters which was becoming impassable.

A part of the glass in the Observation Tower was broken and these glass's have all been replaced.

The Grane Lake Restorational Area has been posted with Restorational Area Boundary Signs.

Signs reading (No Fishing On This Side Of Lake) which were on the west side of Island Lake, where fishermen had to go some distance down into this closed area before they came to one of these signs, have been moved up to where the main traveled road enters this area, and no trouble has been had keeping fishermen out of this area since the moving of these signs.

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There were also (4) old boats left by these people when they vacated, these boats were all rotted out, and fishermen had called them with tags so that they could get out onto Grane Lake with them. These boats were in such poor shape that even after they had been caiked it almost kept one person busy bailing the water out of them while in use. These boats have been torn up, as I was afraid that someone would be drowned by using them.

4. Public Relations.

My Sunday was spent at the Island Lake Restorational Area with fishermen.

Respectfully Submitted,

Carl W. Ladd

Acting Supervisor,
Grassent Lake Migratory Bird Refuge.



Dec. 28, 1936

WATERFOWL---

Noted on Crescent Lake Refuge, Garden Co., Nebr.
During 1936.

By W. W. Bennett, Asst. Refuge Mgr.

See also

Waterfowl

(Carded)

SPECIES	ABUNDANCE
White Swan - 180 <u>Cygnus columbianus</u> (Ord)	Occasional migrant
Canada - 172 <u>Branta canadensis canadensis</u> (Linnaeus)	Tolerably common migrant
Lesser Snow Goose - 169 <u>Chen hyperborea hyperborea</u> (Pallas)	Tolerably common migrant
-132 <u>Anas platyrhynchos platyrhynchos</u> (Linnaeus)	Abundant resident
-135 <u>Chauleasmus streperus</u> (Linnaeus)	Abundant Summer resident
-137 <u>Mareca americana</u> (Gmelin)	Abundant Summer resident
-143 <u>Dafila acuta tzitzihua</u> (Vieillot)	Abundant Summer resident
-139 <u>Nettion carolinense</u> (Gmelin)	Common summer resident
-140 <u>Querquedula discors</u> (Linnaeus)	Abundant summer resident
-141 <u>Querquedula cyanoptera</u> (Vieillot)	Occasional summer resident
-142 <u>Spatula clypeata</u> (Linnaeus)	Common summer resident
-146 <u>Nyroca americana</u> (Eyton)	Common summer resident, Tolerably
-150 <u>Nyroca collaris</u> (Donovan)	Occasional migrant
-147 <u>Nyroca valisineria</u> (Wilson)	Common migrant - Occasionally nests
-149 <u>Nyroca affinis</u> (Eyton)	Tolerably common summer resident
-151 <u>Glaucionetta clangula americana</u> (Bonaparte)	Tolerably common resident
-153 <u>Charitonetta albeola</u> (Linnaeus)	Common migrant
-165 <u>Melanitta delgandi</u> (Bonaparte)	Rare migrant
-167 <u>Erismatura jamaicensis rubida</u> (Wilson)	Tolerably common summer resident
Oct 221 <u>Fulica americana americana</u> (Gmelin)	Common summer resident

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Biom

Mammals.

UPLAND GAME BIRDS

Noted on Crescent Lake Refuge, Garden Co., Nebr.

During 1936.

By W. W. Bennett, Asst. Refuge Mgr.

SPECIES

ABUNDANCE

Greater Prairie-Chief 305	<u>Tympanuchus cupido americanus</u> (Reichenbach)	Tolerably common resident
Prairie Dog 308	<u>Pedioecetes phasianellus campestris</u> (Ridgway)	Tolerably common resident
Ring-necked Pheasant 309	<u>Phasianus colchicus torquatus</u> (Gmelin)	Common resident
Sandhill Crane 310	<u>Grus canadensis tabida</u> (Peters)	Tolerably common migrant
Killdeer 273	<u>Oxyechus vociferus vociferus</u> (Linnaeus)	Abundant summer resident
	<u>Numenius americanus americanus</u> (Bechstein)	Abundant summer resident
	<u>Bartramia longicauda</u> (Bechstein)	Common summer resident
-249	<u>Limosa fedoa</u> (Linnaeus)	Occasionally summer resident
-316a	<u>Zenaidura macroura marginella</u> (Woodhouse)	Common summer resident

OTHER IMPORTANT GAME BIRDS

Noted on Crescent Lake Refuge, Garden Co., Nebr.

