

BRANCH OF WILDLIFE REFUGES

NARRATIVE REPORT

ROUTING SLIP

DATE May 15, 1953

~~Mr. Salyer~~ _____

~~Mr. Dillmont~~ PAD

~~Mr. Krommes~~ _____

~~Miss Bazum~~ _____

Section of Operations:

~~Mr. Ball~~ _____

~~Mr. Hoxley~~ Ham

~~Mr. Ragan~~ WJR

Section of Habitat Improvement:

~~Mr. Griffith~~ BS

Mr. Kubichek _____

~~Mr. Boun~~ WSB

Mr. Stiles WBS

Section of Land Management:

~~Mr. Schmitt~~ aa

~~Mr. Davis~~ ad

Stenographers:

REFUGE CRESCENT LAKE AND NORTH PLATTE

PERIOD January - April 1953

CRESCENT LAKE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

AND

NORTH PLATTE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

REFUGE NARRATIVE REPORT

January, February, March, April

1953

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*
* Lloyd R. Ramelli, Refuge Manager *
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* Patrick J. Kennedy, Maintenance Man *
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* Harley F. Modlin, Refuge Clerk *
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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

ELLSWORTH, NEBRASKA

TABLE OF CONTENTS

CRESCENT LAKE REFUGE

| | | |
|---|------|----|
| I General | | |
| A-Weather Conditions | 1 - | 2 |
| B-Water Conditions | 2 | |
| C-Fires | 2 | |
| II Wildlife | | |
| A-Migratory Birds | 2 - | 3 |
| B-Upland Game Birds | 3 - | 4 |
| C-Big Game Animals | 4 | |
| D-Fur Animals, Predators, Rodents and Other Mammals | 4 - | 5 |
| E-Predaceous Birds | 5 | |
| F-Fish | 5 - | 6 |
| III Refuge Development and Maintenance | | |
| A-Physical Development and Maintenance | 6 - | 7 |
| B-Planting | 7 | |
| IV Economic Use | | |
| A-Grazing | 7 - | 8 |
| B-Fur Harvest | 8 | |
| C-Buildings | 8 | |
| V Field Investigation | | |
| A-Canadian Goose Project | 8 - | 9 |
| B-Improvement of Gimlet Enclosure | 9 - | 10 |
| C-Banding | 10 | |
| VI Public Relations | | |
| A-Recreational Uses | 10 | |
| B-Refuge Visitors | 10 - | 11 |
| C-Refuge Participation | 11 | |
| D-Violations | 11 | |
| VII Other Items | | |
| A-Items of Interest | 11 - | 12 |
| B-Photographs | 12 | |

NR Forms at end of each Refuge Section

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

CRESCENT LAKE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

Period ending May 1, 1953

I. GENERAL

A. Weather Conditions:

During month of January the maximum readings were above average. Daily maximum readings fail to show below freezing point. An exceptionally dry month, only .35 of moisture being recorded.

The following month brought with it a variety of rain, snow and five days of high wind. Dryness of soil and the sun working on snow left the prairies and roads in good shape. Considering winter travel, no one was caught complaining of such in January or February. Stockman never encountered the usual drifts or heavy snow on ground in their feeding of livestock.

Latter part of period consisted mostly of wind. Several reports of crop damage has resulted from high-strong winds. In the farming areas topsoil was blown from crops, especially sugar beets and re-planting is required to insure late but more profitable results. No damage to trees or shrubs has been observed on refuge land or any signs of blow-outs due to this wind. Several good farms and over-grazed pastures were seen in this vicinity traveling generally to the southeast. By velocity of wind (approx. 40-60 m.p.h.) any objects in air were on their flight of no return.

First week of April found us with two inches of snow and $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches of rain. Warm weather prevailed for short time bringing frost out of ground and travel for few days was mostly push, pull, cuss and dig. Light constant showers returned mixed with chilly winds and made outside activities disagreeable. Psychologically, it was cold as by information on calender spring had arrived. Even with these chilly days, grass and buds emerged earlier than might prove advisable. This period ended with over-cast skies and sufficient moisture in ground to have an excellent growing season if warm weather appears.

The Weather Bureau maintained by refuge personnel has furnished the following data:

| | Precipitation | Snow | Maximum | Minimum |
|----------|---------------|------|---------|---------|
| January | 0 | .35 | 60 | -4 |
| February | 1.80 | 13.5 | 59 | -2 |
| March | .29 | 2.0 | 67 | 2 |
| April | 2.68 | 2.0 | 85 | 18 |

B. Water Conditions:

Ground water, as measured by our wells is an average of 8 inches lower this year as compared to the same readings taken a year ago. This is easily accounted for considering the hot dry summer and lack of precipitation until late fall.

Strangely, our lakes have not followed this trend as they are approaching the levels of a year ago when water was exceptionally high.

In all, our water conditions are good. With a normal amount of rainfall we should have a good forage year.

C. Fires:

We have had no fires during the period.

II. WILDLIFE

A. Migratory Birds:

1. Populations and Behavior:

There were no waterfowl on the refuge during January except for a brief period during mid-month when temperatures moderated to provide a few pools of open water. Canadian geese and mallards immediately took advantage of this. However, the next day forced them back to the North Platte River when king winter once again took over.

On February first we noted the first mergansers to be moving north. At the same time Canadian geese were noticeably restless and preparing to migrate. An estimated 500 Canadian geese; 2000 Mallards and 5000 Mergansers used the refuge during the first week of February. A turn of severe weather reduced migrational movements to 250 Canadian geese and 3000 Mergansers during the following week.

