

ROUTING SLIP

DIVISION OF WILDLIFE REFUGES

DATE: 5-14 1943

✓ MR. SALYER _____ ✓____ MRS. WOODIN _____✓ MR. EIMER _____ *JP*____ MRS. GARVIN _________ MR. DUMONT _____

SECTION OF HABITAT IMPROVEMENT:

Mr. Kubichek _____

Mr. Smith _____

~~Mr. Griffith~~ *5/28/43*~~Miss Cook~~ *mc 9-11-43*

✓ SECTION OF OPERATIONS: _____ ✓

~~Mr. Venable~~ *WK 5/26*~~Mr. Gustafson~~ *6/1*

Miss Baum _____

Mrs. Kricun _____

SECTION OF ERA: _____

~~Mr. Regan~~ *7/21/43*~~Dr. Egan~~ *DSB 8/10/43*

Mrs. Fishman _____

✓ SECTION OF LAND MANAGEMENT: _____

~~Mr. Tamm~~ *6-3*~~Mr. Ackerman~~ *5/20*

STENOGRAPHERS:

Miss Whorley _____

✓ SECTION OF STRUCTURES: _____

~~Mr. Taylor~~ *5/20/43*

REMARKS:

NORTH DAKOTA EASEMENTS #6 NARRATIVE REPORT

JANUARY - APRIL 1943

Return to: F. Cook

NORTH DAKOTA EASEMENT REFUGES - DISTRICT No. 6

Bonehill Creek

Chase Lake

Half-way Lake

Hobart Lake

Lake George

Stoney Slough

Tomahawk Lake

The easement refuges in this district were all inspected on April 22 and 23. The general condition of all were very good - the best since established. Even Half-way Lake which it was planned to abandon has now a good supply of water which under normal rainfall will have a fair supply all summer. Water fowl made good use of the areas during the spring migration; it is estimated that about 50,000 ducks and geese used the refuges of which approximately 9,700 still remain on the refuges. ✓

Damage occurred to only one of the structures due to the high spring run-off.

Bonehill Creek.

All the structures were in excellent condition. The water level at the control gate was at spillway crest (water level same on both sides). There were a total of 300 ducks consisting of redheads, pintails mallards and others. According to the farmer on the refuge there were only a few pheasants lost during the March snow storm. Cover and food will be sufficient for both upland game and waterfowl this summer from all indications.

On refuge sign was repaired.

Chase Lake.

From indications it appears that the main lake level is now twelve inches on the average - a rise of four inches since last fall. The fresh water unit was full and its control structures were in good condition.

The old faithful white pelicans were back on the island nesting in three places as usual during the last four years. Ducks were using the main lake considerably more which is probably due to the fresher water. Redheads appeared to be the most numerous - the redhead flight was evident, on the trip. California and ring-billed gulls were back nesting but they were not as common at the time as during the previous years.

Half-way Lake.

The outlook for Half-way Lake this summer, as far as water is concerned is the best it has ever been since established as a refuge. When inspected the average depth of the lake was three feet according to the farmer living nearby. There are no water control structures on this refuge.

For the size of the area there were ⁿ many ducks - redheads ranked second to pintails in number.

The trees and brush which surrounds nearly the entire lake appears to attract upland game birds. Pheasants were common both on the refuge and in the vicinity.

Two refuge entrance permits issued last fall resulted in the removal of three red foxes on the refuge. A year ago the foxes destroyed a considerable amount of poultry in the vicinity.

Hobart Lake.

The south area or unit one was full with some water trickling over the spillway. Unit 2 had a good supply of water - about six inches higher than last fall. The dam and spillway were in a good condition except for a few muskrat burrows which were started along the south side of the dam. There were no indications of that the muskrats were now using the burrows. A refuge entrance permit was issued last fall for the primary purpose of removing muskrats but as yet no information is available as to the number removed.

A crack which developed in the spillway shortly after construction still remains about the same. Since no water has flowed across the structures since constructed the crack has never been very noticeable. Water flowing across this spring has caused some under-mining and thus will need some repair this summer.

Due to the fresher water in Unit 2 more ducks were on the area. Ruddy's were common. Black crowned night herons were nesting again in the trees in Unit one.

Lake George.

The fresh water unit at the south end was full with four inches of water running over the natural spillway. Both the south ~~fresh~~ and north unit of Lake George had risen a few inches since last fall due to the heavy spring run-off. All the dams were in a good condition but the spillway on the north fresh water unit had been washed out completely.

Waterfowl was present on all units and not doubt most of them are going to stay since cover for nesting is plentiful. According to local farmer several flocks of geese stopped on the refuge during the spring migration. About forty white pelicans were seen - evidently feeding on salamanders as several were observed in the larvae stage.

Grouse appeared to like the area - both the sharptail and pinnated were observed. Several hundred acres toward the south end are not pastured; wolfberry, wild rose bushes and Silverberry are present along the draws

Local permittee removed four weasels, two muskrats, one mink and one skunk on the refuge.

Stoney Slough.

