ROUTING SLIP BRANCH OF WILDLIFE REFUGES DATE: 9/19 1949

MR. SALYER

MR. KRUMMES

~~MR. DUMONT~~ PAD 1-5-50

MISS BAUM

SECTION OF HABITAT IMPROVEMENT:

~~MR. GRIFFITH~~ REG 10-24

~~DR.~~ BOURN WSB 10-27

Mr. Kridelbaugh

~~MISS COOK~~

SECTION OF OPERATIONS:

~~MR. BALL~~

~~MR. REGAN~~

Morley Lem

SECTION OF LAND MANAGEMENT:

~~MR. KENT~~

~~MR. ACKERKNECHT~~ CDA

SECTION OF STRUCTURES:

MR. TAYLOR

MR. JOHNSTON

STENOGRAPHERS:

NARRATIVE REPORT

REFUGE: NORTH DAKOTA EASEMENT REFUGES - DISTRICT NO. 6

PERIOD: MAY - AUGUST 1949

44684

NORTH DAKOTA EASEMENT REFUGES - DISTRICT NO. 6

BONEHILL CREEK

CHASE LAKE

HALFWAY LAKE

HOBART LAKE

LAKE GEORGE

STONEY SLOUGH

TOMAHAWK LAKE

The small spring run-off caused the water supply on many of the easement refuges as well as other ponds and sloughs to drop below the normal of the past five years during the first part of May. It was fortune, however, that the summer brought several heavy rains enough to refill several areas to spillway crest.

Most of the grain crops about the refuges were poor due to the rains not coming when badly needed. Many grain fields around the refuges were not harvested.

The waterfowl picture also looked very poor up until birds began coming in the last of July. It is apparent that since there was a poor water supply early this spring the ducks didn't stay but moved northward; in April it appearred to be more ducks around than previous years.

BONEHILL CREEK

This unit had a good run-off in the spring but the water dropped fast. Rains that came in June and July helped to bring the water back up to where it was attractive to waterfowl. The water control structures are in a good condition.

The slough in the SW¼ had a fair amount submerged squatics and numerous bunches of roundstem bulrushes but grazing was heavy so that the plants did not get very far. The cover along the ditch and along fence lines was good.

Due to the shift in the duck breeding area not as many nested on the refuge or locally as last year, although this unit was not affected as badly as others.

Upland game birds made very little noticeable increase due to the low breeding population of pheasants last spring. Food and cover conditions besides favorable weather should have brought forth an increase.

The only predatory animal that appearred to be on the increase were the skunks and badgers. The market value of the skunk and badger pelts

have been next to nothing; the only time any are killed is when they begin to bother around the poultry yards or if the farm boys go out to dig them out for the sport that is in it.

CHASE LAKE

There was not much change in the water levels on the main lake nor in the fresh water unit over last year. The spring run-off in this vicinity was better than on some of the other areas - that and some fair rains kept the water levels up.

The duck nesting population was down some over last year; pelicans were up while California's and Ring-billed gulls were about the same. Several duck nests were found on the pelican island - several of which were gadwalls.

When the refuge was visited on July 11th it was estimated that the total population of old and young pelicans was over 4,000; this was the largest number of adult pelicans ever observed on the refuge - about 1100 young pelicans were raised. Three hundred young pelicans were banded. The pelican diet consisted of about 95 per cent salamanders and balance minnows, carp, bullheads and crayfish.

On June 17th a group of 4-H Club boys from Kensal accompanied the refuge personnel to study birds and to assist with the banding. One hundred California gulls and four hundred ring-billed gulls were banded besides a few pelicans. The gull hatchwas good; the ring-billed gulls were also nesting on the sandbar to the west of the island but due to the wave action the success was not too great.

Upland game birds which consist of pheasants, sharptail, prairie chickens and Hungarian partridges in the area did not show any appreciatable increase. Food and cover conditions were very good.

No deer were observed on or near the refuge but no doubt there are some around as tracks to the fresh water unit were observed.

Predatory and fur animals are below normal apparently. There are few farm places in the vicinity. Sheep raising is given way for more grain farming.

HALFWAY LAKE

The conditions on this area remained about the same as a year ago. A nice refuge and for its size handles many birds. Marsh conditions are very good besides many submerged aquatics furnish good for divers.

The nesting population of ducks was down some but this was not due to any condition on the refuge but to the general shift of the nesting ducks to the north.