Migrations continued on a limited basis involving only the more

hardy individuals during the remainder of this month.

Spring migrations began in earnest during the first week of March. During this period Canadian and Snow geese, Mallards, Pintail, Redhead, Canvasback, Scaup, Bufflehead were noted. Migrants increased until peak populations were reached during the week of March 22-28. Migrants then steadily decreased to the end of the period.

By comparison to 1952 we find the migration to have been 2 weeks earlier this year. This was no doubt influenced by a corresponding earlier spring break up of our frozen lakes. Waterfowl are quick to move back when open water is available even if only for a day or so during mid-winter.

Mourning Doves were first noted on April 24. To the date of this report migrants have not arrived in sufficient numbers to draw conclusions as to our breeding potential for the coming season.

Our Canadian Goose Rearing Project is treated under Section V of this report.

2. Food and Cover:

Food and cover were sufficient for visiting migrants on their northern flight.

Deer, Smith-Martin, Gimlet, Goose and Roundup remain as our best food producing lakes.

3. Disease:

There was no evidence of disease during the period.

B. Upland Game Birds:

1. Populations and Behavior:

While considerable periods of cold and snow covered food at various times throughout the winter we did not find indications of loss or starvation.

Supplemental feeding was provided as necessary. However, Prairie Chicken and Sharp-tail Grouse did not readily respond to our offerings of wheat and corn. They preferred to "rough it" depending on their natural feeds. Pheasants were not at all bashful and took any feed we

offered them and at any time.

2. Food and Cover:

Natural food and cover were sufficient for all our upland game birds. Supplemental feeding was required only during periods of deep snow.

3. Disease:

There were no indications of disease.

C. Big Game Animals:

1. Populations and Behavior:

Mule Deer: The refuge herd has moved back to their summer range in the vicinity of Gimlet, Island and Hackberry lakes. These deer evidently wintered without loss. They are in good shape. This herd is slowly increasing.

Antelope: We have noted an occasional antelope to have returned to east end of the refuge during recent patrols of that area. They commonly move to the breaks and table lands along the North Platte Valley during winter months and return to the sandhills during the summer.

These animals have made noticeable gains since the coyotes were brought under control. If this trend continues a limited antelope season will be justified within a few years. We now hear of concertations doing considerable damage to winter wheat lands while on their winter range.

2. Food and Cover:

This factor was more than ample to support our present deer and antelope populations.

3. Disease:

We did not note any sign of disease among our deer or antelope.

D. Fur Animals, Predators, Rodents and Other Mammals:

Muskrat: Trapping operations fell below the anticipated catch due to a lack of trappers during the first nine weeks of the trapping season.

At the last moment the old trappers decided they could not under the low price of furs. This left us without a trapper until a suitable permittee was found. When we found a satisfactory trapper and trapping operations were under way only one month remained in the season. Alternating freezing and thawing weather added to his difficulties. A total of 592 muskrats were taken, of these, 296 were shipped as the refuge share. As of this date these furs have not been sold.

From all indications our muskrat population estimates of last fall were very conservative. Unless some radical changes occur we can expect to at least double our quota next year.

We did not find any indications of the "Iowa like" muskrat disease that was prevalent in this area 3 years ago.

Raccoon and Skunk: Populations have declined considerably over those of several years ago. No coon or skunk were taken during trapping operations. Individuals are taken as opportunity affords if there is the least possibility they might interfere with our goose rearing project.

Coyote: This predator has become more obvious since neighboring poisoning operations have ceased. At present, populations do not warrant active control measures.

Pocket Gophers: This rodent is our number one enemy. Many acres of grassland in the sandhills are ruined or severely damaged through the industry of gophers.

Rabbits: Quite scarce over the refuge with the exception of cottontails which are quite common at headquarters. Great Horned Owls have assisted in keeping these numbers under control.

E. Predaceous Birds:

Hawks and eagles were not common until migrants began to filter in. An occasional grouse or pheasant is lost to these birds.

F. Fish:

The state seining crew attempted to seine large mouth bass from Martin Lake for transplanting to open waters. This operation was successful only to the take of approximately 50 bass and 50 crappie. One reason for this small catch was the bass are usually back in the weeds and rushes at this time of the year. Further attempts are planned for next winter when the fish are likely to be forced to deeper and open waters by ice.

Plans are being laid to install a carp trap between Crescent and Blue Lakes. Our services and equipment will be available in any way we can help the state in this activity.

The bass in Smith-Martin remains as our number one thorn. While most of the public realize our reason for closing these waters there are those die hards who will not. There remains considerable agitation to have these waters opened.

Several fisherman have been checked at Island Lake. Their take was confined to small stunted bullheads.

III. REFUGE DEVELOPMENT AND MAINTENANCE

A. Physical Development and Maintenance:

Maintenance and preventative maintenance work took most of our outside time during the period.

1. Considerable time was spent keeping our vehicles in good shape. In addition to greasing, cleaning, repairs, replacements and tuneups were made as necessary on all four vehicles.
2. Roads were plowed free of deep snow on four occasions. When water holes had subsided they were bladed as necessary.
3. A trip was made to Toledo, Ohio to take delivery of a new jeep pickup.
4. The ceilings of quarters #3 and #5 were insulated.
5. Cracks were patched and sealed in quarters #3 and #5.
6. The interior of quarters #3 were painted and refinished.
7. Upland game was fed as necessary throughout the winter.
8. The captive Canada geese were tended daily and pens cleaned as necessary.
9. Rafts were constructed and anchored in Gimlet lake for the Canada geese. Muskrat houses were then transferred to these rafts.
10. Pipes were thawed and other miscellaneous repairs and maintenance was performed at various buildings and residences as needed.

