

(1)

Monthly Report
Sept. 1937

Lacreek Migratory Waterfowl Refuge
Martin, South Dakota

11/14/37

J. H. M.

Chandler R. Young
Jr. Refuge Manager

Wed
11-11-37
CRL
11-12-37

Burns
JWC



One of our duck traps in operation.



Picture showing the excellent growth of wild millet from seed planted this spring.

(3)



View of the upper nursery dike, constructed to supply the water for irrigation of nursery.



View of new nursery plots, showing evergreens in foreground.

(4)



A typical example of small pond
formed by lateral dike.



Area created by lateral dike number three. The
deeper portions of this pond have been planted
Sago. Edges with prairie bullrush.

(5)



7

Picture showing cove bordered with wild millet
on Reservoir Number eight.



7

Upland Game bird feeding shelter.

Water Conditions for September.

Reservoirs Numbers seven and eight began to raise during the middle of September and by the end of the month were only about twelve inches from the top of the spillway.

Reservoirs number nine receded to about thirty inches below the crest of it's spillway. Reservoir number ten was about twenty inches below it's spillway crest.

Total precipitation for the month was .47.

Bird Migration.

No attempt has been made to make an accurate check of all species of migratory birds as the author has not been able to make positive field identification of the sandpipers, sparrows, gulls, etc.

September fifteenth marked the beginning of the southern flight of waterfowl.

On or about this date , September 15th:

Eighty per cent of the Blue-Winged Teal had left the Refuge.

Fifty per cent of the pintail.

Most of the Black Terns.

Fifty per cent of the Coot.

The american Meganser was the only species of waterfowl that seemed to increase on this date. About one hundred arrived.

September twentieth marked the first noticeable influx of foreign waterfowl:

On September 20th Widgeon and Gadwalls increased fifteen times.

Mallards and Green-Winged Teal showed an increase.

First Lesser scaup and ringnecks arrived, possibly 250 of each species on the refuge.

(7)
Bird Migration(Con't.)

Two bunches of White-Fronted Geese arrived (55 is total No.)

To my knowledge this is the first time that this species has
stopped in this area.

A few canvasbacks came in on September 20th.

Fifteen sand-hill cranes came in.

Birds leaving the refuge on this date were Foresters' Tern
and fifty per cent of the Black-crowned Herons.

On September # 29th a noticeable increase of canvasbacks was
noted on all reservoirs.

Estimate of the numbers of waterfowl on the refuge on September 30,
1937.

✓ Blue-Winged teal	6, 000
✓ <u>Green-Winged teal</u>	1, 000
✓ Mallards	27, 000
✓ <u>Spoonbills</u>	1, 000
✓ Pintails	300
✓ <u>Gadwalls</u>	20, 000
✓ Widgeon	15, 000
✓ <u>Ruddies</u>	500
✓ Canvasbacks	800
✓ Redheads	700
✓ White-Fronted Geese	55

*general
sum*

Bird Banding.

Three duck banding stations were used this month with
the following numbers banded:

✓ Mallards	463	
✓ Blue-Winged Teal	156	
✓ Green-Winged Teal	3	
✓ Redheads	12	
✓ Widgeon	1	Total Banded birds - 646
✓ Pintails	11	

*canded
1/27/38 - sum*

Use made of Various Units.
(by waterfowl)

All of the tippers showed a decided preference for the shallow areas on the upper ends of the main reservoirs. *general sure*

The canvasbacks and redheads were found in the coves and bays of the deep areas of all of the main reservoirs and lateral dikes numbers two and three.

Apparently, all species were confining their feeding to bullrush seed, various pondweeds, and aquatic animal life.

Use made of the Refuge by Upland Game Birds.

With the cutting of strips through the sweetclover and hay meadows, the ringneck pheasants are showing up by the hundreds. In the evenings and early mornings one can look down these cut strips and count from ten to thirty pheasants in sight at one time.

During this month we had the chance to observe the value of our brush-heap bird-shelters. (While W.P.A. workers were engaged in piling brush on one of these newly constructed shelters, a prairie-falcon flushed a cove of sharp-tail grouse about three hundred yards from this shelter. These grouse flew directly to this shelter, got under the brush and stayed there while the workers continued to work on the shelter, "believe it or not."

upland game shelters crowded sure

Preditor Control.

No predator-campaign was carried on during this month, though CCC and WPA workers probably killed fifty bullsnakes.

Our worst winged predator, the Prairie-Falcon, is with us again. One of these birds has been seen to knock a ringneck pheasant down and proceed to eat it. On two different occasions a falcon harassed ducks in the duck trap to cause a duck to get his head through the wire mesh so that he could kill it. A trap was set at a falcon's kill, but we took a great-horned owl instead.

red. Cordeed Burn

1. Construction. (WPA)

A. Painting:

(a) Interior of Simpson house painted and woodwork varnished.

B. Bird Shelters:

(a) Continued hauling brush and hay for constructing bird shelters.

C. Haying:

(a) Finished cutting and stacking 170 tons of hay.

D. Little White River Project:

(a) Caretaker's house.

(1) Basement excavated for house, forms set for basement walls, and concrete poured.

(b) Dikes.

(1) 3606 cu. yds. of surfacing clay was placed on White River dikes. 8778 cu. yds. of dirt moved into dikes.

2. Construction (CCC).

The CCCs are beginning to get in full swing though during the month of September forty men were discharged, which left the CCC short of men. Most of the work done during the month was on their main projects, namely dike reconstruction, truck trails, and building construction.

The surveyors run a line of levels to dike No. 6, took cross sections and set slope stakes on the same. The drag line is making good progress on dike No. 6. 2,500 cu. yds. of dirt was hauled onto dike No. 9 to make it a complete job. During the month of Sept. 8,786 cubic yards of clay was placed on dike No. 9, and 600 feet of dike number 6 was repaired, with the dragline. Nine miles of truck trails were completed during the month.

WEATHER REPORT AT LACREEK MIGRATORY WATERFOWL REFUGE FOR THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER, 1937

DATE	MAX. & MIN. TEMP.			PRECIPITATION	WIND DIRECTION & CLOUDS	
1	97	-	69	0	South-West	Clear
2	93	-	69	0	North-West	Clear
3	92	-	65	1	North-East	P. Cloudy
4	73	-	58	.12	East	Cloudy
5	73	-	56	0	South-East	Clear
6	79	-		0	North-East	Clear
7	79	-		.24	South-East	Clear
8	80	-		0	South-West	Clear
9	79	-	61	.08	North-West	P. Cloudy
10	79	-	50	.03	North-West	Clear
11	78	-	57	0	North-West	Clear
12	82	-	50	0	South-West -	Clear
13	86	-	56	0	North-West	Clear
14	81	-	52	0	North-West	Clear
15	75	-	48	0	North-West	Clear
16	65	-	45	0	West	P. Cloudy
17	81	-	44	0	North-West	Clear
18	75	-	50	0	North	Clear
19	82	-	48	0	South-East	Clear
20	97	-		0	South-West	Clear
21	90	-	61	0	South-West	Clear
22	80	-	47	0	South-East	Clear
23	79	-		0	North-West	P. Cloudy
24	49	-	32	0	North-West	Cloudy
25	59	-	39	0	West	P. Cloudy
26	65	-	38	0	North-West	Clear
27	75	-	41	0	North-West	P. Cloudy
28	63	-	39	0	North-East	Clear
29	78	-	47	0	South-East	P. Cloudy
30	75	-		0	North-West	Cloudy

Total .47