There is no apparent increase in upland game birds. Pheasants

are the most common.

Predatory animals are on the increase, especially skunk, badgers and red foxes; mostly the first two. Crows that nest in the groves on the east side of the lake, no doubt destroy some duck nests.

HOBART LAKE

Conditions looked bad for this area in April and May since the spring run-off did not bring any water in. However, several heavy rains above normal, later filled the fresh water unit to spillway crest. Water continued flowing over the spillway slowly for several weeks. One severe rain storm brought about four inches, damaging many crops besides creating sloughs in grain fields.

The north alkali lake area which had begun to dry up in many places was much benefitted by the rain also, although the drainage to this area is not as great.

The poor water conditions in the spring materially aided in cutting down the number of nesting ducks and also the non-nesters. This area had the lowest duck population it has had in several years. Nesting conditions were very good and the food supply both upland and in the water units was fair.

Upland game birds remain about the same even though nesting conditions were very favorable. An increase in the population of pheasants should be noticeable since several hens were observed on the east side in the heavy covered waste land. The west side of the north unit also has much waste land which makes a good nesting area.

Predatory animals are on the increase especially skunks.

The spillway was given its first tryout after the repair work done last fall at which time piling was put in back of the spillway wall in order to stop the seepage. It was inspected several times this summer after the rains brought enough water to fill the fresh water unit above spillway crest. There were no signs of any seepage.

LAKE GEORGE

The south fresh water unit was very good again this summer - with a good stand of rushes, excellent cover and a fair amount of submerged aquatics. The main lake water level was about the same as a year ago by the end of the period.

The nesting population of ducks dropped some but not as much as on some of the other refuges in this district. There was plenty of food both upland and in the fresh water units available.

Some predatory animals such as foxes, skunks and badgers appear to be on the increase. Coyotes are held down by local farmers and by the trappers from the Predator and Rodent Control Division since there are quite a few sheep raised in the vicinity.

It is believed that a few deer are staying on the refuge most of the time according to local farmers. Cover and browsing material are not too good for deer.

STONEY SLOUGH

This area received very little spring run-off water and as a result, before the rains came, the ponds were quite low on water. A cloudburst through the area in June filled the entire refuge to full capacity by keeping the control gate closed and diverting it to units 2 to 5. The water in units 1 and 2 was slowly drained so as not to damage pasture and hayland; only the channels were left filled with water.

The duck nesting population was extremely low - no doubt because of the poor water conditions on the refuge as well as in the area surrounding the refuge. However, on August 25th when the area was inspected, it was surprising to find such an influx of ducks that early. It is estimated that nearly 23,000 ducks were on the three main units - mostly in unit 3; about 6,000 were mallards and 8,000 pintails.

About 250 black crowned night herons were observed in the trees bordering unit 3. Several great blue herons were also noted.

A few pheasants were observed but no noticeable change over last year. Nesting and food conditions were very favorable.

Predatory animals are similar to last year, it is believed. Crows possibly were the biggest destroyer of eggs since several groves of trees are not too far from the refuge. Some of the sportsmen from Hastings, North Dakota, including the postmaster destroy quite a few crows about these groves.

TOMAHAWK LAKE

The water levels on this area held up good all summer. The water control structure was in good condition. A few yards of small rock was hauled on the face of the dam to further protect the top portion; this was put on by the township.

The duck nesting population though was not what was expected; this area followed the same trend as the other refuges in this district. Food and cover conditions were very favorable.

No upland game birds have been observed on the refuge while checking it, but no doubt a few pheasants frequent the area since some have been observed only a half a mile south of the dam.

Muskrat activity appears to be picking up but none as yet are working near the dam.

Photographs and NR Forms Attached

Prepared by: Nelius B. Nelson Approved by

Nelius B. Nelson, Refuge Manager

9-12-49

Acting Regional Director

SEP 14 1949

WATERFOWL

REFUGE [redacted] MONTHS OF [illegible] to AUGUST, 1949

(1) Species	(2) First Migrants Seen		(3) Peak Concentration		(4) Last Migrants Seen		(5) Young Produced		(6) Total
Common Name	Number	Date	Number	Date	Number	Date	Broods Seen	Estimated Total	Estimated for Period
1. Swans:									
Whistling swan									0
2. Geese:									
Canada goose									0
Cackling goose									0
Brant									0
White-fronted goose									0
Snow goose									0
Blue goose									0
3. Ducks:									
Mallard								20	50
Black Duck								0	0
Gadwall								0	10
Baldpate								18	30
Pintail								15	60
Green-winged teal								0	0
Blue-winged teal								25	250
Cinnamon teal								0	0
Shoveller								6	20
Wood duck								0	0
Redhead								0	8
Ring-necked duck								0	0
Canvas-back								0	10
Scaup								0	20
Golden-eye								0	0
Buffle-head								0	0
Ruddy duck								0	0
4. Coot:								20	50