11. Cattle were counted in and out of refuge grazing units.
12. 900 seedling trees planted for windbreaks, food and cover.
13. Planted 500 lbs. crested wheat grass seed and 750 lbs. sweet clover seed to control blowouts.

B. Planting:

Seedling trees were again planted to provide shelter belts, cover and food for wildlife and for landscaping purposes at headquarters.

Following are the species and numbers planted:

| | |
|-----------------|-----|
| Honeysuckle | 50 |
| Sandcherry | 100 |
| Buffaloberry | 100 |
| Multiflora Rose | 100 |
| Russian Olive | 100 |
| Cottonwood | 100 |
| Chinese Elm | 100 |
| Hackberry | 50 |
| Black Locust | 50 |
| Cedar | 75 |
| Blue Spruce | 25 |
| Ponderosa Pine | 50 |

These trees were purchased from the local Soil Conservation Service District.

As an experiment we have obtained some dwarf kafir corn and millet seed. We intend to try this on the lake shores along receding water lines where soil conditions will allow such activities.

The old fenced blow out area in Unit 16 b was seeded with 750 lbs. of sweet clover and 500 lbs. of crested wheat. This area has greatly improved during the past few years and with assistance it should continue to heal over. It is doubtful if this area will ever return to its original state.

IV. ECONOMIC USE

A. Grazing:

Grazing conditions may be considered as good during the past season. While the units did not produce the copious amounts of forage as in the preceding year, grazing was at least average or

better. Winter feeding started in mid-November, approximately one and one-half months early. In January the weather finally moderated to free the ranges of snow. By using high protein feed concentrates the ranchers were able to get the cattle back to grazing the hills thus utilizing that forage. While several blizzards beset us, there was no appreciable damage done.

Grazing activities on the refuge were terminated on April 15 as provided by the Economic Use Plan. One permittee is able to corral his cattle off the refuge and haul hay to them. This will enable him to utilize approximately 60 tons of hay that would otherwise be surplus and we will receive about \$225 more revenue.

Water conditions and the advanced spring are indicative for a normal or better grazing season during the coming year.

B. Fur Harvest:

Details of this activity is treated under Section II. To date our furs have not been sold.

C. Buildings:

The buildings on the Boyd place have all been removed by Mr. Morris Petterson, the successful bidder. The grounds have been cleaned up and leveled off.

The buildings on the Jones place are still rented by Mr. Bandy under special use permit.

V. FIELD INVESTIGATIONS

A. Canadian Goose Project:

We had 98 geese at the beginning of the period. These were confined to the holding pens at headquarters where they were fed, watered and attended to daily.

Two geese were lost during the winter. These were both North Platte birds and both immature females. Both birds were above average in size, fat, in good flesh and without outward appearance of disease. Posts revealed one bird to have white spots throughout the kidneys and in its liver. Tiny growths on the tissue and mesenteries appeared in the abdominal cavity. From appearances these growths were a fungus infection. The other bird appeared normal throughout except the main arteries leading from the heart were a bright chertuse green-yellow. The remaining 96 geese were good healthy birds.

They were fed corn, wheat, alfalfa hay, native grass hay and rabbit pellets throughout the winter. While all these feeds were taken, preferences were descending in the order given. When weather permitted, the geese were released on the refuge grounds. This enabled them to forage and exercise.

Rafts were built and anchored in Gimlet Lake. Two types were used; one constructed of fence posts laced by wire, the other of old willow tree branches and laced with wire. Both types were then covered with old muskrat houses to encourage their use as a nesting site. To date the geese have not used these rafts at all. They have been extensively used by cormorants, blue herons and a few ducks. It was hoped to encourage their use by geese as a further protection against any predators such as raccoon.

One pair were definitely mated by February 1. While several other matings were suspected, we could not be certain due to the tendency of the birds to remain in one large flock while penned up.

The birds were released on Gimlet Lake as soon as the ice went out and open water prevailed for the year. We released the birds on March 16 this year.

After releasing, we have noted 3 pairs that separated and have kept to themselves. We have not located any nests, however, we have not made an intensive search since any activity on our part causes the birds to leave their adopted areas for extended periods of time. We consider it far more important not to take any chances on discouraging a pair from nesting. More detailed examinations will be made later in the season.

The birds are fed corn and wheat periodically on the south peninsula. This has become a favorite grazing area for the geese since removal of the many years accumulation of dead grass. The area is now an ideal goose pasture.

B. Improvement of Gimlet Enclosure:

This enclosure has not been grazed or utilized in any way for a number of years. This has resulted in the common condition of such areas with dead vegetation building up to the point where the more desirable forage being gradually choked out and in many instances decreasing accessibility.

In view of this condition and of our need for a grazing ground for our captive geese, steps were taken to improve the area.

First, the enclosure was grazed by cattle during the past winter. Grazing of old dead vegetation was encouraged by the permittees use of high protein range concentrated feeds. By use of this type of

concentrate cattle have a craving for any grass or forage they can get. When the cover had been reduced to a satisfactory level, the cattle were removed. We then removed vegetation from the south peninsula by a light burn.

This has resulted in an ideal goose pasture which is continually utilized by the geese.

C. Banding:

Of the 233 ducks banded during 1952 we have had returns on 14 birds.

