

CRESCENT LAKE

NARRATIVE REPORTS

JANUARY-DECEMBER 1951

BRANCH OF WILDLIFE REFUGES

NARRATIVE REPORT

ROUTING SLIP

DATE February 5, 1952

Mr. Salyer

Mr. DuMont

Mr. Krummes

Miss Baum

SECTION OF OPERATIONS:

Mr. Ball

Dr. Morley

Mr. Regan

SECTION OF HABITAT IMPROVEMENT:

Mr. Griffith

Mr. Kubischek

~~Mr. Quinn~~ *WSB*

Mr. Stiles

SECTION OF LAND MANAGEMENT:

~~Mr. Ackley~~ *W*

~~Mr. Davis~~ *DD*

STENOGRAPHERS:

REFUGE Crescent Lake

PERIOD September-December, 1951

CRESCENT LAKE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

AND

NORTH PLATTE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

REFUGE NARRATIVE REPORT

September, October, November, December

1951

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PERSONNEL

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* * * * *
*
*   Lloyd R. Ramelli, Refuge Manager
*
*   P. J. Kennedy, Maintenance Man
*
*   Howard D. Woon, Refuge Clerk
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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

ELLSWORTH, NEBRASKA



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# NARRATIVE REPORT

## CRESCENT LAKE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

Period ending December 31, 1951

### I. GENERAL

#### A. Weather Conditions:

The period was reasonably open except for a blizzard occurring during the first week of December. We have been quite fortunate in this respect since a number of blizzards and severe storms passed on all sides of us. Areas to the north were reported to have been snowed in for nearly three weeks.

According to our records the temperatures were slightly below and precipitation was above the normals of corresponding periods during the past.

The weather station maintained at refuge headquarters reveals the following data.

	<u>Precipitation</u>	<u>Snow</u>	<u>Maximum</u>	<u>Minimum</u>
September	3.70	T	87	25
October	1.47	3.2	85	22
November	.15	-	70	-4
December	.40	4.0	64	-17
Total	<u>5.72</u>			

#### B. Water Conditions:

The December level of the 30 wells that are read quarterly has increased .74 of a foot over that of a year ago. Our outlook for a good growing season is much more favorable than that of last year.

#### C. Fires:

We are quite fortunate in being able to report no fires for the season. The country around us being quite dry all fall we had the threat of fire hanging over us until the first snow fall.

## II. WILDLIFE

### A. Migratory Birds:

#### 1. Populations and Behavior:

While favorable populations migrated through the area, we had less refuge use by waterfowl than usual. This was due to an open warm October influencing many of our northern birds to linger. These conditions were abruptly changed by high winds, snow and zero weather on October 31 and November 1. This drove the birds south without stopping and any stragglers were discouraged by frozen over lakes until November 9.

These conditions naturally resulted in poor hunting and few birds being taken in this section of the sandhills. Hunting success was considerably better to the south along the North Platte River, where open water remained to hold the birds.

#### Geese

Goose utilization of the refuge was less than usual due to weather conditions and frozen lakes.

Hunting has been considered the poorest in many years in the areas adjacent to the refuge. Like duck hunting, this sport was more successful along the Platte River and adjacent farm lands.

The fate of our captive pinioned geese is questionable at this time. We have known that the raccoon have gained access to the Gimlet enclosure and because of this we wanted the geese caught and penned at the first opportunity. In spite of cold weather there was always areas of open water or weak ice to which the geese could retire beyond our reach. To this writing we have been able to catch only one goose. However, the several searches made of the area failed to disclose any signs of geese living or of any having been killed. Like former losses we have been puzzled as to the fate of the birds since seldom we find signs of predation. While we are not too hopeful, there is still a chance to find some of these birds hiding in the bulrush surrounding the lakes.

#### Sandhill Cranes

Our bright, blue October Indian summer skies were frequently disturbed by the resonant call of these migrants, however, we did not record any as having stopped over at the refuge.

#### Mourning Doves

The bulk of our doves had migrated south by September and at the end of the month the few stragglers had practically disappeared.

## 2. Food and Cover:

The supply of aquatic foods was more than ample since many of our migrants were driven south and were unable to utilize the abundant summer growth.

## 3. Disease:

We did not have any outbreaks of disease in any form during the period.

## B. Upland Game Birds:

### 1. Populations and Behavior:

#### Sharp-tailed Grouse

The sharp-tailed grouse appears to be doing well with a favorable increase this past year. This bird is our most common upland game bird and with a few more years as productive as the last we hope to have a good population.

#### Prairie Chicken

Prairie chickens are frequently noted during patrol trips over the refuge. They are most commonly noted in the vicinity of Smith-Martin Lakes.

#### Ring-necked Pheasants

Cold weather grouped these birds and brought them out where a census revealed that our former estimate was too low. In all, these birds are now built up to 100, after their severe losses during the "49" blizzard.

## 2. Food and Cover:

Food and cover for these birds was sufficient and the quality was excellent considering their numbers. We should suffer little or no loss of birds for this count.

## 3. Disease:

There were no outbreaks of disease observed during the period.

## C. Big Game Animals:

### 1. Populations and Behavior:

#### Rocky Mountain Mule Deer

Mule deer are frequently seen on the west end of the refuge. While they are not numerous, there are sufficient numbers to provide for future populations in the area.



### Antelope

Antelope are usually noted on patrol trips over the east end of the refuge. Populations are such that they cannot be called numerous though there are no apparent factors keeping the herds down.

### 2. Food and Cover:

Food for antelope is abundant and we could easily support several times our present population. Browse types preferred by deer are lacking, and future populations will no doubt be regulated by this factor.

### 3. Disease:

There were no known losses from this cause during the period,

### D. Fur Animals, Predators, Rodents and other Mammals:

#### Muskrat

Populations of this fur bearer remain too high for the amount of cover available. The aerial census made during the early part of November disclosed that we have approximately 7090 muskrats on the refuge, of which we recommended that 3545 be removed.

To date we have not found any sign of the muskrat disease so prevalent last year.

Our trapping season began December 15. Throughout the cold weather of late, the trapping takes have been low.

#### Raccoon

We are fortunate in that our raccoon populations are not serious. By taking as many as possible during the trapping season we will exercise the necessary control to keep populations down.

#### Coyote

There are a few more coyotes around since control measures have not been as actively pursued as last year. Populations however, have not increased to require extensive control measures as yet.

#### Pocket Gophers

Our most serious menace to vegetation is the pocket gopher. These rodents are found over all the sandhills, and in areas of concentrated populations they are doing considerable damage to the range.

