

NARRATIVE REPORT ROUTING SLIP

REFUGE DEVILS LAKE

PERIOD May-August 1963

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WATERFOWL PRODUCTION AREAS
Devils Lake, North Dakota

Water Conditions. Water level data for waterfowl production areas in this district are summarized in Table I. Permanent steel posts were established in nearly all areas this year to facilitate periodic recording of water level fluctuations. Wetland complexes within this district were almost universally in a state of drought all during this reporting period. Waterfowl production area marshes having conditions compatible with waterfowl breeding habitat were the rare exception rather than the rule this year. This fact is illustrated by the data in Table I.

There was practically no spring run-off from melting snow anywhere in the district. Wetlands in the region lying generally north and east of Devils Lake retained some water from 1962 precipitation. Water in this region continued to decline from spring break-up and throughout the summer. Moderately heavy rains occurred in June in a belt generally including the northern segments of Rolette, Towner, Cavalier and Ramsey Counties. These rains left water in the shallower wetlands and at this writing (September 17) water conditions in this region would be classed as fair. Elsewhere in the district, drought is prevalent and severe insofar as wetlands are concerned.

Roadside transects were established in the vicinity of several waterfowl production areas to facilitate standardized recording of water conditions and waterfowl use of wetlands contiguous to the area.

Table I. Water Conditions in May and July

<u>WPA</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Maximum Depth</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Maximum Depth</u>
BENSON				
Knote	5/3	W=dry; E=6"	8/1	W=dry; E=4"
Lone Tree	5/23	E=28"; W-S=36"; W-N=24"	7/16	E=23"; W-S=27"; W-N=22"
Melaas	5/17	dry	8/1	dry
Neer	5/10	dry	8/1	all dry
Olson	5/17	big slough=4"; pothole "C"=10"	8/1	all dry
Pfau	5/23	3"	8/1	dry
Plummer	5/23	dry	7/16	dry
Severinson	5/23	8"	7/16	6"
Volk	5/17	10"	8/1	6"
Wurgler	5/17	dry	8/1	dry
CAVALIER				
Atchison	6/4	2"	7/22	dry
Billings Lake	5/29	48"	7/22	46"
Brudevig	5/9	dry	7/22	dry
Howitz	5/8	E=15"; W=8"	7/22	E=8"; W=dry
Pung	6/3	big slough 36"; potholes 0"-6"	7/30	big slough=35"; potholes dry

<u>WPA</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Maximum Depth</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Maximum Depth</u>
CAVALIER cont'd				
Ulllyott	5/29	30"	7/22	26"
GRAND FORKS				
Iverson	5/27	30"	7/18	27"
NELSON				
Boostrom	6/4	16"	7/25	10"
Bothen	6/4	6"	7/25	dry
Erickson	6/4	6"	7/31	dry
Goldammer	6/4	30"	7/31	24"
Hanson	5/17	10"	7/25	dry
Jacobson	5/24	18"	7/24	15"
Roscoe	6/4	48"	7/25	46"
Sahl	5/24	18"	7/24	10"
Solberg	6/24	dry	7/25	dry
PIERCE				
Avocet (US-1d, 1e)	6/18	E=36"; W=12"		
RAMSEY				
Becker	5/22	18"	7/24	9"
Bye	5/22	S=8"; N=6"	7/24	S=6"; N=3"
Doyon (US-1)	6/6	6"	7/24	dry
Kenner	5/22	12"	7/29	5"
Miller	5/24	6"	7/24	dry
Stautz	6/27	N=20"	8/29	N=18"
TOWNER				
Brightbill	6/3	10"	7/30	9"
C. Johnson	6/3	dry	7/30	dry
M. Johnson	6/3	dry	7/30	dry
Rod	6/5	main slough 60" W=36"	7/30	54" (main slough)
WALSH				
Bjerke	--	--	8/5	48"

Waterfowl. Although some ducks were produced in this district this year, production was far below normal. Production surveys conducted on waterfowl production areas in this district are summarized in Table II. It will be noted that a total of 972 potential breeding pairs was present while only 74 broods were actually observed. Even allowing for errors in obtaining data, this data certainly suggests very poor production success and possibly a large non-breeding population this year. Brood size and age class data were obtained but were omitted from this table to facilitate legibility.