In addition to the 9 returns listed in our September-December 1952 narrative the following have been received:

Mallard:

Locality taken:

| | |
|---|------------------|
| 1 | Lake Kemp, Texas |
| 1 | Guynen, Okla. |
| 1 | Columbus, Texas |
| 1 | Oshkosh, Nebr. |

Gadwall:

| | |
|---|--------------------------|
| 1 | Leon, Guanajuato, Mexico |
|---|--------------------------|

VI. PUBLIC RELATIONS

A. Recreational Uses:

Refuge visitors were few during the period due to poor roads and generally disagreeable weather.

Approximately 25 people tried their luck in Island Lake and were rewarded with all the stunted undersized bullheads they wanted.

There were also 25 people that came up in the hills to observe the spring migrations, Bambi the deer and George, our antelope.

B. Refuge Visitors:

Official visitors included the following:

| | |
|-----|--|
| 2/1 | Mr. Wm. Main, County Agent, winter range conditions. |
| 2/? | Mr. Harlan Morgan, US. G.M.A., patrol. |

- 3/19-20 Dr. Ray Erickson, Biologist, Malheur Refuge, collect propagative materials.
- 3/24-25 Mr. Forrest Carpenter, refuge inspection.
Mr. Lowell Harrison, " " .
- 3/24 Mr. Paul Todd, Nebr. State Fish Salvage Officer, Carp and Bass removal.
- 4/8-9 " " "
- 4/20 Army personnel, North Platte Air Base, Aircraft identification, National Defense.
- 4/27 Mr. Harvey Miller, Waterfowl Biologist, Habitat Survey.
- 4/30 " " " " .

C. Refuge Participation:

- 1/8 Ainsworth Rod and Gun Club meeting with Messrs. Wiseman and Woon of Valentine Refuge. Attendance approx 350.
- 1/9 Meet with Mgrs. Wiseman and Krumm at Valentine Refuge. Discuss grazing, waterfowl, administration. Show kodachrome slides on various National Wildlife Refuges.
- 2/16 Attend Nebraska Council of Sportsmens Clubs at Lincoln, Nebr. Attendance 200.
- 4/6 Oshkosh Rotary Club. 1 hour talk on waterfowl migrations. Attendance 30.

In addition the manager belongs to and attended weekly evening meeting of the Oshkosh Rotary Club when attendance was compatible with refuge duties.

D. Violations:

No prosecutions were made.

VII. OTHER ITEMS

A. Items of Interest:

Oil talk has subsided during the past few months. While several exploration companies have been active there has been no drilling

since last summer.

Several seismograph representatives have inquired about working the refuge area. They have not been encouraged and were referred to higher headquarters. That is the last we have heard of any of them.


Mr. Frank Modlin of Scottsbluff, Nebr. was appointed to fill the clerk-typist position vacated by Mr. Woon.

B. Photographs:

The enclosed photographs were taken by the manager with his equipment and during the course of refuge and personal activities.

Section I was written by Mr. Modlin.

Respectfully submitted,


Lloyd R. Ramelli
Refuge Manager

Date: May 7, 1953

Approved by: 
Acting Regional Director

May 11, 1953

WATERFOWL

REFUGE Crescent LakeMONTHS OF January to April, 19 53

| (1) Species | (2) First Migrants Seen | | (3) Peak Concentration | | (4) Last Migrants Seen | | (5) Young Produced | | (6) |
|---------------------|----------------------------|------|---------------------------|-----------------|---------------------------|------|-----------------------|-----------------|--------------------------|
| Common Name | Number | Date | Number | Inclusive Dates | Number | Date | Broods Seen | Estimated Total | Estimated Waterfowl Days |
| 1. <u>Swans:</u> | | | | | | | | | |
| Whistling swan | | | | | | | | | |
| 2. <u>Geese:</u> | | | | | | | | | |
| Canada goose | 150 | 1/13 | 1000 | 2/15-3/2 | 500 | 3/14 | | | 25,000 |
| Cackling goose | | | | | | | | | |
| Brant | | | | | | | | | |
| White-fronted goose | | | | | | | | | |
| Snow goose | 100 | 3/1 | 1000 | 3/17-31 | 200 | 4/15 | | | 30,000 |
| Blue goose | | | | | | | | | 55,000 |
| 3. <u>Ducks:</u> | | | | | | | | | |
| Mallard | 15 | 1/13 | 2500 | 3/1-7 | 2000 | 4/30 | | | 65,000 |
| Black Duck | | | | | | | | | |
| Gadwall | 500 | 3/15 | 2000 | 3/22-28 | 2000 | 4/30 | | | 30,000 |
| Baldpate | 250 | 3/19 | 500 | 4/5-30 | 500 | 4/30 | | | 10,000 |
| Pintail | 1000 | 3/1 | 1000 | 3/1-28 | 750 | 4/30 | | | 48,000 |
| Green-winged teal | 100 | 3/15 | 600 | 4/12-30 | 600 | 4/30 | | | 18,000 |
| Blue-winged teal | 50 | 4/4 | 2000 | 4/26-30 | 2000 | 4/30 | | | 25,000 |
| Cinnamon teal | 1 | 4/12 | 1 | 4/12 | 1 | 4/12 | | | 1 |
| Shoveller | 1000 | 3/15 | 2500 | 4/22-28 | 1000 | 4/30 | | | 50,000 |
| Wood duck | | | | | | | | | |
| Redhead | 200 | 3/1 | 200 | 3/1-7 | 100 | 4/30 | | | 9,000 |
| Ring-necked duck | | | | | | | | | |
| Canvas-back | 100 | 3/1 | 100 | 3/1-7 | 50 | 3/21 | | | 1,500 |
| Scaup | 200 | 3/1 | 500 | 3/22-4/30 | 500 | 4/30 | | | 24,000 |
| Golden-eye | | | | | | | | | |
| Buffle-head | 100 | 3/1 | 100 | 3/1-7 | 25 | 4/30 | | | 3,000 |
| Ruddy duck | 10 | 4/6 | 500 | 4/25-30 | 500 | 4/30 | | | 12,000 |
| | | | 17,500 | | | | | | 295,500 |
| 4. <u>Coot:</u> | 35 | 3/24 | 2000 | 4/25-30 | 2000 | 4/30 | | | 25,000 |