This area received this spring the most water it has ever had since established as a refuge. An old timer living near the control gate stated that he has never seen as much water coming down the creek as this spring. Mr. Fosum, who agreed to operate the control gate, stated, that he had a job to operate the gate to satisfy everybody. When Stoney Slough had filled up he opened the gate to let the water down the creek which crosses several township roads; since the culverts were small the roads were flooded for a time. The bridge and road crossing, put up by the Service in the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of sec. 34 to permit the land owner to get to his land on the north side of the lake, became flooded. There was still several inches of water on the road when inspected; this is due to dirt that has drifted in the ditch between unit 2 and 3. This "filling up" prevents water from flowing into the main area freely and besides prevents the main area from returning to the intended water level; in other words, during high water it raises the lake level approximately six inches - enough to flood the farmers road grade and make it impassible. Plans are being made to take care of the condition which is not serious. It was expected that the road crossing would be serviceable again by May 15 according to information obtained. Dams, spillways and control gate were in good condition. Several refuge signs were repaired.

Waterfowl was common - pintails, mallards and redheads were the most abundant.

Refuge entrance permits issued last fall resulted in the removal of several skunks and weasels.

Tomahawk Lake.

The entire area was full to spillway level with a little trickling over. From indications the water during the spring run-off had been six inches above spillway level. Last year it did not reach spillway level. The dam and spillway were in excellent condition. Some gopher poison was put out on the dam since there was evidence of some ground squirrels.

Food and cover appeared to be sufficient for all waterfowl staying on the area.

Both pheasants and grouse were observed on the refuge.

Photographs Attached

May 8, 1943

Submitted by:

Nelson B. Nelson
Refuge Manager

Approved by:

Bernie Mauch

Form NR-1

MIGRATORY BIRDS

N. Dak. Easement Refuges, Dist. #6
Refuge ~~located on the life~~

Months of January to April, 1948

NOTES: Number using Refuge as of April 23, 1948; Peak concentration according to information obtained locally.

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
<u>BONE HILL CREEK</u>											
Ducks				800	4-23						300
<u>CHASE LAKE</u>											
White Pelican				400							350
California Gulls											100
Ring-billed Gulls											700
Ducks				3000							1500
<u>HALF-WAY LAKE</u>											
DUCKs				600							200
Geese				125							0
<u>ROBART LAKE</u>											
Ducks				5000							2000
Geese				400							0
<u>LAKE GEORGE</u>											
Ducks				3000							1500
Geese				300							0
<u>STONEY SLOUGH</u>											
Ducks				3500							3000
Geese				600							0
<u>TOMAHAWK LAKE</u>											
Ducks				1200							50
Geese				100							0

REMARKS: (Pertinent information not specifically requested) Ducks on all the easement refuges consisted mainly of Pintails, Mallards, Blue-winged Teals, Redheads, Canvasbacks, Baldpates, and Shovelers; Redheads were numerous on all the areas. Geese - no information as to the various species.

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.

N. Dak. Escapment Refuges, Dist. #6
Refuge ~~W. Dak. Escapment Refuges, Dist. #6~~Months of January to April, 1945

Note- all (6)ones mentioned are Pinned and sharp tail

(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	Hunting For Re- stocking For Research	Estimated number using Refuge	Pertinent information not specifically requested. List introductions here.
<u>BONE HILL CREEK</u>	500 A. Crop & grass					
Pheasants		10			50	
Grouse		50			10	
Partridge, Hun.		25			20	
<u>CHASE LAKE</u>	20 A. Grass, brush				2	Total observed this spring.
			(Pheasants)			
<u>HALF-WAY LAKE</u>	100 A. brush, grass					
Pheasants		2			40	
Grouse		20			5	
Partridge, Hun.		20			5	
<u>HOBART LAKE</u>	600 A. brush, crop and grass					
Pheasants		10			60	
Grouse						
Partridge, Hun.		60			8	None observed.
<u>LAKE GEORGE</u>	1000 A. grass, brush and crop land					
Pheasants		20			50	
Grouse		5			200	
Partridge, Hun.		100			10	
<u>Stoney Slough</u>	1000 A. grass, brush and crop land					
Pheasants		5			200	No other species observed.
<u>TOMAHAWK LAKE</u>	200 A. grass, brush crop land.					
Pheasants		20			10	
Grouse					4	

INSTRUCTIONS

Form NR-2

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.

SMALL MAMMALS

North Dakota Easement Refuges - - - - - April 30, 1943

Refuge	Skunk	Weasels	mink	R. fox	Muskrats	Total	Remarks
Bonehill Creek	0	0	0	0	0	0	Two permits issued
Chase Lake	0	0	0	0	0	0	None issued
Half-way Lake	0	0	0	# 3	0	3	Two permits issued
Hobart Lake	6	0	1	1	0	8	One permit issued
Lake George	1	4	1	0	2	8	One permit issued
Stoney Slough	2	0	0	0	0	2	Three permits issued.
Tomahawk Lake	0	0	0	0	0	0	None issued.

Note: All land on easement refuges are privately owned.



Stoney Slough,- April 22, 1943 - view of unit 5 looking east.
Roll 20-1



Stoney Slough, April 22, 1943 - view of the east end of unit 4
and part of unit 5. Shows private road crossing flooded.
Roll 20-2



Half-way Refuge, April 23, 1943 - view of lake, looking south.
Roll 20-8