#### Kangaroo mice

These populations are high, judging by the numbers seen, at night on the roads and by their burrowing activities.

#### E. Predaceous Birds:

An occasional loss occurs to our upland game birds through winged predators. A golden eagle was noted taking a sharp-tailed grouse, and several pheasants were lost we believe by the same bird.

#### F. Fish

Our fish condition remains unchanged. Apparently the state is overburdened with removal of undesirable fish and it is doubtful if we will get much immediate help from this quarter. Our most likely means of carp control is through state supervised individuals taking the fish for commercial purposes.

### III. REFUGE DEVELOPMENT AND MAINTENANCE

#### A. Physical Development:

Our biggest work during the period was the renovation of quarters 3. This consisted of addition of a bath and utility room, the installment of a pressure system, septic tank and disposal system. A well was drilled for domestic use at these quarters.

The everyday activities such as maintenance of vehicles and equipment, patrol, care of lawns and headquarters area, reading wells, economic use activities and work on roads took all of the time that we could give to them. Needless to say much was left undone in each and all of these various activities.

A front-end loader and blade were purchased and installed on our Farmall tractor. These additions have proven very useful and have increased the value of the tractor in our work immensely.

A trip was made to Sand Lake Refuge to obtain our annual supply of small grain feeds for birds and refuge horses.

#### B. Plantings and Collections:

There were no plantings or collections or receipts of stock made on the refuge.

#### IV. ECONOMIC USE

##### A. Grazing:

Winter grazing was begun on November 1. Due to an especially productive summer hay and forage crops we considered the season the best in years. While the quality of much of the hay was undoubtedly affected by the prolonged summer rains, there is an ample quantity to carry the stock through the worst of winters.

All summer grazing permits have been completed or terminated with the exception of one. This permit is expected to run out during January.

##### B. Fur Harvest:

The trapping permits have been increased to three this year and the quota increased to 1180 muskrats to the permit. These increases were made in the light of overpopulations of muskrats and the disease prevalent during the past trapping season.

To this date trapping operations have not been too successful due to continued cold weather freezing in the traps.

#### V. PUBLIC RELATIONS

##### A. Recreational Use:

Recreational use was limited to those occasional visitors who were particularly interested in the refuge and to hunters who dropped in for short visits enroute to and from their hunting activities in the vicinity of the refuge.

##### B. Refuge Visitors:

9/24 Mr. L. Winkham, State seining crew, North Platte Refuge.

10/16 Mr. Harlan Morgan, USGMA, Enforcement instruction.  
Mr. Lorin Bunny, Nebraska State Warden, Enforcement instruct.  
Mr. Harvey Miller, Nebr. State Waterfowl Biologist, visit.

10/17 Mr. Ralph Johnson, NPS Park Planner, Inspect North Platte Refuge  
Mr. Harlan Morgan, USGMA, Inspect North Platte Refuge  
Mr. Geo. Weidman, Nebraska State Warden, Inspt. No. Platte Ref.

11/7 Mr. N.P. Nelson, B.R., Inspect North Platte Refuge

11/8,9,10 Mr. F.C. Gillett, FWS, Refuge Supervisor, Inspect  
Crescent Lake and North Platte Refuges.

11/8,9 Mr. Merrill Hammond, FWS, Refuge Biologist, Inspect  
Crescent Lake And North Platte Refuges.



11/9 Mr. Ray Glahn, FWS, Pilot Biologist, fly Crescent Lake and North Platte Refuges.

11/26 Mr. Alvin Webster, W.B., discuss weather records and check weather station.

C. Refuge Participation:

9/17 Garden County Sportsmens Club. Attend meeting, answer questions.

10/1 Oshkosh Rotary, show kodachrome slides and talk on Tule Lake and Lower Klamath Refuges, 1 hour.

10/10 Cheyenne County Sportsmens Club, show kodachrome slides and talk on Red Rock Lakes Refuge, 1 hour.

10/15 Garden County Sportsmens Club, Attend meeting. Short talk on waterfowl conditions. Show kodachrome slides on Malheur Refuge.

11/9 Scottsbluff Boosters Club. Talk on values of North Platte Refuge and show kodachrome slides on Crescent Lake and North Platte Refuges, 3 hours.

12/17 Oshkosh Rotary and Garden County Sportsmens Club. Short talks at both meetings on general waterfowl conditions and hunting success.

D. Hunting:

In general the hunting success was below average. This was due to warm clear weather until the first of November when sudden and intense cold froze all of our open water overnight. Accompanying winds and driving snow brought the birds out of the north and on south without stopping.

Bag checks revealed the following:

Mallards	38%
Gadwall	30%
Shoveller	10%
Redhead	8%
Ruddy	8%
Pintail	4%
Scaup	2%

The average hunter checked had .25 birds.

## VI. OTHER ITEMS

### A. Items of Interest:

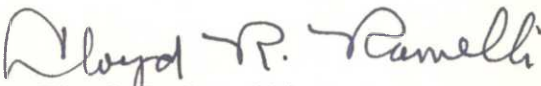
With the discovery of oilfields in the Nebraska panhandle we occasionally hear the possibility of oil underlying the refuge and adjacent areas.

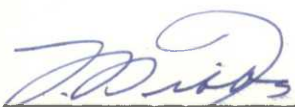
To this date there has not been any active drilling in the immediate vicinity of the refuge. A separate and detailed report will be made as soon as desired information is obtained.

### B. Photographs:

The photographs at the end of this report were taken and entered by the manager with his equipment and at his expense.

Respectfully submitted

  
Lloyd R. Ramelli

Approved: 

Acting Regional Director

Date: January 28, 1952



3-1750

Form NR-1

(Nov. 1945)

## WATERFOWL

Refuge CRESCENT LAKE Months of Sept. to Dec. 31 19451

(1) Species	(2) First Seen		(3) Peak Concentration		(4) Last Seen		(5) Young Produced		(6) Total
Common Name	Number	Date	Number	Date	Number	Date	Broods Seen	Estimated Total	Estimated for Period
I. <u>Swans:</u> Whistling swan									
II. <u>Geese:</u> Canada goose Cackling goose Brant White-fronted goose Snow goose Blue goose	22	10/13	250	10/25	5	10/31			1,000
III. <u>Ducks:</u> Mallard Black duck Gadwall Baldpate Pintail Green-winged teal Blue-winged teal Cinnamon teal Wood duck Red head Ring-necked duck Canvas-back Scaup Golden-eye Buffle-head Ruddy duck	50   5 15 15 40 20  50 200 50 20 15	2/26   3/5 3/15 3/10 3/5 2/28  3/15 3/16 3/12 3/5 3/1	10,000   2,000 500 2,000 500 2,000  750 1500 250 500 1,000	10/15   10/25 4/30 10/15 4/11 10/10  10/25 10/25 4/25 10/25 10/15	5   500 25 10 5 2  10 500 8 500 750	12/15   10/30 10/30 10/1 10/1 10/30  10/20 10/30 10/30 10/30 10/30			20,000   5,000 1,000 2,500 3,000 3,000  2,000 2,500 500 750 3,000
IV. <u>Coot</u>									

(over)



# SUMMARIES

Total Production:

3-1750  
Form NR-1  
(Nov. 1945)

Geese.....

