

ROUTING SLIP

DIVISION OF WILDLIFE REFUGES

DATE: 9/20 1945

MR. SALYER

SECTION OF HABITAT IMPROVEMENT:

MR. ELIOT

Mr. Griffith R&G 10-8

Dr. Bourn WSB 11/13

Miss Cook JWC 9-21

SECTION OF OPERATIONS:

Mr. Regan TRGB 9/18

Miss Baum

SECTION OF LAND MANAGEMENT:

Mr. Krummeck

JK 10/20

Mr. DuPont

PD 10/1

SECTION OF STRUCTURES:

Mr. Taylor WV 9/27

STENOGRAPHERS:

REMARKS:

Montezuma

Narrative Report

May-August 1945

Return to:

Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge
Seneca Falls, New York
May - August, 1945

I - GENERAL

A - Weather Conditions were tabulated as follows:

| <u>Period</u> | <u>Rain</u> | <u>Max. T.</u> | <u>Min. T.</u> |
|---------------|-------------|----------------|----------------|
| May | 4.60 | 82 | 36 |
| June | 5.03 | 90 | 36 |
| July | 3.54 | 95 | 50 |
| August | 2.05 | 90 | 52 |
| Totals | 15.22 | 95 | 36 |

Nearly half of the normal year's precipitation was received during this period. A cyclone occurred but its effects on the refuge were limited to the removal of composition shingles from buildings and the upheaval of some large trees.

B - Water Conditions were abnormal during May, June and July with levels remaining high in the pools and the river as a result of continued rains. Main pool was maintained during the period at as nearly planned level of 382.5 as possible. At the end of the period the level was .05 feet below pool.

II - WILDLIFE

A - Migratory Birds seem to have benefitted by the increased open water resulting from cattail areas dying in the main pool. About 100 acres were killed out by muskrat activity and maintained water levels. A very good population of ducks was present during August. Waterfowl food and cover seem to be ideal and no indication of disease has been seen.

More mourning doves have been seen this season than in any period in the history of the refuge. This cannot be accounted for unless nesting conditions were less inviting this year in their usual places.

B - Upland Game Birds (pheasants) fared not so well due to the wet season and heavy toll during the past winter. Only 1 or 2 broods are believed to have survived. Similar conditions apparently exist thruout the State and there would be no object in having an open season.

C - Big Game Animals (deer) are slightly less numerous than last year. This is to be expected as a result of the open season in the County last fall on both doe and buck. However, a herd of 25 has been observed in crop fields north of the main pool.

D - Fur Animals, Predators, etc - Muskrats continue on the increase altho some shifts in concentrations are taking place as a result of the cattail areas killed out. Fringes of the pools are now becoming populated while dead houses stand in the deeper portions.

It is believed the equivalent of last year's removal can be expected. Plans were formed for the live trapping and shipment of beaver from the refuge during September.

Raccoon, possum and mink have large populations. Coon signs, tracks and activities are everywhere. Entire fields of corn are destroyed by coon. ~~The~~¹ Buck banding traps are surrounded by coon tracks and we expect difficulty as soon as we start banding operations. ~~what has been done~~^{has been done} We believe the raccoon population approximates 1000. A few red fox are seen and should be included in the predator trapping but their numbers are not great.

F - Fish populations are fairly considerable and several thousand pounds of carp, bullheads, catfish and suckers have already been removed by the commercial fishermen. A few northern pike, pickerel and panfish have been released back into the adjacent Clyde River.

III REFUGE DEVELOPMENT and MAINTENANCE

A - Physical - Damage to roofs of all buildings from a cyclone was repaired, eave troughs were repaired, ridge rolls, pipes and flashing were painted and repaired. Sections of tower hand rails were replaced and all were painted. Motor overhauls were completed on 3 trucks and minor repairing and maintenance performed on all 4 trucks including welding and repairs on the dump truck. The dump truck and the Caterpillar 22 were given paint jobs. The Caterpillar 22 was placed in a shop and completely overhauled but was not completed for about 2 months.

40 to 50 loads of dirt were hauled with the dump truck in filling holes and repairing the dikes and filling holes in the recreational area.

A channel was cut with the bulldozer at the White Brook equalizer to carry the spring flood flow farther from the tow of the dike. Stumps and rotten logs were pushed into the borrow channel from the foot of the storage pool dike. Trees and shrubs were cut from the entire dike where necessary, about 1000 woodchuck holes were gassed and all the dike slopes were completely mowed.

B - Plantings were not made this period but those made in the past both aquatic and upland have resulted in good stands. Corn and buckwheat constitute the cultivated crops and appear to be very good.

D - Stock Receipts consisted of 300 lbs smartweed seed, 500 lbs millet seed and 10 lbs of Eleocharis seed, all of which arrived in good condition.

IV ECONOMIC USE

A - Grazing - Only 1 permit was issued for grazing a few head of dry stock. After a short period of use the old fence could not be maintained and the permittee discontinued the use.

B - Haying - consisted of a permit to cut 3 tons of poor hay near the headquarters. This resulted in the maintenance of the grass area as well as in improved public relations.