During 1936.

By W. W. Bennett, Asst. Refuge Mgr.

<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>ABUNDANCE</u>
-212 <u>Rallus limicola limicola</u> (Vieillot)	Occasionally summer resident
-230 <u>Capella delicata</u> (Ord)	Occasional migrant
-258a <u>Catoptrophorus semipalmatus</u> <u>inornatus</u> (Brewster)	Occasionally summer resident
-214 <u>Totanus melanoleucus</u> (Gmelin)	Occasional migrant
-214 <u>Totanus flavipes</u> (Gmelin)	Common migrant
-232 <u>Limnodromus griseus scolopaceus</u> (Say)	Common migrant
-225 <u>Recurvirostra americana</u> (Gmelin)	Common summer resident
-224 <u>Steganopus tricolor</u> (Vieillot)	Common summer resident

checked
BWM

MAMMALS

Noted on Crescent Lake Refuge, Garden Co., Nebr.

During 1936.

By W. W. Bennett, Asst. Refuge Mgr.

SPIES	ABUNDANCE
p. 98 ✓ <u>Mustela longicauda longicauda</u> ✓ (Bonaparte)	Abundant long tailed weasel ✓
✓ <u>Mustela vison letifers</u> ✓ (Hollister)	Rare skunk ✓
p. 120 ✓ <u>Spilogale interrupta</u> ✓ (Rafinesque)	uncommon Prairie spotted skunk ✓
125 ✓ <u>Mephitis (Hudsonica or mesomelas)</u> ✓ varians)	Very abundant skunks, striped ✓
134 ✓ <u>Taxidea taxus taxus</u> ✓ (Schreber)	uncommon Common badger ✓
149 ✓ <u>Canis nebrascensis nebrascensis</u> ✓ (Merriam)	common Prairie Wolf (Prairie Coyote) ✓
✓ 201 <u>Citellus tridecemlineatus</u> ✓ pallidus (Allen)	abundant squirrel, Pale striped ground ✓
✓ 218 <u>Cynomys ludovicianus ludovicianus</u> ✓ (Ord)	rare Prairie-dog, Black-tailed ✓
✓ 292 <u>Geomys lutescens</u> ✓ (Merriam)	common Gopher, yellow pocket ✓
✓ 442 <u>Ondatra zibethica cinnamomina</u> ✓ (Hollister)	common Muskrat, Great Plains ✓
p. 415 ✓ <u>Microtus pennsylvanicus pennsylvanicus</u> ✓ (Ord)	abundant Mouse, Eastern meadow ✓
✓ 448 <u>Mus musculus musculus</u> ✓ (Linnaeus)	occasional Mouse, House ✓
✓ 450 <u>Rattus norvegicus</u> ✓	occasional Rat, Norway ✓
478 <u>Lepus townsendii campenius</u> ✓ (Hollister)	abundant white tailed jack rabbit ✓
<u>Lepus californicus melantis</u> ✓ (Mearns)	abundant Great Plains " " ✓
✓ 493 <u>Sylvilagus floridanus similis</u> ✓ (Nelson)	abundant Rabbit, Nebraska Cottontail ✓
<u>Astilocarpa americana americana</u> ✓ (Ord)	uncommon Panghorn antelope ✓
✓ 86 <u>Procyon lotor lotor</u> ✓ (Linnaeus)	rare Raccoon, Eastern ✓
<u>Mustela nigripes</u> ✓ (Audubon & Bachman)	rare Black footed ferret ✓

corrected
2/26

MAMMALS-Continued

Noted on Crescent Lake Refuge, Garden Co., Nebr.

During 1936.

By W. W. Bennett, Asst. Refuge Mgr.

	<u>SPECIES</u>		<u>ABUNDANCE</u>	
379	<u>Neotoma floridana baileyi</u> ✓ (Merriam)	rare	Rat, Bailey wood ✓	
458	<u>Zapus hudsonius campestris</u> ✓ (Preble)	occasional	Mouse, Prairie jumping ✓	
348	<u>Peromyscus maniculatus nebr-</u> ✓ <u>ascensis</u> (Coues)	abundant	Mouse, Nebraska River ✓	