3-1750
(June 1949)

(over)

Form NR-1

SUMMARIES

Total Production:

Geese_____

Ducks_____

Coots_____

Total waterfowl usage during period_____

Peak waterfowl numbers_____

Areas used by concentrations_____

_____

Principal nesting areas this season_____

_____

Reported by_____

INSTRUCTIONS

(1) Species: In addition to the birds listed on form, other species occurring on refuge during the reporting period should be added in appropriate spaces. Special attention should be given to those species of local and National significance.

(2) First Seen: The first refuge record for the species during the season concerned in the reporting period, and the number seen. This column does not apply to resident species.

(3) Peak Concentration: The greatest number of the species present in a limited interval of time.

(4) Last Seen: The last refuge record for the species during the season concerned in the reporting period.

(5) Young Produced: Estimated number of young produced based on 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 should be omitted.

(6) 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 nature of the migrational movement.

Note: Only columns applicable to the reporting period should be used. It is desirable that the Summaries receive careful attention since t[illegible]e data are necessarily based o[illegible]n analysis of the rest of the form.

61365

WATERFOWL

REFUGE CHASE LAKE MONTHS OF M[illegible] to AUGUST, 1949

(1) Species	(2) First Migrants Seen		(3) Peak Concentration		(4) Last Migrants Seen		(5) Young Produced		(6) Total
Common Name	Number	Date	Number	Date	Number	Date	Broods Seen	Estimated Total	Estimated for Period
1. Swans:									
Whistling swan									0
2. Geese:									
Canada goose									0
Cackling goose									0
Brant									0
White-fronted goose									0
Snow goose									0
Blue goose									0
3. Ducks:									
Mallard								45	80
Black Duck								0	0
Gadwall								25	65
Baldpate								55	80
Pintail								175	400
Green-winged teal								0	0
Blue-winged teal								140	290
Cinnamon teal								0	0
Shoveller								10	27
Wood duck								0	0
Redhead								10	30
Ring-necked duck								0	0
Canvas-back								10	25
Scaup								15	35
Golden-eye								0	0
Buffle-head								0	0
Ruddy duck								6	22
4. Coot:								40	120

Form NR-1
3-1750
(June 1949)

(over)

SUMMARIES

Total Production:

Geese_____

Ducks_____

Coots_____

Total waterfowl usage during period_____

Peak waterfowl numbers_____

Areas used by concentrations_____

_____

Principal nesting areas this season_____

_____

Reported by_____

INSTRUCTIONS

(1) Species: In addition to the birds listed on form, other species occurring on refuge during the reporting period should be added in appropriate spaces. Special attention should be given to those species of local and National significance.

(2) First Seen: The first refuge record for the species during the season concerned in the reporting period, and the number seen. This column does not apply to resident species.

(3) Peak Concentration: The greatest number of the species present in a limited interval of time.

(4) Last Seen: The last refuge record for the species during the season concerned in the reporting period.

(5) Young Produced: Estimated number of young produced based on 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 should be omitted.

(6) 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 nature of the migrational movement.

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61355

WATERFOWL

REFUGE HALFWAY LAKE MONTHS OF [illegible]Y to AUGUST, 1949

(1) Species	(2) First Migrants Seen		(3) Peak Concentration		(4) Last Migrants Seen		(5) Young Produced		(6) Total
Common Name	Number	Date	Number	Date	Number	Date	Broods Seen	Estimated Total	Estimated for Period
1. Swans:									
Whistling swan									0
2. Geese:									
Canada goose									0
Cackling goose									0
Brant									0
White-fronted goose									0
Snow goose									0
Blue goose									0
3. Ducks:									
Mallard								20	110
Black Duck								0	0
Gadwall								10	30
Baldpate								20	50
Pintail								25	70
Green-winged teal								0	0
Blue-winged teal								40	65
Cinnamon teal								0	0
Shoveller								10	20
Wood duck								0	0
Redhead								10	18
Ring-necked duck								0	0
Canvas-back								0	0
Scaup								0	40
Golden-eye								0	0
Buffle-head								0	0
Ruddy duck								0	0
								30	60
4. Coot:									