Total waterfowl usage during period.....50,000

Ducks.....

Peak waterfowl numbers.....25,000

Coots.....

Areas used by concentrations.....Refuge lakes areas

Principal nesting areas this season.....Refuge lakes and adjacent areas

Reported by.....Lloyd R. Ramelli

## INSTRUCTIONS

- (1) Species: In addition to the birds listed on form, other species occurring on refuge during the reporting period should be added in appropriate spaces. Special attention should be given to those species of local and National significance.
- (2) First Seen: The first refuge record for the species during the season concerned in the reporting period, and the number seen. This column does not apply to resident species.
- (3) Peak Concentration: The greatest number of the species present in a limited interval of time.
- (4) Last Seen: The last refuge record for the species during the season concerned in the reporting period.
- (5) Young Produced: Estimated number of young produced based on observations and actual counts on representative breeding areas. Brood counts should be made on two or more areas aggregating 10% of the breeding habitat. Estimates having no basis in fact should be omitted.
- (6) Total: Estimated total number of the species using the refuge during the period. This figure may or may not be more than that used for peak concentrations, depending upon the nature of the migrational movement.

Note: Only columns applicable to the reporting period should be used. It is desirable that the Summaries receive careful attention since these data are necessarily based on an analysis of the rest of the form.



3-1751  
Form NR-1A  
(Nov. 1945)

MIGRATORY BIRDS  
(other than waterfowl)

Refuge Crescent Lake

Months of Sept. to Dec. 31 1945

(1) Species	(2) First Seen		(3) Peak Numbers		(4) Last Seen		(5) Production			(6) Total
Common Name	Number	Date	Number	Date	Number	Date	Number Colonies	Total # Nests	Total Young	Estimated Number
I. <u>Water and Marsh Birds:</u>										
Eared Grebe	25	4/16	200	5/11	10	9/30				300
Western Grebe	12	4/24	300	5/1	1	10/10				500
White Pelican	10	4/5	250	5/10	10	10/5				500
Double Crested Cormorant	25	5/15	200	5/25	2	9/18				300
Black Crowned Night-heron	2	5/4	100	5/15	1	9/2				150
Great Blue Heron	1	4/12	150	4/30	1	9/15				300
American Bittern	2	4/24	40	4/30	1	9/5				50

(over)

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
III. Doves and Pigeons:					
Mourning dove	6	3/19	2000	8/1	2
White-winged dove				9/21	
IV. Predaceous Birds:					
Golden eagle	1	11/13	5	11/10	1
Duck hawk				12/19	
Horned owl	year long resident		15	resident	
Magpie	"			25	12/15
Raven					
Crow					
Marsh Hawk			75	year long resident	
Rough legged Hawk			50	" "	
Short-eared Owl			10	" "	

Reported by

*Lloyd V. Ramelli*  
Lloyd V. Ramelli

#### INSTRUCTIONS

- (1) Species: Use the correct names as found in the A.O.U. Checklist, 1931 Edition, and list group in A.O.U. order. Avoid general terms as "seagull", "tern", etc. In addition to the birds listed on form, other species occurring on refuge during the reporting period should be added in appropriate spaces. Special attention should be given to those species of local and National significance. Groups: I. Water and Marsh Birds (Gaviiformes to Ciconiiformes and Gruiformes)  
II. Shorebirds, Gulls and Terns (Charadriiformes)  
III. Doves and Pigeons (Columbiformes)  
IV. Predaceous Birds (Falconiformes, Strigiformes and predaceous Passeriformes)
- (2) First Seen: The first refuge record for the species for the season concerned.
- (3) Peak Numbers: The greatest number of the species present in a limited interval of time.
- (4) Last Seen: The last refuge record for the species during the season concerned.
- (5) Production: Estimated number of young produced based on observations and actual counts.
- (6) Total: Estimated total number of the species using the refuge during the period concerned.



3-1752  
Form NR-2  
(April 1946)

UPLAND GAME BIRDS

1613

Refuge Crescent Lake

Months of Sept. to Dec., 19451

(1) Species	(2) Density	(3) Young Produced	(4) Sex Ratio	(5) Removals	(6) Total	(7) Remarks
Common Name	Cover types, total acreage of habitat	Acres per Bird	Number broods obs'd. Estimated Total	Percentage	Hunting For Re- stocking For Research	Estimated number using Refuge Pertinent information not specifically requested. List introductions here.
Ring-necked Pheasant	40,000 acres				100	
Sharp-tailed Grouse	40,000 acres				2000	
Prairie Chicken	40,000 acres				750	



# INSTRUCTIONS

Form NR-2 - UPLAND GAME BIRDS.\*

- (1) SPECIES: Use correct common name.
- (2) DENSITY: Applies particularly to those species considered in removal programs (public hunts, etc.). Detailed data may be omitted for species occurring in limited numbers. Density to be expressed in acres per animal by cover types. This information is to be prefaced by a statement from the refuge manager as to the number of acres in each cover type found on the refuge; once submitted, this information need not be repeated except as significant changes occur in the area of cover types. Cover types should be detailed enough to furnish the desired information but not so much as to obscure the general picture. Examples: spruce swamp, upland hardwoods, reverting agriculture land, bottomland hardwoods, short grass prairie, etc. Standard type symbols listed in Wildlife Management Series No. 7 should be used where possible. Figures submitted should be based on actual observations and counts on representative sample areas. Survey method used and size of sample area or areas should be indicated under Remarks.
- (3) YOUNG PRODUCED: Estimated number of young produced, based upon observations and actual counts in representative breeding habitat.
- (4) SEX RATIO: This column applies primarily to wild turkey, pheasants, etc. Include data on other species if available.
- (5) REMOVALS: Indicate total number in each category removed during the report period.
- (6) TOTAL: Estimated total number using the refuge during the report period. This may include resident birds plus those migrating into the refuge during certain seasons.
- (7) REMARKS: Indicate method used to determine population and area covered in survey. Also include other pertinent information not specifically requested.