TABLE II - SUMMARY OF DUCK PRODUCTION SURVEYS, 1963

WPA	*B-1 ** 0	B-2	B-3 X	B-4 0	B-5 0	B-6 0	B-7 X	B-8	B-9	B-10 X	C-1 0	C-2	C-3 X	C-4	C-5	C-6	GF-1	N-1	N-2 0	N-3 0	N-4	N-5 0	N-6	N-7	N-8	N-9 X	P-1	R-1	R-2	R-3 0	R-4	R-5	R-6	T-1	T-2 X	T-3 X	T-4	W-1	T		
Mallard																																									
Pairs	--	11	--	--	--	--	--	3	3	--	--	9	--	--	1	7	39	1	--	--	--	--	13	4	10	--	--	3	88	--	6	1	--	1	--	--	2	--	1		
Broods	--	(0)	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	(1)	--	--	--	(1)	(2)	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	(4)	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	(1)	(1)	(1)		
Gadwall																																									
Pairs	--	29	--	--	--	--	--	3	5	--	--	9	--	--	1	4	26	1	--	--	--	--	4	1	2	--	--	2	10	--	4	3	--	3	--	--	3	--	1		
Broods	--	(2)	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	(3)	--	--	(1)	--	(3)	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	(1)	(1)	(1)	
Baldpate																																									
Pairs	--	5	--	--	--	--	--	1	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	2	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	2	--	2	1	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Broods	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Pintail																																									
Pairs	--	6	--	--	--	--	--	2	--	--	--	10	--	--	--	9	15	1	--	--	--	--	9	--	7	--	--	2	7	--	1	4	--	2	--	--	2	--	2		
Broods	--	(1)	--	--	--	--	--	(1)	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	(5)	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	(1)	--	--	--	--	--	(1)	
B.w. Teal																																									
Pairs	--	36	--	--	--	--	--	4	4	--	--	20	--	1	3	12	51	2	--	--	--	--	11	--	6	--	--	12	11	--	20	12	--	7	--	--	24	--	2		
Broods	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	(1)	--	(6)	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	(1)	(1)	--	
Shoveler																																									
Pairs	--	14	--	--	--	--	--	1	2	--	--	8	--	1	--	4	46	2	--	--	--	--	5	--	2	--	--	3	7	--	7	--	--	1	--	--	4	--	1		
Broods	--	(3)	--	--	--	--	--	(1)	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	(4)	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	(1)	--	(2)	--	--	--	--	--	--	(1)	(1)	--	
G.w. Teal																																									
Pairs	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	2	--	--	--	--	--	--	3	3	1	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	1	--	--	1	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Broods	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	(1)	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	(1)	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Redhead																																									
Pairs	--	8	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	20	--	--	--	12	14	1	--	--	--	--	21	4	4	--	--	2	3	--	--	1	--	1	--	--	5	--	2		
Broods	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	(1)	--	--	--	(1)	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	(1)	--	--
Canvasback																																									
Pairs	--	13	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	4	--	1	--	1	12	1	--	--	--	--	7	1	--	--	--	8	--	--	1	--	--	1	--	--	4	--	5		
Broods	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	(3)	--	--	(1)	--	(3)	--	--	--	--	--	--	(1)	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	(3)	--	--
Ruddy Duck																																									
Pairs	--	14	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	41	--	--	1	11	23	--	--	--	--	--	2	4	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	9	--	10		
Broods	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	(1)	--	--	(1)	(5)	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Scaup																																									
Pairs	--	5	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	7	--	--	--	3	16	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	1	--	3		
Broods	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
TOTAL PAIRS	--	141	--	--	--	--	--	14	16	--	--	128	--	3	6	68	245	10	--	--	--	--	72	14	32	--	--	32	49	--	41	22	--	16	--	--	54	--	96		
TOTAL BROODS	--	(6)	--	--	--	--	--	(3)	(0)	--	--	(9)	--	(0)	(4)	(7)	(23)	(0)	--	--	--	--	(0)	(1)	--	--	--	(1)	(5)	--	(2)	(0)	--	(1)	--	--	(3)	(8)	(7)		

** X = Areas dry
0 = Area with water level too low to/pro have
duction potential for year

* See attached table for explanation of coding.