D - Timber Removal - Price of stumpage was \$.50 per standard cord under permits issued for clearing small plots in the solid timber tracts north and south of Highway # 20. Sprout growth and shrubs then come in to provide better utilization by deer and other wildlife.

E - Other Use consists of the commercial fishing as described under II A F above.

V FIELD INVESTIGATION

A - Plans and equipment were made and assembled for banding as many ducks as possible in early September.

Plans were made for the experimental control of cattail and river bulrush with chemicals as per instructions from the Central Office. However, a sprayer for this purpose cannot be obtained until early in September.

VI PUBLIC RELATIONS

A - Recreational Uses of our area at Mays Point continued with fishermen there nearly all the time.

B - Refuge Visitors are already increasing with frequent groups and many individuals weekly touring the refuge. Official visitors were Mr MacNamara, Regional Refuge Supervisor, and Mr Gustafson, Equipment Inspector from the Central Office.

C - Refuge Participation - The Refuge Manager showed Service movies and talked to 2 sportsmens groups in adjacent southern Cayuga County.

VII OTHER ITEMS

Almost continuous rains during two thirds of the period greatly hampered field operations and confined the personnel to maintenance work and refuge plans in shop and office and around buildings.

Merton Radway, September 7, 1945
Merton Radway, Refuge Manager

Regional Office

Date

Form NR-1

MIGRATORY BIRDS

Refuge Hornesum Months of May to August, 1948

1612

| (1) Species | (2) First Observed | | (3) Became Common | (4) Peak Concentration | | (5) Last Observed | | (6) Young Produced | | | (7) Total |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|------|-------------------------|---------------------------|------|----------------------|------|-------------------------|--------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| Common Name | Number | Date | Date | Number | Date | Number | Date | No. Broods Obsvd. | Avg. Size | Esti- mated Total | Number Using Refuge |
| pied billed griebe | | | | 200 | 8/15 | | | | | | 400 |
| herring gull | | | | 300 | 8/30 | | | | | | 500 |
| mallard | | | | 1000 | 8/15 | | | 12 | 6 | 200 | 2000 |
| black duck | | | | 1200 | 8/15 | | | 15 | 5 | 400 | 2400 |
| green wing teal | | | | 10 | 8/1 | | | | | | 10 |
| blue wing teal | | | | 125 | 8/25 | | | 10 | 9 | 100 | 200 |
| pintail | | | | 200 | 8/12 | | | | | | 500 |
| wood duck | | | | 1000 | 8/31 | | | | | | 1500 |
| American bittern | | | | 50 | 8/30 | | | | | | 50 |
| great blue heron | | | | 300 | 8/15 | | | | | | 300 |
| American egret | | | | 1 | 7/15 | | | | | | 1 |
| black crowned night heron | | | | 50 | 7/20 | | | | | | 100 |
| Moorish gallinule | | | | 1000 | 8/31 | | | 25 | 6 | 500 | 1000 |
| American coot | | | | 800 | 7/15 | 25 | 8/3 | 20 | 7 | 300 | 600 |
| morning dove | | | | 100 | 7/20 | | | | | | 100 |

REMARKS: (Pertinent information not specifically requested)

INSTRUCTIONS

Form NR-1 - MIGRATORY BIRDS (Include species in families Gaviidae through Strigidae; also doves and woodcocks)*

In case a resident form occurs, such as mottled duck on the Gulf Coast, use only the columns that apply.

- (1) SPECIES: Use correct common names as found in the A.O.U. Check List, 1931 Edition, and list in A.O.U. order. General terms are to be avoided, such as "scaup", "teal", etc.; use "green-winged teal" or "lesser scaup".
- (2) FIRST OBSERVED: The first refuge record for the species during spring migration, fall migration, wintering, or summering, and the number observed. In the case of resident species this column may be disregarded.
- (3) BECAME COMMON: The date the species became common on the refuge.
- (4) PEAK CONCENTRATION: The greatest number of the species present on any one date or limited interval of time.
- (5) LAST OBSERVED: The last refuge record for the species during the spring or fall migration, wintering, or summering, and the numbers observed exclusive of obvious cripples or non-migrants.
- (6) YOUNG PRODUCED: Estimated number of young produced based upon 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 are to be omitted.
- (7) 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 manner in which birds come through; i.e., in waves or all at once. On refuges representing the terminus of the flight lane, the figures would probably be the same in many cases.

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

Refuge MontezumaMonths of May to August, 1948

| (1) Species <small>Common Name</small> | (2) Density <small>Cover types, total acreage of habitat</small> | (3) Young Produced <small>Acres per Bird Number broods obs'd. Estimated Total</small> | (4) Sex Ratio <small>Percentage</small> | (5) Removals | | | (6) Total | (7) Remarks <small>Pertinent information not specifically requested. List introductions here.</small> |
|--|--|---|---|--------------|--|--|-----------|---|
| Ring-necked pheasant | Revert. Agric. | 18 | 1 | 2 | | | 75 | Barely any broods in the State; hunting season closed. |
| | Grass-Brush | 12 | | | | | 25 | |

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.