\* Only columns applicable to the period covered should be used.



3-1753  
Form NR-3  
(June 1945)

# BIG GAME

Refuge Crescent Lake Calendar Year 1951

(1) Species	(2) Density	(3) Young Produced	(4) Removals			(5) Losses			(6) Introductions	(7) Estimated Total Refuge Population		(8) Sex Ratio		
Common Name	Cover types, total Acreage of Habitat	Number	Hunting	For Re- stocking	Sold	For Research	Predation	Disease	Winter Loss	Number	Source	At period of Greatest use	As of Dec. 31	
Mule Deer	40,000 acres grassland	5										25	20	1:1
Antelope	40,000 acres grassland											150	25	

Remarks:

Reported by Lloyd R. Ramelli  
Lloyd R. Ramelli



## INSTRUCTIONS

Form NR-3 - BIG GAME

(1) SPECIES: Use correct common name; i.e., Mule deer, black-tailed deer, white-tailed deer. It is unnecessary to indicate sub-species such as northern or Louisiana white-tailed deer.

(2) DENSITY: Detailed data may be omitted for species occurring in limited numbers. Density to be expressed in acres per animal by cover types. This information is to be prefaced by a statement from the refuge manager as to the number of acres in each cover type found on the refuge; once submitted, this information need not be repeated except as significant changes occur in the area of cover types. Cover types should be detailed enough to furnish the desired information but not so much as to obscure the general picture. Examples: spruce swamp, upland hardwoods, reverting agriculture land, bottomland hardwoods, short grass prairie, etc. Standard type symbols listed in Wildlife Management Series No. 7 should be used where possible. Figures submitted should be based on actual observations and counts on representative sample areas. Survey method used and size of sample area or areas should be indicated under Remarks.

(3) YOUNG PRODUCED: Estimated total number of young produced on refuge.

(4) REMOVALS: Indicate total number in each category removed during the year.

(5) LOSSES: On the basis of known records or reliable estimates indicate total losses in each category during the year.

(6) INTRODUCTIONS: Indicate the number and refuge or agency from which stock was secured.

(7) TOTAL REFUGE POPULATION: Give the estimated population of each species on the refuge at period of its greatest abundance and also as of Dec. 31.

(8) SEX RATIO: Indicate the percentage of males and females of each species as determined from field observations or through removals.

116000



Refuge Crescent LakeYear 1945Botulism NONELead Poisoning or other Disease NONE

Period of outbreak \_\_\_\_\_

Period of heaviest losses \_\_\_\_\_

## Losses:

	Actual Count	Estimated
(a) Waterfowl	_____	_____
(b) Shorebirds	_____	_____
(c) Other	_____	_____

Number Hospitalized	No. Recovered	% Recovered
(a) Waterfowl	_____	_____
(b) Shorebirds	_____	_____
(c) Other	_____	_____

(a) Waterfowl	_____	_____
(b) Shorebirds	_____	_____
(c) Other	_____	_____

Areas affected (location and approximate acreage) \_\_\_\_\_

Water conditions (average depth of water in sickness areas, reflooding of exposed flats, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_

Condition of vegetation and invertebrate life \_\_\_\_\_

Remarks \_\_\_\_\_

Kind of disease \_\_\_\_\_

Species affected \_\_\_\_\_

Number Affected Species	Actual Count	Estimated
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Number Recovered \_\_\_\_\_

Number lost \_\_\_\_\_

Source of infection \_\_\_\_\_

Water conditions \_\_\_\_\_

Food conditions \_\_\_\_\_

Remarks \_\_\_\_\_

Refuge Crescent Lake Year 1945

Species	Relative Abundance	Sport Fishing		Commercial Fishing		Restocking		Number removed for Restocking
		Man days Fishing	Number Taken	No. of Permits	Pounds Taken	Number Stocked	Area Stocked	
Bullheads	4%							
Crappie	1%							
Carp	95%							
	Total	50	250					

REMARKS: Lakes are over-run with carp and are in very poor condition from a fishing standpoint.

PLANTINGS  
(Marsh - Aquatic - Upland)

Refuge Crescent LakeYear 1945

Species	Location of Area Planted	Rate of Seeding or Planting	Amount Planted (Acres or Yards of Shoreline)	Amount & Nature of Propagules	Date of Plant- ing	Survival	Cause of Loss	Remarks
NONE								

TOTAL ACREAGE PLANTED:

Marsh and aquatic \_\_\_\_\_  
 Hedgerows, cover patches \_\_\_\_\_  
 Food strips, food patches \_\_\_\_\_  
 Forest plantings \_\_\_\_\_



Permittee (If farmed by refugee personnel, so indicate)	Permit No.	Unit or Loca- tion	Crops Grown	Ave. Yield per Acre	Permittee's Share		Government's Share or Return				
					Acres	Bu. Har- vested	Harvested		Unharvested		Compensatory Services, or Cash Revenue
							Acres	Bu.	Acres	Bu.	
NONE											
Summary of Crops Grown:											
	Crop	Acreage	Permittee's Share Acres	Bushels	Harvested Acres	Bu.	Government's Share Unharvested Acres	Bu.	Total Revenue \$		



DIRECTIONS FOR PREPARING FORM NR-8  
CULTIVATED CROPS

Cultivated Crops Report Form NR-8 should be prepared on a calendar-year basis for all crops harvested or utilized during the calendar year and submitted with the December 31 refuge report.

Permittee - List each permittee separately. If lands of the refuge are farmed by refuge personnel or hired labor, this should be indicated in the Permittee column.

Permit No. - List the number of the Special Use Permit issued to the individual.

Use or Location - The Unit No. or name specified in the Economic Use Plan should be listed in this column.

Crops Grown - A separate line of the form should be used for each crop grown by each permittee or by refuge personnel. This is important, since if each crop grown by each operator is not specifically enumerated, the report will be of no value for statistical purposes.

Average Yield per Acre - It is important that the average yield per acre of each crop grown by each operator should be shown.

Permittee's Share - Only the number of acres harvested or utilized by the permittee for his own benefit should be shown under the Acres column, and only the number of bushels of farm crops harvested by the permittee for himself should be shown under the Bushels Harvested column. It is requested that all crops harvested be reduced to bushels wherever possible, or, as in the case with the harvesting of seed such as that of sweet clover, alfalfa, brome grass, etc., the total harvested crop in pounds may be shown. Timothy, alfalfa, or other hay harvested by the permittee should be shown on Form NR-10 and should not be shown in the Permittee's Share column.