3-1750
(Aug. 1952)

(over)

Form NR-1

(CASE) SUMMARIES

Total Production:

Geese _____

Ducks _____

Coots _____

Total waterfowl days use during period 375501

Peak waterfowl numbers 16501

Areas used by concentrations Lake areas at refuge.

Principal nesting areas this season _____

No. of inventories this period 10 % of refuge covered 20

Reported by Lloyd H. Russell Refuge Manager

INSTRUCTIONS (See Sec. 7532, Wildlife Refuges Field Manual)

- (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 reporting period, and the number seen. This column does not apply to resident species.
- (3) Peak Concentration: Estimated number and inclusive dates when peak population of the species occurred.
- (4) Last Seen: The last refuge record for the species during 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 waterfowl days use (average population X no. of days present) of refuge for reporting period based. (See Sec. 7532, Wildlife Refuges Field Manual.)

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
(Aug. 1952)MIGRATORY BIRDS
(Other than Waterfowl)Refuge Crescent LakeMonths of January to April 1953

| (1) Species | (2) First Seen | | (3) Peak Concentration | | (4) Last Seen | | (5) Production | | | (6) Total |
|---|-------------------|------|---------------------------|----------------------------|------------------|------|--------------------|------------------|----------------|------------------|
| Common Name | Number | Date | Number | Inclusive Dates | Number | Date | Number Colonies | Total # Nests | Total Young | Estimated Use |
| I. <u>Water and Marsh Birds:</u> | | | | | | | | | | |
| Eared Grebe | 1 | 4/10 | 400 | 4/15-30 | 400 | 4/30 | | | | 6000 |
| Western Grebe | 1 | 4/25 | 300 | 4/30 | 300 | 4/30 | | | | 500 |
| White Pelican | 8 | 3/20 | 1000 | 4/8-30 | 1000 | 4/30 | | | | 2000 |
| Cormorant | 3 | 4/1 | 250 | 4/15-30 | 250 | 4/30 | | | | 4000 |
| Great Blue Heron | 50 | 3/24 | 250 | 4/1-30 | 250 | 4/30 | | | | 7500 |
| Black-crowned Night Heron | 1 | 4/30 | 1 | 4/30 | 1 | 4/30 | | | | 1 |
| American Bittern | 1 | 3/15 | 25 | 4/1-30 | 25 | 4/30 | | | | 800 |
| Sandhill Crane | 250 | 3/15 | 10,000 | cranes passed over refuge. | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | |
| II. <u>Shorebirds, Gulls and Terns:</u> | | | | | | | | | | |
| Long-billed Curlew | 1 | 3/28 | 750 | 4/10-30 | 750 | 4/30 | | | | 18,500 |
| Western Willet | 1 | 3/28 | 250 | 4/15-30 | 250 | 4/30 | | | | 5,000 |
| Ring-billed Gull | 2500 | 3/28 | 5000 | 4/1-4 | 200 | 4/15 | | | | 25,000 |
| Avocet | 1 | 4/20 | 100 | 4/25-30 | 100 | 4/30 | | | | 600 |

(over)

| (1) | (2) | | (3) | | (4) | | (5) | | (6) |
|--|----------|------------|----------|----------------------|----------|--------------|-----|--|----------------|
| III. <u>Doves and Pigeons:</u> Mourning dove White-winged dove | 1 | 4/15 | 1000 | 4/30 | 1000 | 4/30 | | | 10,000 |
| IV. <u>Predaceous Birds:</u> Golden eagle Duck hawk Horned owl Magpie Raven Crow | 25 25 | 1/1 1/1 | 25 25 | 1/1-4/30 1/1-4/30 | 25 25 | 4/30 4/30 | | | 2,800 2,800 |
| Reported by <u>Lloyd R. Ramelli</u> | | | | | | | | | |

INSTRUCTIONS

(See Sec. 7532, Wildlife Refuges Field Manual)

- (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 migration record for the species for the reporting period.
- (3) Peak Numbers: Estimated number and inclusive dates when peak population of the species occurred.
- (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 species days use (average population X no. days present) of refuge during the reporting period.

UPLAND GAME BIRDS

1613

Refuge Crescent Lake

Months of January

to

April

, 194 53

| (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 | | 1:1 | | | 150 | |
| Sharp-tailed Grouse | 40,000 | | 1:1 | | | 2000 | |
| Prairie Chicken | 40,000 | | 1:1 | | | 500 | |

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.