3-1750
(June 1949)

(over)

Form NR-1

SUMMARIES

Total Production:

Geese_____

Ducks_____

Coots_____

Total waterfowl usage during period_____

Peak waterfowl numbers_____

Areas used by concentrations_____

_____

Principal nesting areas this season_____

_____

Reported by_____

INSTRUCTIONS

(1) Species: In addition to the birds listed on form, other species occurring on refuge during the reporting period should be added in appropriate spaces. Special attention should be given to those species of local and National significance.

(2) First Seen: The first refuge record for the species during the season concerned in the reporting period, and the number seen. This column does not apply to resident species.

(3) Peak Concentration: The greatest number of the species present in a limited interval of time.

(4) Last Seen: The last refuge record for the species during the season concerned in the reporting period.

(5) Young Produced: Estimated number of young produced based on 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 should be omitted.

(6) 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 nature of the migrational movement.

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61365

WATERFOWL

REFUGE HOBART LAKE MONTHS OF [illegible] to AUGUST, 1949

(1) Species	(2) First Migrants Seen		(3) Peak Concentration		(4) Last Migrants Seen		(5) Young Produced		(6) Total
Common Name	Number	Date	Number	Date	Number	Date	Broods Seen	Estimated Total	Estimated for Period
1. Swans:									
Whistling swan									0
2. Geese:									
Canada goose									0
Cackling goose									0
Brant									0
White-fronted goose									0
Snow goose									0
Blue goose									0
3. Ducks:									
Mallard								120	600
Black Duck								0	0
Gadwall								20	50
Baldpate								40	100
Pintail								70	150
Green-winged teal								0	0
Blue-winged teal								110	200
Cinnamon teal								0	0
Shoveller								15	25
Wood duck								0	0
Redhead								10	20
Ring-necked duck								0	0
Canvas-back								10	20
Scaup								0	120
Golden-eye								0	0
Buffle-head								0	0
Ruddy duck								10	20
4. Coot:								60	80

3-1750
(June 1949)

(over)

Form NR-1

SUMMARIES

Total Production:

Geese_____

Ducks_____

Coots_____

Total waterfowl usage during period_____

Peak waterfowl numbers_____

Areas used by concentrations_____

_____

Principal nesting areas this season_____

_____

Reported by_____

INSTRUCTIONS

(1) Species: In addition to the birds listed on form, other species occurring on refuge during the reporting period should be added in appropriate spaces. Special attention should be given to those species of local and National significance.

(2) First Seen: The first refuge record for the species during the season concerned in the reporting period, and the number seen. This column does not apply to resident species.

(3) Peak Concentration: The greatest number of the species present in a limited interval of time.

(4) Last Seen: The last refuge record for the species during the season concerned in the reporting period.

(5) Young Produced: Estimated number of young produced based on 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 should be omitted.

(6) 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 nature of the migrational movement.

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61355

WATERFOWL

REFUGE LAKE GEORGE MONTHS OF [illegible] to AUGUST, 1949

(1) Species	(2) First Migrants Seen		(3) Peak Concentration		(4) Last Migrants Seen		(5) Young Produced		(6) Total
Common Name	Number	Date	Number	Date	Number	Date	Broods Seen	Estimated Total	Estimated for Period
1. Swans:									
Whistling swan									0
2. Geese:									
Canada goose									0
Cackling goose									0
Brant									0
White-fronted goose									0
Snow goose									0
Blue goose									0
3. Ducks:									
Mallard								50	350
Black Duck								0	0
Gadwall								20	90
Baldpate								45	125
Pintail								150	350
Green-winged teal								0	0
Blue-winged teal								175	400
Cinnamon teal								0	0
Shoveller								20	40
Wood duck								0	0
Redhead								25	39
Ring-necked duck								0	0
Canvas-back								20	35
Scaup								10	150
Golden-eye								0	0
Buffle-head								0	0
Ruddy duck								15	20
									150
4. Coot:								60	Form NR-1

3-1750
(June 1949)

(over)

SUMMARIES

Total Production:

Geese_____

Ducks_____

Coots_____

Total waterfowl usage during period_____

Peak waterfowl numbers_____

Areas used by concentrations_____

_____

Principal nesting areas this season_____

_____

Reported by_____

INSTRUCTIONS

(1) Species: In addition to the birds listed on form, other species occurring on refuge during the reporting period should be added in appropriate spaces. Special attention should be given to those species of local and National significance.