Government's Share or Return - Harvested - Show the number of bushels harvested for the Government and the acreage from which this share is harvested, both for grain raised by refuge personnel and by permittees. Unharvested - show the exact number of acres of crops allowed to remain unharvested as food and cover for wildlife. An estimate of the number of bushels of grain that is available for the wildlife in such unharvested crops should be shown in the Bushels column.

Compensatory Services, or Cash Revenue - Show other services received by the Government in cooperative farming activities, the number of acres of food strips planted for wildlife, the amount of wildlife crops not otherwise reported that are planted by cooperators for the Service, or the cultivation of wildlife plantations. If the permit is on a fee basis, the total cash revenue received by the Service.

## REFUGE GRAIN REPORT

Refuge Crescent Lake

Months of Sept. thru Dec. 19451.[illegible]

- (8) Indicate shipping or collection points.....
- (9) Grain is stored at Refuge headquarters......
- (10) Remarks.....



REFUGEE GRAIN REPORT

NR-8a REFUGEE GRAIN REPORT

This report should cover all grain on hand, received, or disposed of, during the period covered by this narrative report.

Report all grain in bushels. For the purpose of this report the following approximate weights of grain shall be considered equivalent to a bushel: Corn (shelled)--55 lbs., Corn (ear)--70 lbs., Wheat--60 lbs., Barley--50 lbs., Rye--55 lbs., Oats--30 lbs., Soy Beans--60 lbs., Millet--50 lbs., Cowpeas--60 lbs., and Mixed--50 lbs. In computing volume of granaries, multiply the cubic contents (cu. ft.) by 0.8 bushels.

- (1) List each type of grain separately: Corn, wheat, proso millet, etc. Include only domestic grains; aquatic and other seeds will be listed on NR-9.
- (3) Report all grain received during period from all sources, such as transfer, share-cropping, or harvest from food patches.
- (4) A total of Columns 2 and 3.
- (6) Column 4 less Column 5.
- (7) This is a proposed breakdown by varieties of grain listed in Column 6.
- (8) Nearest railroad station for shipping and receiving.
- (9) Where stored on refuge: "Headquarters grainary", etc.
- (10) Indicate here the source of grain shipped in, destination of grain transferred, data on condition of grain, unusual uses proposed.

(9) Indicate shipping or collection points

(9) Grain is stored at

(10) Remarks

Refuge Crescent Lake Year 1945

Species	Collections				Receipts		Total Amounts on Hand	Amount Surplus
	Amount	Date or Period or Collection	Method	Unit Cost	Amount	Source		
Western yellow pine					100	S.C.S.		
Multiflora Rose					100	S.C.S.		
Russian Olive					100	S.C.S.		
Hackberry					100	S.C.S.		
Green Ash					100	S.C.S.		
Chinese Elm					100	S.C.S.		
Cottonwood					200	S.C.S.		
All trees received during April 1951 were planted at headquarters.								



Refuge Crescent Lake Year 194 51

Permittee	Permit No.	Unit or Location	Actual Acreage Utilized	Animal Use Months	Tons of Hay Harvested	Period of Use From - To	Rate	Total Income	Remarks
Bandy, J.L.	18190	Unit # 19	1940	962.50		1/1-4/15 1951	1.00	962.50	Winter
Dietlein, Geo. J.	29 Cr. Lake	Unit # 5	1360	736.29		1/1-3/21/51	1.00	736.29	Winter
Douglas, Earl	5 Cr. Lk.	Unit # 11	320	354.84		1/1-1/25/51	1.00	354.84	Winter
Douglas, Earl	6 Cr. Lk.	Unit # 12	1375	638.71		1/26-3/8/51	1.00	638.71	Winter
Emerson, Dean	10 Cr. Lk.	Unit # 13	4000	1544.50		1/1-4/15/51	1.00	1544.50	Winter
Eldred, E.M.	11 Cr. Lk.	Unit # 1	1300	2082.50		1/1-4/15/51	1.00	2082.50	Winter
Keller, W.H.	13 Cr. Lk.	Unit # 10	1300	82.74		1/-1/15/51	1.00	82.74	Winter
Keller, W.H.	9 Cr. Lk.	Unit # 8	260	596.66		1/16-4/30/51	1.00	596.66	Winter
Peterson Bros.	18200	Unit # 6	4300	1929.90		1/1-3/6/51	1.00	1929.90	Winter
Rounsberg, Donald	18197	Unit # 21	160	762.67		1/1-4/14/51	1.00	762.67	Winter
Rounsberg, Donald	18195	Unit # 18	2100	558.58		1/1-3/16/51	1.00	558.58	Winter
Sherfey, J.E.	18194	Unit # 15	520	556.66		1/1-4/10/51	1.00	556.66	Winter
Dietlein, Geo. J.	16 Cr. Lk.	Unit # 2	1000	441.94		6/4-10/16/51	1.50	662.91	Summer
Dietlein, Geo. J.	17 Cr. Lk.	Unit # 3	1000	253.33		6/1-11/2/51	1.14	288.80	Summer
Douglas, Earl et al	18 Cr. Lk.	Unit # 14	9360	3564.44		6/1-11/23/51	1.50	5346.66	Summer
Eldred, E.V.	19 Cr. Lk.	Unit # 16	5000	1718.97		6/4-12/31/51	1.50	2578.46	Summer
Keller, W.H.	22 Cr. Lk.	Unit # 7	1520	599.46		6/4-9/27/51	1.50	899.19	Summer
Rounsberg, Donald	20 Cr. Lk.	Unit # 17	560	214.40		6/4-9/9/51	1.50	321.60	Summer
Rounsberg, Donald	24 Cr. Lk.	Unit # 18	2100	800.37		6/1-10/8/51	1.50	1200.56	Permit still in use

Totals:

Acreage grazed \_\_\_\_\_

Animal use months \_\_\_\_\_

Total income Grazing \_\_\_\_\_

Acreage cut for hay \_\_\_\_\_

Tons of hay cut \_\_\_\_\_

Total income Haying \_\_\_\_\_



Refuge

Crescent LakeYear 1945

Permittee	Permit No.	Unit or Location	Actual Acreage Utilized	Animal Use Months	Tons of Hay Harvested	Period of Use From - To	Rate	Total Income	Remarks
Sherfey, et al	25 Cr. Lk.	Unit # 16b	3800	1469.13		6/1-10/17/51	1.50	2203.70	Summer
Sutton, Le Roy	23 Cr. Lk.	Unit # 20	640	250.00		Off and on basis	1.50	375.00	Summer
Bandy, J.L.	27 Cr. Lk.	Unit # 19	1940	275.00		12/1-31/51	1.50	412.50	Winter
Dietlein, Geo.	29 Cr. Lk.	Unit # 5	1360	380.93		11/1-12/51	1.50	571.40	Winter
Douglas, Earl	34 Cr. Lk.	Unit # 11	320	349.78		11/1-12/31/51	1.50	524.67	Winter
Douglas, Earl	33 Cr. Lk.	Unit # 12	1375	672.62		11/19-12/31/51	1.50	1008.93	Winter
Emerson, Dean	31 Cr. Lk.	Unit # 13	4000	607.83		11/15-12/31/51	1.50	911.75	Winter
Eldred, E.M.	30 Cr. Lk.	Unit # 1	1300	561.29		12/3-31/51	1.50	841.94	Winter
Eldred, E.M.	35 Cr. Lk.	Unit # 9	330	200.00		Off and on basis	.90 acre	297.00	payment in full
Keller, W.H.	36 Cr. Lk.	Unit # 8	1520	120.00		12/12-31/51	1.50	180.00	Winter
Keller, W.H.	37 Cr. Lk.	Unit # 10	1300	219.00		11/1-12/31/51	1.50	328.50	Winter
Peterson Bros.	15 Cr. Lk.	Unit # 6	4300	4202.54		11/1-12/31/51	1.50	6303.81	Winter
Rounsberg, Donald	28 Cr. Lk.	Unit # 21	160	25.65		12/27-31/51	1.50	38.48	Winter
Sherfey, J.E.	26 Cr. Lk.	Unit # 15	520	181.00		12/1-31/51	1.50	271.50	Winter

Totals:

Acreage grazed \_\_\_\_\_

Animal use months 27,914.23Total income Grazing \$36,373.91

Acreage cut for hay \_\_\_\_\_

Tons of hay cut \_\_\_\_\_

Total income Haying \_\_\_\_\_

Refuge Crescent LakeYear 1945

Permittee	Permit No.	Unit or Location	Acreage	No. of Units Expressed in B.F., ties, etc.	Rate of Charge	Total Income	Reservations and/or Diameter Limits	Species Cut
NONE								

Total acreage cut over \_\_\_\_\_

Total income \_\_\_\_\_

No. of units removed B. F. \_\_\_\_\_

Method of slash disposal \_\_\_\_\_

Cords \_\_\_\_\_

Ties \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



# N A R R A T I V E R E P O R T

## NORTH PLATTE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

Period ending December 31, 1951

### I. GENERAL

#### A. Weather Conditions:

Fair weather prevailed except for cold storms during the first of November and the first week of December. During the cold spell of the first of November all of the lakes froze except Lake Minatare. These lakes were frozen for approximately one week.

The storm and subzero weather early in December froze all of the lakes for the rest of the year.

#### B. Water Conditions:

In keeping with common practice, Lake Alice was drained early in the season. Due to underlying geological formations this lake has considerable loss of water when filled. Lake No. 2 was also drained. Winter Creek and Minatare lakes were filled to higher levels than ordinarily maintained during the winter months.

#### C. Fires:

There were no fires on this refuge.

### II. WILDLIFE

#### A. Migratory Birds:

##### 1. Populations and Behavior:

The duck population increased from approximately 50 birds during the fore part of September to 50,000 during mid-November. Evidently the bulk of these birds come within a day or so as approximately 1000 birds were noted when a reasonably close census was made on the ground on November 8. An aerial census was made on the following day in company of Mr. Gillett and Mr. Glahn and 48,000 were inventoried. A part of this difference can be attributed to better coverage by air and also to the probability that many of these birds were on the Platte River on the first day since there is considerable movement between the two areas.

There was very little use made of the refuge after December 5th when all of the lakes were completely frozen over.

In general the average composition of waterfowl for the period was 70% mallards, 9% mergansers, 3% blue-wing teal, 8% shovellers, 3% canvasback, 2% redheads, 2% pintails and 3% miscellaneous and unidentified.

Geese:

Canada geese were the only geese noted on the refuge during the period. Observations during visits did not disclose more than 250 at any one time. This however is not necessarily the true picture as far more geese were in the area and there is considerable movement between the refuge and the river.

2. Food and Cover:

Food and cover are lacking throughout this refuge. A limited amount of cover is offered for resting birds during high water by the trees that line the lake. Waterfowl undoubtedly find some food on the bottom of Lake Alice when it is drained in the fall.

In general the food and cover values of the refuge have little to do with attracting birds to the area. The large open bodies of water afford them the only means of undisturbed rest in this sector during the hunting season.

B. Upland Game Birds:

Pheasants are the only birds of this group that were noted. While not abundant, these birds are at a satisfactory level.

Food and cover are sufficient for the population involved.

C. Big Game Animals:

The only big game animals noted on the area are approximately 15 mule deer that are in and out of the refuge.

D. Fur Animals, Predators:

Except for an occasional raccoon and skunk track in the dust along canal banks we observed no sign of predators.

An occasional muskrat is noted along the irrigations district canals.



#### E. Predaceous Birds:

Magpies are the only birds of this category that are noticeably abundant enough to be bothersome. While they probably have no effect on waterfowl due to the limited amount of nesting on the refuge, their numbers are such to be a menace to upland game birds nests in the Platte Valley.

#### F. Fish:

Fishing is popular on the refuge, especially on Lake Minatare. After observing bags during visits to the refuge one cannot help but admire their continued efforts as their luck was discouraging to say the least.

Of approximately 125 bags checked they were 2 trout, 2 walleyes, 2 perch and 3 white bass taken.

It is understood that the State is making plans for extensive seining operations to reduce the carp populations this winter.

### III. REFUGE DEVELOPMENT

#### A. Physical Development:

Development and maintenance was carried on as time was available in reworking incorrect boundary postings, and replacing and adding signs as needed.

The two large entrance signs were sanded down by use of a refuge generator and a sander. The letters were repainted.

### IV. ECONOMIC USE

The economic use of the refuge is controlled and administered by the Reclamation Service.

### V. PUBLIC RELATIONS

#### A. Recreational Use:

Recreational use continued to be popular on Lake Minatare. Fishing was the most common form during the period. "Nigger fishing" from the bank was carried on until winter forced the operations to move out on the ice.

The concession operated by the boat club was closed for some time for the want of an operator. A new custodian has been hired and from all appearances should operate a presentable business.

A few hunters were lucky in goose hunting on the area to the east of the refuge. Favorable weather and goose flights just right were necessary prerequisites to good shooting. Needless to say these factors occurred but few times to meet the hunters satisfaction.

Picnics and boating were at a minimum due to the season.


