

MONTHLY NARRATIVE REPORTS FOR THE
LACREEK WILDLIFE REFUGE
1937

LACREEK

MONTHLY NARRATIVE REPORTS

JULY 1937 - DECEMBER 1937

(1)

Monthly Narrative
Report

December 1937

Lacreek Migratory Waterfowl Refuge

Martin, South Dakota

Chandler R. Young

Under Refuge Manager

WEL

*Nbur
GWC*

Burn

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Rear View of Upland Game bird feeding-shelter showing runways and avenues of escape in case of attacks by ground predators.



View of completed shelter showing snow-fence in rear. Jack Miner weasel trap directly in front of feed hopper.

Water Conditions.

Reservoirs No. seven and eight are going over the spillway. Reservoir No. 9 is $14\frac{1}{2}$ inches below crest. Reservoir No. 10 had dropped from twenty-five (25) inches to $28\frac{1}{2}$ inches below crest from Dec. 16, 1937 to Dec. 31, 1937.

Dec. 16, 1937 was the date orders were given to release water into Lacreek. The gates are being regulated to provide a 20 second foot flow down Lacreek.

Weather Conditions.

Mild weather has been prevalent during the month.

Total Precipitation: .30.

Wild Life Conditions.

The mild weather prevailing during December has caused the channels to stay open. There are about six hundred (600) Mallards and a dozen Lesser Scaup staying on the Refuge at the present time. Apparently, there is enough open water to provide these ducks with an adequate supply of food.

Upland Game.

Orairie Grouse
A covey of Pinated Grouse and a covey of sharptail Grouse are occasionally seen on the Refuge. Last year at this time they were on the Refuge in packs. Reports from the surrounding county indicate that there are large numbers of grouse wintering in the river brakes.

Pheasants have an abundance of a natural food supply and are eating very little of the grain placed in the feeding shelters; however, they are making good use of these shelters as escape cover.

*Carded
3/21/38 - BWM*



Part of the CCC Trapping-detail with a mink.



Using a Spaniel to retrieve a muskrat shot on edge of ice. In certain areas adjacent to dykes, it is almost impossible to trap the rats as a boat cannot be pushed through the ice and the ice is not strong enough to walk on.

Preditors.

Birds of Prey:

This is the first year that I have seen the Snowy-owl in this section of the country. Two were seen on the Refuge. One of them was collected and mounted.

One Golden-eagle has made the Refuge his hunting ground.

The one bird of prey that is a welcome visitor on the Lacreek Refuge is the American RoughLeg Hawk. They are very numerous on the Refuge this winter and in no instance have we found evidence of their molesting other species of birds. The same clean slate cannot be given to the Marshhawk. They have been seen throughout this Fall and Winter attacking pheasants and ducks. There are probably fifteen Marshhawks on the Refuge, at the present time. There are a good many short-eared Owls on the Refuge, but there is no evidence of their being anything but beneficial.

Preditor Control.

Previous to Dec. 15, 1937, Mr. Carl Brown, WPA Employee, had been the only one engaged in trapping. On Dec. 15, a CCC trapping detail was started, this was in conjunction with the CCC Educational program.

The muskrats were taken from dyke # 4, where they were doing damage.

The following is a list of furs taken during the month of December.

✓ Weasel	-	5
✓ Raccoon	-	3
✓ Mink	-	6
✓ Skunks	-	9
Muskrats	-	16

Carded
Brown

Carded
3/21/38 - Brown



View of a Gully, showing recently planted trees and shrubs.



Crew transplanting a balled Wild Plum. A clump of transplanted Wild Plums and Chokecherries can be seen in the background.

Biological Development.

In many sections of the country where there is adequate rainfall one can set down with a map before him and draw up an ideal plan for a well balanced game refuge. All one has to do is to go out in the field and plant according to plans laid out on the map.

In many of our Western Refuges, it is a different story. In looking through a book containing pictures of our Western country, I ran across an aeroplane picture showing winding strips of shrubs and trees. The picture was striking in that it showed no trees and shrubs outside of these strips. On looking closer at the picture, one could see that these strips followed along the bottoms of deep ravines and creek-bottoms. Water was the limiting factor in growing trees and shrubs as was shown in the picture; and so water is the limiting factor in producing trees and shrubs on the Lacreek Refuge.

Four-hundred and seventy trees and shrubs have been transplanted from Little White River to the Lacreek Refuge, ^{this month} We are attempting to approach the pattern as designed by nature when transplanting these trees. We are planting them in the bottoms of the ravines, next to check dams and in a few areas adjacent to our lakes. The main species transplanted to date are Wild Plums and Chokecherries. These are being planted far enough apart so that we may underplant with Buckbrush, Wild Rose, Wild Currants, Wild Grapes, and other food and cover-producing shrubs. Our feed patches are being arranged so that they will approach the border of these tree and shrub plantings.



Soaking down the newly transplanted Chokecherries.
The water-tank is one salvaged from one of the
former residents on the Refuge.



Sign at Entrance gate to Refuge Headquarters.

Dykes.

Dyke Number five is practically completed. Dump trucks are finishing the dyke in a low section that the Dragline was unable to do efficiently because of the mucky condition of the ground.

W. P. A. - owner-operated wagons hauled 2626 cubic yards of dirt on dyke Number two.

W. P. A. workers moved 1000 cubic yards of dirt to a grove of trees being transplanted about the secondary headquarters.