Refuge Crescent LakeApril 30, 194 53

| (1) Species | (2) Density | (3) Removals | | | | | | (4) Disposition of Fur | | | | | | (5) Total | |
|----------------|---|------------------------|---------|----------------|---------------------|---------------------|-----------------|---------------------------|--------------------|-----------------|------------------------------|------------------|--------------|----------------|-----------------|
| Common Name | Cover Types & Total Acreage of Habitat | Acres Per Animal | Hunting | Fur Harvest | Predator Control | For Re- stocking | For Research | Share Trapping | | | Total Refuge Furs Shipped | Refuge Income | Furs Donated | Furs Destroyed | Popula- tion |
| | | | | | | | | Permit Number | Trappers' Share | Refuge Share | | | | | |
| Muskrat | | | | 592 | | | | T 4856 | 296 | 296 | 296 | | | | 2,178 |
| Raccoon | | | | | 10 | | | | | | | | | | 20 |
| Skunk | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 25 |
| Coyote | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 20 |
| Badger | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 10 |

REMARKS:

Furs not sold to this date

INSTRUCTIONS

Form NR-4 - SMALL MAMMALS (Include data on all species of importance in the management program; i.e., muskrats, beaver, coon, mink, coyote. Data on small rodents may be omitted except for estimated total population of each species considered in control operations.)

(1) SPECIES:

Use correct common name. Example: Striped skunk, spotted skunk, short-tailed weasel, gray squirrel, fox squirrel, white-tailed jackrabbit, etc. (Accepted common names in current use are found in the "Field Book of North American Mammals" by H. E. Anthony and the "Manual of the Vertebrate Animals of the Northeastern United States" by David Starr Jordan. "List of North American Recent Mammals" by G. S. Miller, Jr., a very good reference, is now out of print, although a revision is scheduled for publication in the near future.)

(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, bottom land 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) REMOVALS:

Indicate the total number under each category removed since April 30 of the previous year. Also show any removals not falling under heading listed.

(4) DISPOSITION OF FUR:

On share-trapped furs list the permit number, trapper's share, and refuge share. Indicate the number of pelts shipped to market and the total income to the refuge by species, including share-trapped furs and furs taken by Service personnel. Total number of pelts of each species destroyed because of unprimeness or damaged condition, and furs donated to institutions or other agencies should be shown in the column provided.

(5) TOTAL POPULATION:

Estimated total population of each species reported on as of April 30.

REMARKS:

Indicate inventory method(s) used, size of sample area(s), introductions, and any other pertinent information not specifically requested.

REFUGE 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 lb., corn (ear)—70 lb., wheat—60 lb., barley—50 lb., rye—55 lb., oats—30 lb., soy beans—60 lb., millet—50 lb., cowpeas—60 lb., and mixed—50 lb. In computing volume of granaries, multiply the cubic contents (cu. ft.) by 0.8 bushels.

- (1) List each type of grain separately and specifically, as flint corn, yellow dent corn, square deal hybrid corn, garnet wheat, red May wheat, durum wheat, spring wheat, proso millet, combine milo, new era cowpeas, mikado soy beans, etc. Mere listing as corn, wheat, and soybeans will not suffice, as specific details are necessary in considering transfer of seed supplies to other refuges. 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 break-down by varieties of grain listed in column 6. Indicate if grain is suitable for seeding new crops.
- (8) Nearest railroad station for shipping and receiving.
- (9) Where stored on refuge: "Headquarters granary," etc.
- (10) Indicate here the source of grain shipped in, destination of grain transferred, data on condition of grain, unusual uses proposed.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

NORTH PLATTE REFUGE

| | | |
|-----|------------------------------------|-------|
| I | General | |
| | A-Weather Conditions | 1 |
| | B-Water Conditions | 1 |
| | C-Fires | 1 |
| II | Wildlife | |
| | A-Migratory Birds | 1 - 2 |
| | B-Upland Game Birds | 2 |
| | C-Big Game Animals | 2 |
| | D-Fur Animals, Predators | 2 |
| | E-Predaceous Birds | 2 |
| | F-Fish | 2 |
| III | Refuge Development | |
| | A-Recreational Use | 3 |
| | B-Refuge Participation | 3 |
| | C-Violations | 3 |

NORTH PLATTE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

REFUGE NARRATIVE REPORT

Period ending April 30, 1953

I. GENERAL

A. Weather Conditions:

Weather moderated during the month of January to alternately thaw and freeze the lakes of the area. Temperatures remained low throughout February and early March to keep the lakes frozen until March 20.

B. Water Condition:

Lake Minatare levels were brought up to 4104.00 level and held there throughout the winter. Soon after the first of April water was brought in and by April 29 the level was up to 4121.00. This will be increased several more feet before the irrigation season begins during mid-May.

Lake Alice was emptied last fall as commonly practiced by the irrigation district. Filling began soon after April 1 and by the end of this period it was nearly full.

While the district does not consider this an exceptional water year, they anticipate enough to ~~meet~~ demands.

C. Fires:

There were no fires on the refuge during the period.

II. WILDLIFE

A. Migratory Birds:

1. Populations and Behavior:

Waterfowl populations were governed by the availability of open water. As soon as the ice would go out birds would move in from the North Platte River.

Due to ice remaining over the lakes until March 20 a large part of the spring migration passed over the area without using it. A

A few of these migrants would rest on the ice but for the most part they were not inclined to partake of this cold reception. Those migrants remaining after the lakes had opened did not hesitate to utilize the area.

We did not note nor did anyone report geese on this refuge during the period.

2. Food and Cover:

Vegetative food and cover are noticeably absent on this refuge. Some lower forms of animal life are prevalent, particularly in the mud lake bottom of Lake Alice.

B. Upland Game Bird:

Ring-necked and Mongolian pheasants are the only upland game birds noted on this refuge. Adjacent farm lands are more attractive to these birds and tend to draw them away from the refuge.

Food and cover were sufficient for present populations. There were no indications of disease.

C. Big Game Animals:

Deer populations vary from 10 to 20. They usually are found in the bushy part of the area.