B. Refuge Visitors:

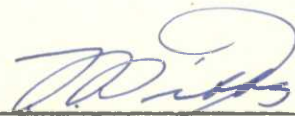
This item was listed under Crescent Lake Refuge of the report. Crescent Lake Refuge personnel made 16 visits to the refuge during the period.

C. Violations:

There were no prosecutions during the period. Minor transgressions that did not warrant prosecution were warned.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Lloyd R. Ramelli  
Refuge Manager

Approved:   
Acting Regional Director  
Date: January 28, 1952



Narrative report forms 7, 8, 8a, 9, and 10 are not applicable to this refuge, and are therefore omitted.

3-1750

Form NR-1

(Nov. 1945)

## WATERFOWL

Refuge North PlatteMonths of Sept. to Dec. 31 1945

(1) Species	(2) First Seen		(3) Peak Concentration		(4) Last Seen		(5) Young Produced		(6) Total
Common Name	Number	Date	Number	Date	Number	Date	Broods Seen	Estimated Total	Estimated for Period
I. Swans:									
Whistling swan									
II. Geese:									
Canada goose	8	10/24	250	11/1	25	12/7			1500
Cackling goose									
Brant									
White-fronted goose									
Snow goose									
Blue goose									
III. Ducks:									
Mallard	prev. period		41,000	11/9	10,000	12/7			60,000
Black duck									
Gadwall									
Baldpate									
Pintail	prev. period		200	9/28	1	10/13			500
Green-winged teal	500	11/9	500	11/9	500	11/9			1500
Blue-winged teal	prev. period		1,000	10/1	25	10/24			2500
Cinnamon teal									
Wood duck									
Red head	prev. period		100	10/17	6	10/24			500
Ring-necked duck									
Canvas-back	10	9/20	250	10/17	13	11/8			1000
Scaup									
Golden-eye									
Buffle-head									
Ruddy duck									
Shoveller	1	9/28	1000	10/17	2	11/8			3000
Merganser	15	10/24	7500	11/9	5000	12/7			10,000
IV. Coot									

(over)



# SUMMARIES

Total Production:

3-1750  
Form NR-1  
(Nov. 1945)

Geese.....

Total waterfowl usage during period.....80,500

Ducks.....

Peak waterfowl numbers.....52,000

Coots.....

Areas used by concentrations.....

Principal nesting areas this season.....

Reported by

Lloyd R. Ramelli

## INSTRUCTIONS

- (1) Species: In addition to the birds listed on form, other species occurring on refuge during the reporting period should be added in appropriate spaces. Special attention should be given to those species of local and National significance.
- (2) First Seen: The first refuge record for the species during the season concerned in the reporting period, and the number seen. This column does not apply to resident species.
- (3) Peak Concentration: The greatest number of the species present in a limited interval of time.
- (4) Last Seen: The last refuge record for the species during the season concerned in the reporting period.
- (5) Young Produced: Estimated number of young produced based on observations and actual counts on representative breeding areas. Brood counts should be made on two or more areas aggregating 10% of the breeding habitat. Estimates having no basis in fact should be omitted.
- (6) Total: Estimated total number of the species using the refuge during the period. This figure may or may not be more than that used for peak concentrations, depending upon the nature of the migrational movement.

Note: Only columns applicable to the reporting period should be used. It is desirable that the Summaries receive careful attention since these data are necessarily based on an analysis of the rest of the form.



3-1751

Form NR-1A  
(Nov. 1945)

## MIGRATORY BIRDS

(other than waterfowl)

Refuge North PlatteMonths of Sept. to Dec. 31 19451

(1) Species	(2) First Seen		(3) Peak Numbers		(4) Last Seen		(5) Production			(6) Total
Common Name	Number	Date	Number	Date	Number	Date	Number Colonies	Total # Nests	Total Young	Estimated Number
I. <u>Water and Marsh Birds:</u>										
Western Grebe	prev. period		50		1	9/20				75
Double crested cormorant	"	"	25		2	8/22				25
Black crowned night heron	"	"	25		1	9/20				40
Great Blue Heron	"	"	25		1	10/13				40
II. <u>Shorebirds, Gulls and Terns:</u>										
Avocet	prev. period		50		8	8/22				50
Ring-billed Gull	"	"	3000	8/22	500	9/20				5000
Forsters Tern	"	"	500		7	10/9				750
Black Tern	"	"	500		1	8/22				750

(over)







Refuge North PlatteMonths of Sept.to Dec. 31, 19451

(1) Species	(2) Density		(3) Young Produced		(4) Sex Ratio	(5) Removals			(6) Total	(7) Remarks
Common Name	Cover types, total acreage of habitat	Acres per Bird	Number broods obs'd.	Estimated Total	Percentage	Hunting	For Re- stocking	For Research	Estimated number using Refuge	Pertinent information not specifically requested. List introductions here.
Ring-necked Pheasant									50	



## INSTRUCTIONS

### Form NR-2 - UPLAND GAME BIRDS.\*

- (1) SPECIES: Use correct common name.
- (2) DENSITY: Applies particularly to those species considered in removal programs (public hunts, etc.). Detailed data may be omitted for species occurring in limited numbers. Density to be expressed in acres per animal by cover types. This information is to be prefaced by a statement from the refuge manager as to the number of acres in each cover type found on the refuge; once submitted, this information need not be repeated except as significant changes occur in the area of cover types. Cover types should be detailed enough to furnish the desired information but not so much as to obscure the general picture. Examples: spruce swamp, upland hardwoods, reverting agriculture land, bottomland hardwoods, short grass prairie, etc. Standard type symbols listed in Wildlife Management Series No. 7 should be used where possible. Figures submitted should be based on actual observations and counts on representative sample areas. Survey method used and size of sample area or areas should be indicated under Remarks.
- (3) YOUNG PRODUCED: Estimated number of young produced, based upon observations and actual counts in representative breeding habitat.
- (4) SEX RATIO: This column applies primarily to wild turkey, pheasants, etc. Include data on other species if available.
- (5) REMOVALS: Indicate total number in each category removed during the report period.
- (6) TOTAL: Estimated total number using the refuge during the report period. This may include resident birds plus those migrating into the refuge during certain seasons.
- (7) REMARKS: Indicate method used to determine population and area covered in survey. Also include other pertinent information not specifically requested.

\* Only columns applicable to the period covered should be used.