CODING TABLE FOR DUCK PRODUCTION SURVEY

<u>WPA</u>	<u>Code Number</u>
<u>Benson</u>	
Knote	B-1
Lone Tree	B-2
Melaas	B-3
Neer	B-4
Olson	B-5
Pfau	B-6
Plummer	B-7
Severinson	B-8
Volk	B-9
Wurgler	B-10
<u>Cavalier</u>	
Atchison	C-1
Billings Lake	C-2
Brudevig	C-3
Howitz	C-4
Pung	C-5
Ulllyott	C-6
<u>Grand Forks</u>	
Iverson	GF-1
<u>Nelson</u>	
Boostrom	N-1
Bothen	N-2
Erickson	N-3
Goldammer	N-4
Hanson	N-5
Jacobson	N-6
Roscoe	N-7
Sahl	N-8
Solberg	N-9
<u>Pierce</u>	
Avocet (US-1d, 1e)	P-1
<u>Ramsey</u>	
Becker	R-1
Bye	R-2
Doyon (US-1)	R-3
Kenner	R-4
Miller	R-5
Stautz	R-6
<u>Towner</u>	
Brightbill	T-1
C. Johnson	T-2
M. Johnson	T-3
Rod	T-4
<u>Walsh</u>	
Bjerke	W-1

A record was kept of duck broods observed by the writer outside of waterfowl production areas. A total of 253 duck broods was recorded. The species composition of these broods is recorded in Table III.

<u>Species</u>	<u>No. of Broods</u>
Blue-winged Teal	61
Gadwall	41
Canvasback	35
Mallard	33
Ruddy Duck	17
Pintail	16
Ring-necked Duck	14
Redhead	10
Green-winged Teal	9
Shoveler	8
Lesser Scaup	4
Baldpate	3
Hooded Merganser	1
Bufflehead	1
Total	<u>253</u>

This data will provide a basis for the construction of hatching surveys for use in future analysis of duck production in relation to weather and other environmental factors. Brood size and age class was recorded for each brood and is on file.

Other Wildlife. Notes were recorded of upland game birds and mammals observed on waterfowl production areas. This type of data would be difficult to incorporate into a narrative report because of the randomness of such data. Hungarian partridges and sharp-tailed grouse were the most common species observed. Ring-necked pheasants and pinnated grouse were observed on a few areas, but these species would be classified as rare.

Posting. Posting has been completed on all areas for which the title vesting memorandum has been received, with the exception of Billings Lake. We intend to delay posting of this area until after the boundary fence is completed.

Fencing. Work on this category was limited to procurement of material and lining up work crews. Billings Lake WPA (5 miles of boundary) and Lone Tree WPA (3 miles of boundary) are currently being worked on.

Grass Seeding. Most of the work during this period was concerned with procurement of seed. Some seed was planted in May, but most will be accomplished in late October. A progress report for this category will be submitted with the narrative report for the period ending in December.

Small Wetland Easements. Considerable time was spent in connection with executing Certificate of Inspection and Possession regarding easement cases.

Other Comments. This brief summary has been prepared to provide some record of conditions existing on waterfowl production areas this year. In the writer's opinion, it is difficult to conform data collected from waterfowl production areas to the narrative report form which is standard for national wildlife refuges. This is due primarily to variations in size, distribution and intensity of management between waterfowl production areas and national wildlife refuges. Information is on file which will serve as valuable history for the waterfowl production areas but which is not readily adaptable to summarization.

Prepared by:

Report Completed:
September 17, 1963

Harold F. Duebbert
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Regional Office Approval