D. Fur Animals, Predators:

There are very few animals of this group on the refuge. An occasional muskrat is observed and mink and skunk tracks have been noted on canal bank trails.

E. Predaceous Birds:

Magpies continue to enjoy the large cottonwood trees as roosting and nesting sites.

F. Fish:

Fishing has not been pursued with the usual vigor during the past winter. Poor luck seems to be the reason for lessening of this activity.

Walleye and Northern Pike began to strike as soon as water was brought into Lake Minatare. This has increased the number of fishermen considerably at the end of the period.

Due to poor condition of the lake ice during January, the State seining crew was unable to remove the quantities of carp they had planned. They were able to make only one haul this year as compared to 32,000 lbs. taken the year before.

III. REFUGE DEVELOPMENT

A. Physical Development:

Posting was checked during patrols of the refuge. Sign hunters had been fairly respectful of our signs until the middle of March when this sort of vandalism began to be indulged in again.

VI. ECONOMIC USE

Economic use activities are controlled and administered by the Bureau of Reclamation.

V. PUBLIC RELATIONS

A. Recreational Use:

Fishing and skating were the only recreational uses made of the area during the period. An estimated 1200 fishing days and 50 skating days were spent on these pursuits.

At the end of the period boats and cabin cruisers were being brought in and readied for the season.

B. Refuge Participation:

Activities attended and showing of kodachrome slides of the area are covered under the Crescent Lake report.

C. Violations:

There were no violations during the period.

Respectfully submitted


Lloyd R. Ramelli
Refuge Manager

Date: May 7, 1953

Approved: 
Acting Regional Director

May 11, 1953

REFUGE North Platte

MONTHS OF January to April, 1953

| (1) Species | (2) First Migrants Seen | | (3) Peak Concentration | | (4) Last Migrants Seen | | (5) Young Produced | | (6) |
|---------------------|----------------------------|--------|---------------------------|-----------------|---------------------------|------|-----------------------|-----------------|--------------------------|
| Common Name | Number | Date | Number | Inclusive Dates | Number | Date | Broods Seen | Estimated Total | Estimated Waterfowl Days |
| 1. <u>Swans:</u> | | | | | | | | | |
| Whistling swan | | | | | | | | | |
| 2. <u>Geese:</u> | | | | | | | | | |
| Canada goose | 250 | 2/14 | 1000 | 3/1-7 | 50 | 3/12 | | | 12,500 |
| Cackling goose | | | | | | | | | |
| Brant | | | | | | | | | |
| White-fronted goose | | | | | | | | | |
| Snow goose | | | | | | | | | |
| Blue goose | | | | | | | | | |
| 3. <u>Ducks:</u> | | | | | | | | | |
| Mallard | 250 | 1/31 | 4000 | 3/21-30 | 300 | 4/30 | | | 92,000 |
| Black Duck | | | | | | | | | |
| Gadwall | 100 | 3/21 | 100 | 3/21-30 | 50 | 4/25 | | | 2,000 |
| Baldpate | 50 | 3/21 | 100 | 4/1-5 | 100 | 4/20 | | | 2,000 |
| Pintail | 100 | 3/1 | 1500 | 3/21-28 | 50 | 4/30 | | | 45,000 |
| Green-winged teal | 500 | 3/1-15 | 500 | 3/15-20 | 10 | 4/30 | | | 10,000 |
| Blue-winged teal | 50 | 4/25 | 50 | 4/25-30 | 50 | 4/30 | | | 250 |
| Cinnamon teal | | | | | | | | | |
| Shoveller | 200 | 3/25 | 200 | 3/25-4/10 | 25 | 4/30 | | | 6,000 |
| Wood duck | | | | | | | | | |
| Redhead | 100 | 3/1 | 100 | 3/1-7 | 50 | 3/21 | | | 1,500 |
| Ring-necked duck | | | | | | | | | |
| Canvas-back | 100 | 3/1 | 100 | 3/1-7 | 25 | 3/14 | | | 1,000 |
| Scaup | 75 | 3/12 | 250 | 3/15-4/5 | 75 | 4/11 | | | 4,500 |
| Golden-eye | | | | | | | | | |
| Buffle-head | 25 | 3/12 | 25 | 3/12 | 25 | 3/12 | | | 25 |
| Ruddy duck | | | | | | | | | |
| 4. <u>Coot:</u> | | | | | | | | | |

3-1750
(Aug. 1952)

(over)

Form NR-1

Total Production:

Geese _____

Ducks _____

Coots _____

Total waterfowl days use during period 174800Peak waterfowl numbers 7925Areas used by concentrations Refuge Lakes

Principal nesting areas this season _____

No. of inventories this period 18 % of refuge covered 20Reported by Lloyd R. Hamell

Refuge Manager

INSTRUCTIONS (See Sec. 7532, Wildlife Refuges Field Manual)

- (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 reporting period, and the number seen. This column does not apply to resident species.
- (3) Peak Concentration: Estimated number and inclusive dates when peak population of the species occurred.
- (4) Last Seen: The last refuge record for the species during 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 waterfowl days use (average population X no. of days present) of refuge for reporting period based. (See Sec. 7532, Wildlife Refuges Field Manual.)