3-1753  
Form NR-3  
(June 1945)

# BIG GAME

Refuge North Platte Calendar Year 1951

(1) Species	(2) Density	(3) Young Produced	(4) Removals				(5) Losses		(6) Introductions	(7) Estimated Total Refuge Population		(8) Sex Ratio		
Common Name	Cover types, total Acreage of Habitat	Number	Hunting	For Re- stocking	Sold	For Research	Predation	Disease	Winter Loss	Number	Source	At period of Greatest use	As of Dec. 31	
Mule Deer												15	15	1:1

Remarks:

Reported by

Lloyd R. Ramelli  
Lloyd R. Ramelli



## INSTRUCTIONS

Form NR-3 - BIG GAME

- (1) **SPECIES:** Use correct common name; i.e., Mule deer, black-tailed deer, white-tailed deer. It is unnecessary to indicate sub-species such as northern or Louisiana white-tailed deer.
- (2) **DENSITY:** Detailed data may be omitted for species occurring in limited numbers. Density to be expressed in acres per animal by cover types. This information is to be prefaced by a statement from the refuge manager as to the number of acres in each cover type found on the refuge; once submitted, this information need not be repeated except as significant changes occur in the area of cover types. Cover types should be detailed enough to furnish the desired information but not so much as to obscure the general picture. Examples: spruce swamp, upland hardwoods, reverting agriculture land, bottomland hardwoods, short grass prairie, etc. Standard type symbols listed in Wildlife Management Series No. 7 should be used where possible. Figures submitted should be based on actual observations and counts on representative sample areas. Survey method used and size of sample area or areas should be indicated under Remarks.
- (3) **YOUNG PRODUCED:** Estimated total number of young produced on refuge.
- (4) **REMOVALS:** Indicate total number in each category removed during the year.
- (5) **LOSSES:** On the basis of known records or reliable estimates indicate total losses in each category during the year.
- (6) **INTRODUCTIONS:** Indicate the number and refuge or agency from which stock was secured.
- (7) **TOTAL REFUGE POPULATION:** Give the estimated population of each species on the refuge at period of its greatest abundance and also as of Dec. 31.
- (8) **SEX RATIO:** Indicate the percentage of males and females of each species as determined from field observations or through removals.

116000

Refuge North PlatteYear 1945Botulism NONELead Poisoning or other Disease NONE

Period of outbreak \_\_\_\_\_

Period of heaviest losses \_\_\_\_\_

## Losses:

	Actual Count	Estimated
(a) Waterfowl	_____	_____
(b) Shorebirds	_____	_____
(c) Other	_____	_____

Number Hospitalized	No. Recovered	% Recovered
(a) Waterfowl	_____	_____
(b) Shorebirds	_____	_____
(c) Other	_____	_____

(a) Waterfowl	_____	_____
(b) Shorebirds	_____	_____
(c) Other	_____	_____

Areas affected (location and approximate acreage) \_\_\_\_\_

Water conditions (average depth of water in sickness areas, reflooding of exposed flats, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_

Condition of vegetation and invertebrate life \_\_\_\_\_

Remarks \_\_\_\_\_

Kind of disease \_\_\_\_\_

Species affected \_\_\_\_\_

Number Affected Species	Actual Count	Estimated
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Number Recovered \_\_\_\_\_

Number lost \_\_\_\_\_

Source of infection \_\_\_\_\_

Water conditions \_\_\_\_\_

Food conditions \_\_\_\_\_

Remarks \_\_\_\_\_



Refuge

North Platte

Year 19451

Species	Relative Abundance	Sport Fishing		Commercial Fishing		Restocking		Number removed for Restocking
		Man days Fishing	Number Taken	No. of Permits	Pounds Taken	Number Stocked	Area Stocked	
Trout	3%	2000	1000 (estimated)	"				
Wall-eyed Pike	3%	2000	1000	"				
Perch	1%	1000	3000	"				
Carp	90%							
White Bass	1%	1000	100	"				

REMARKS: All data estimated.



Mowing weeds and reading wells are ever with us  
to consume time





A bath and utility room were added to quarters 3.



A well was dug for domestic use at quarters 3.



We had luxuriant growths of food, cover  
and forage this year.





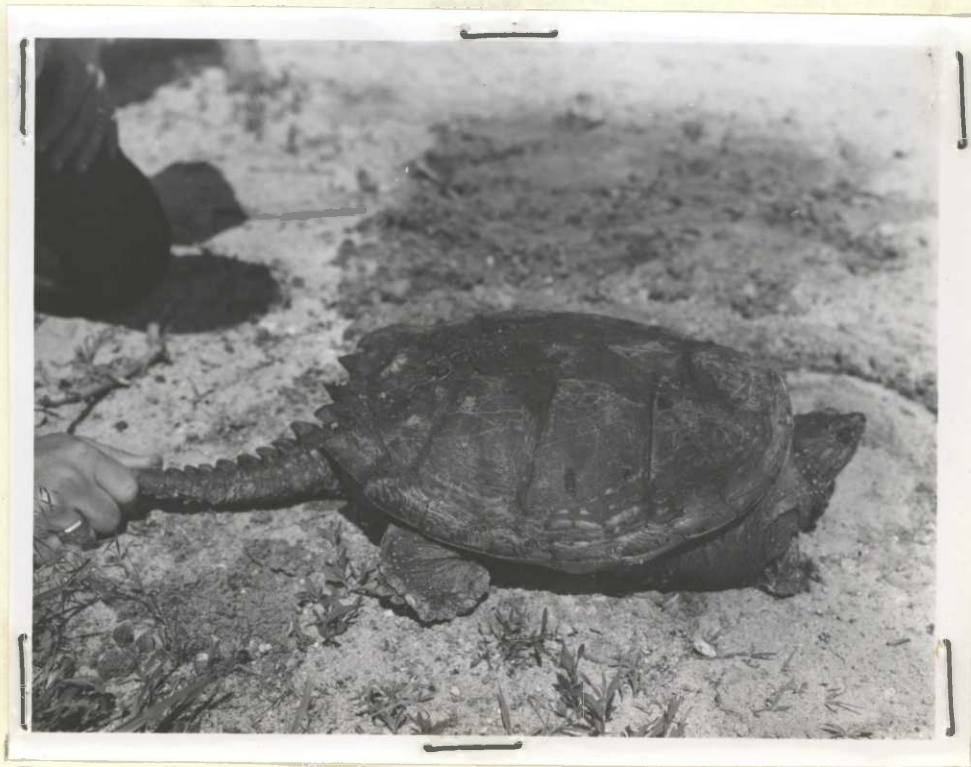
An overgrazed area (off the refuge).



A view at headquarters showing part of the results  
of the overage and dead willows



Our muskrat houses were abundant and of good size this year.



Snapping turtles are common in some of our Lakes.





Some of the forms of recreational use at Lake Minatare



The entrance signs were sanded



Ice fishing - Lake Minatare