

CRESCENT LAKE REFUGE  
REPORT OF ACTIVITIES  
MONTH OF NOVEMBER  
1937

W.K.

G.E. WARDWELL  
REFUGE MANAGER

new

1080  
12-15-37

12-14-37  
OAH

True  
Sum

## Foreword

There has been very few new projects started this month, all efforts have been concentrated on the completion of unfinished work and the cleanup program.

While the term cleanup is being used for this work, for the want of a better name, it is in reality a major work program. This cleanup work is being carried on on all parts of the refuge. Scattered about in many different places are remnants of old fences which were built here in the years gone by- by different land owners. These old fences sometimes with one or two wires, and posts standing at intervals of from 50 feet to 100 yard, many of which are rotted off at the top of the ground, and laying in pieces while now and then a solid post will stand holding hundreds of feet of sagging, twisted rusted barb wire, these are being torn down. The wire is rolled up and posts and parts of posts are being hauled in and piled for fuel.

The site of the C C C camp at Hackberry Lake has never been completely cleaned up. Old tile, boxes and scattered boards are being hauled to headquarters. The materials that can again be used the nails are pulled, and the lumber piled in our lumber pile, while the worthless is hauled to our dump pile over the hill in a "blowout".

All dead wood and diseased limbs are being cut from our willow groves. This will not only add to the appearance of the groves, but will save all damage that might occur to green limbs when dead limbs fall.

All this is stated so as to clarify the heading "Clean-up."

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It may be questioned as to the feasibility of the extra labor and the expense of saving some of this material. But under our W P A work, we are assigned men from the relief rolls, many of whom are beyond the age to do hard manual labor, only this type of men are being assigned on this project.

#### New Projects

A horse pasture of about 25 acres was fenced west of headquarters adjoining the barn. This pasture takes in the hill directly west of the service court down to the restricted area at Gimlet Lake. The small duck and goose pen which was in the pasture was torn down, but the cement pool which was supplied with water from the overflow of the storage tank, will be used as a drinking place for the horse.

The goose pen which was torn down was entirely too small for the 18 Canada geese and our tame ducks. So a new pen was fenced apart in the Gimlet Lake area. This pen comprising about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  acres, takes in the two flowing wells, thus supplying them with running water at all times. There will be much natural food and plenty of cover during nesting season. The pen is large enough so that their nesting need not be disturbed and also it can easily be kept free from predators. There are at least 15 wild mallards using this new pen at feeding time.

#### Office Building

Sorry to have to report this project as still unfinished



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The plumbing, electric wiring, veneer panaling, all being done by unskilled labor has taken days of time that could have been saved by trained men. This work is now about complete, and ythese men are to be commended for the excellent work preformed under difficulties.

#### Equipment

All automotive equipment has been repaired, and in excellent condition, with the exception of the Ford Pickup. As soon as one part is repaired another seems to give away, and from the expence vouchers on this piece of equipment we should soon have a complete new car.

#### Light Plant

If it were not for the fact that we should mention all of the equipment, would leave this a blank, as a blank it has been since my arrival at this refuge. Have spent several dollars on this machine with no success. In desperation I took this machine to the most highly recommended mechanic in this district, and after days of labor and his assurance of a complete overhaul, it was again mounted on its stand- but still no lights. After a few more days of work, free gatis this time, was informed the switch board was at fault, and it would have to be send to the factory for repairs. This was done and we are now awaiting its return. After one more trial, then if it does not work, believe it adviseable to submit a completed form 192 Bi, that this piece of equipment was lost in Blue Lake as this is the deepest lake on the refuge.

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#### Painting

The roof of the residence, office, and the two garages were stained. This work has been interrupted several times by storms, but with a few days of fair weather the balance will be completed. Two coats will be put on the equipment shed, and the barn, as these buildings have <sup>never</sup> had the roofs protected.

#### Cement Cave

This building is now 100% complete, the finish coat of plaster has been put on the front of the cave, covering up the marks of the lumber forms used for the cement work, giving this building a finished appearance.

#### Road repairs

The  $3\frac{1}{2}$  miles of graveled highway from headquarters to the south boundary of the refuge has been dragged, holes filled up, and the shoulders built up. One culvert was placed to divert drainage water from filling ~~and~~ <sup>the</sup> auto gate with silt. This road was badly corrugated, but after the storm it was moist enough to drag and now in very good condition, and will withstand the travel and storms of winter.

#### Predator Control

The freezing weather from the 14 to 23 of the month made trapping almost impossible, but the balance of the month very good results were had. 37 skunks, 5 coyotes, 1 weasel, two house cats were caught in November, making a total of 57 predators since October 26.

Spent some time is assisting our hunter in placing his coyote sets, will further assist him in rearranging his trap line, and setting out the balance of traps received from District Agent Hamm.

*Carded  
3/10/38  
Bum*  
*Predator*



Wildlife

After November 1 a gradual decrease of waterfowl was noticed, up until the 18 when the lakes were ~~entirely~~ frozen over, at this time all Ducks were gone, excepting about 20 mallards that stayed around the flowing wells at headquarters, and the flowing well at Hackberry Lake. A few warm days at the latter part of the month brought back about 200 mallards, but they only remained a few days.

12 prairie chickens were seen in the road at the entrance of the headquarters driveway on November 28. Another covey are staying at what is known as the "Harris Place" at Crane Lake. A few scattered birds are seen at other places on the refuge. Pheasants are numerous on all parts of the refuge, especially around headquarters, and on the Harris and McCready tracts, or where the grazing is prohibited, and the growth of grass and other vegetation affords them both food and cover.

Several Antelope have been seen by the crew of W P A workers on their way to the refuge from Oshkosh. Today (November 30) 12 head were seen on the East side of Crescent Lake. Several reports have been received of Antelope being seen on the refuge, but no authentic reports .

Many Hawks and Eagles are now in this vicinity, 22 Eagles were seen at one time at Crescent Lake a few days ago. Most any evening Eagles can be seen chasing Pheasants in the Gimlet Lake area, but at no time have we seen them catch them, the Pheasants would scatter and hide in the tall grass and rushes.

## Weather

While the percipitation for the Month of November would hardly register in the gauge, it has been a month of snow, cold winds and low temperatures. Eight below zero was the maximun, but several days elapsed when the thermometer stayed well below freezing with strong winds blowing. This all had its effect on slowing up operations of the crews working outside, but each morning the Truck transportation the workers from Oshkosh- 30 miles away- arrived on schedule, with the exception of one morning when several drifts had to shoveled away. Working conditions were not of the best, but not a day was lost due to the inclement weather.

## Pictures

As our Camerawars "borrowed" by party or parties unkown, and <sup>as</sup> the financial status of the refuge manager is such as to prohibit the purchase of another, a borrowed camera was used. As luck would have it most all of the action pictures or pictures with any meaning failed to ~~take~~ "take", but hope for our next report to have pictures showing our work undertaken and when completed.





GIMLET LAKE AREA SHOWING MUSK RAT HOUSES



CEMENTING FRONT OF STORAGE CAVE



WAVES FROZEN ON CRESCENT LAKE





METHOD OF PROTECTION OF YOUNG PINES



OLD GOOSE PEN



TREE PRUNING



CLEANING YARD



MORE CLEAN UP