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
(Aug. 1952)

MIGRATORY BIRDS
(Other than Waterfowl)

Refuge North Platte

Months of January to April

1952

| (1) Species | (2) First Seen | | (3) Peak Concentration | | (4) Last Seen | | (5) Production | | | (6) Total |
|---|-----------------------------------|------|---------------------------|--------------------|------------------|------|--------------------|------------------|----------------|------------------|
| Common Name | Number | Date | Number | Inclusive Dates | Number | Date | Number Colonies | Total # Nests | Total Young | Estimated Use |
| I. <u>Water and Marsh Birds:</u> | | | | | | | | | | |
| Eared Grebe | 6 | 4/15 | 25 | 4/20-30 | 25 | 4/30 | | | | 1000 |
| White Pelican | 10 | 4/7 | 25 | 4/7-15 | 25 | 4/15 | | | | 150 |
| Double-crested Cormorant | 2 | 4/7 | 25 | 4/15-30 | 25 | 4/30 | | | | 400 |
| Great Blue Heron | 1 | 4/7 | 25 | 4/15-30 | 25 | 4/30 | | | | 400 |
| II. <u>Shorebirds, Gulls and Terns:</u> | | | | | | | | | | |
| Sandhill Crane | Approx. 10,000 noted flying over. | | | | | | | | | 10,000 |
| Ring-billed Gull | 2000 | 3/25 | 2000 | 3/25 | 200 | 4/7 | | | | |

(over)

[illegible]

INSTRUCTIONS (See Sec. 7532, Wildlife Refuges Field Manual)

(See Sec. 7532, Wildlife Refuges Field Manual)

- (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 migration record for the species for the reporting period.
- (3) Peak Numbers: Estimated number and inclusive dates when peak population of the species occurred.
- (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 species days use (average population X no. days present) of refuge during the reporting period.

UPLAND GAME BIRDS

1613

Refuge North Platte

Months of January to April, 19453

Form NR-2 - UPLAND GAME BIRDS

| (1) Species | (2) Density | Acres per Bird | (3) Young Produced | (4) Sex Ratio | (5) Removals | (6) Total | (7) Remarks |
|-------------------------|--|----------------------|--|---------------------|---|--|--|
| Common Name | Cover types, total acreage of habitat | | 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.

Refuge North PlatteApril 30, 194 53

| (1) Species | (2) Density | | (3) Removals | | | | | (4) Disposition of Fur | | | | | | (5) Total Popula- tion |
|----------------|---|------------------------|-----------------|----------------|---------------------|---------------------|-----------------|---------------------------|--------------------|-----------------|------------------------------|------------------|--------------|---------------------------------|
| Common Name | Cover Types & Total Acreage of Habitat | Acres Per Animal | Hunting | Fur Harvest | Predator Control | For Re- stocking | For Research | Share Trapping | | | Total Refuge Furs Shipped | Refuge Income | Furs Donated | Furs Destroyed |
| | | | | | | | | Permit Number | Trappers' Share | Refuge Share | | | | |
| Muskrat | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 200 |

REMARKS:

INSTRUCTIONS

Form NR-4 - SMALL MAMMALS (Include data on all species of importance in the management program; i.e., muskrats, beaver, coon, mink, coyote. Data on small rodents may be omitted except for estimated total population of each species considered in control operations.)

- (1) SPECIES: Use correct common name. Example: Striped skunk, spotted skunk, short-tailed weasel, gray squirrel, fox squirrel, white-tailed jackrabbit, etc. (Accepted common names in current use are found in the "Field Book of North American Mammals" by H. E. Anthony and the "Manual of the Vertebrate Animals of the Northeastern United States" by David Starr Jordan. "List of North American Recent Mammals" by G. S. Miller, Jr., a very good reference, is now out of print, although a revision is scheduled for publication in the near future.)
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 - (3) REMOVALS: Indicate the total number under each category removed since April 30 of the previous year. Also show any removals not falling under heading listed.
 - (4) DISPOSITION OF FUR: On share-trapped furs list the permit number, trapper's share, and refuge share. Indicate the number of pelts shipped to market and the total income to the refuge by species, including share-trapped furs and furs taken by Service personnel. Total number of pelts of each species destroyed because of unprimness or damaged condition, and furs donated to institutions or other agencies should be shown in the column provided.
 - (5) TOTAL POPULATION: Estimated total population of each species reported on as of April 30.
- REMARKS: Indicate inventory method(s) used, size of sample area(s), introductions, and any other pertinent information not specifically requested.

REFUGE 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 lb., corn (ear)—70 lb., wheat—60 lb., barley—50 lb., rye—55 lb., oats—30 lb., soy beans—60 lb., millet—50 lb., cowpeas—60 lb., and mixed—50 lb. In computing volume of granaries, multiply the cubic contents (cu. ft.) by 0.8 bushels.

- (1) List each type of grain separately and specifically, as flint corn, yellow dent corn, square deal hybrid corn, garnet wheat, red May wheat, durum wheat, spring wheat, proso millet, combine milo, new era cowpeas, mikado soy beans, etc. Mere listing as corn, wheat, and soybeans will not suffice, as specific details are necessary in considering transfer of seed supplies to other refuges. 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 break-down by varieties of grain listed in column 6. Indicate if grain is suitable for seeding new crops.
- (8) Nearest railroad station for shipping and receiving.
- (9) Where stored on refuge: "Headquarters granary," etc.
- (10) Indicate here the source of grain shipped in, destination of grain transferred, data on condition of grain, unusual uses proposed.



The 2 types of goose raft used
(Before covering)



State seining crew with take of bass and perch
from Martin Lake.



A part of our refuge flock of captive geese



Refuge trapper at work.



Before and after burn on goose pasture on
south peninsula Gimlet Lake.





Showing dense matted cover in Gimlet enclosure.



Showing results of light burn to remove surplus cover, Gimlet enclosure.



Aerial view of Gimlet Lake, Goose Lake
in back ground.
Photo by Pilot-biologist Adams.