(2) First Seen: The first refuge record for the species during the season concerned in the reporting period, and the number seen. This column does not apply to resident species.

(3) Peak Concentration: The greatest number of the species present in a limited interval of time.

(4) Last Seen: The last refuge record for the species during the season concerned in the reporting period.

(5) Young Produced: Estimated number of young produced based on 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 should be omitted.

(6) 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 nature of the migrational movement.

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61355

WATERFOWL

REFUGE STOWEY SLOUGH MONTHS OF [illegible] to AUGUST, 1949

(1) Species	(2) First Migrants Seen		(3) Peak Concentration		(4) Last Migrants Seen		(5) Young Produced		(6) Total
Common Name	Number	Date	Number	Date	Number	Date	Broods Seen	Estimated Total	Estimated for Period
1. Swans:									
Whistling swan									0
2. Geese:									
Canada goose									0
Cackling goose									0
Brant									0
White-fronted goose									0
Snow goose									0
Blue goose									0
3. Ducks:									
Mallard								20	6000
Black Duck								0	0
Gadwall								10	300
Baldpate								20	800
Pintail								30	8000
Green-winged teal								0	0
Blue-winged teal								20	2000
Cinnamon teal								0	0
Shoveller								8	60
Wood duck								0	0
Redhead								0	0
Ring-necked duck								0	0
Canvas-back								0	20
Scaup								0	30
Golden-eye								0	0
Buffle-head								0	0
Ruddy duck								0	0
4. Coot:								20	60

SUMMARIES

Total Production:

Geese_____

Ducks_____

Coots_____

Total waterfowl usage during period_____

Peak waterfowl numbers_____

Areas used by concentrations_____

_____

Principal nesting areas this season_____

_____

Reported by_____

INSTRUCTIONS

(1) Species: In addition to the birds listed on form, other species occurring on refuge during the reporting period should be added in appropriate spaces. Special attention should be given to those species of local and National significance.

(2) First Seen: The first refuge record for the species during the season concerned in the reporting period, and the number seen. This column does not apply to resident species.

(3) Peak Concentration: The greatest number of the species present in a limited interval of time.

(4) Last Seen: The last refuge record for the species during the season concerned in the reporting period.

(5) Young Produced: Estimated number of young produced based on 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 should be omitted.

(6) 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 nature of the migrational movement.

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61355

WATERFOWL

REFUGE TOMAHAWK LAKE MONTHS OF [illegible] to AUGUST, 1949

(1) Species	(2) First Migrants Seen		(3) Peak Concentration		(4) Last Migrants Seen		(5) Young Produced		(6) Total
Common Name	Number	Date	Number	Date	Number	Date	Broods Seen	Estimated Total	Estimated for Period
1. Swans:									
Whistling swan									0
2. Geese:									
Canada goose									0
Cackling goose									0
Brant									0
White-fronted goose									0
Snow goose									0
Blue goose									0
3. Ducks:									
Mallard								15	35
Black Duck								0	0
Gadwall								10	20
Baldpate								20	70
Pintail								20	90
Green-winged teal								0	0
Blue-winged teal								30	110
Cinnamon teal								0	0
Shoveller								8	15
Wood duck								0	0
Redhead								8	12
Ring-necked duck								0	0
Canvas-back								6	10
Scaup								0	50
Golden-eye								0	0
Buffle-head								0	0
Ruddy duck								0	0
4. Coot:								10	25

3-1750
(June 1949)

(over)

Form NR-1

SUMMARIES

Total Production:

Geese_____

Ducks_____

Coots_____

Total waterfowl usage during period_____

Peak waterfowl numbers_____

Areas used by concentrations_____

_____

Principal nesting areas this season_____

_____

Reported by_____

INSTRUCTIONS

(1) Species: In addition to the birds listed on form, other species occurring on refuge during the reporting period should be added in appropriate spaces. Special attention should be given to those species of local and National significance.

(2) First Seen: The first refuge record for the species during the season concerned in the reporting period, and the number seen. This column does not apply to resident species.

(3) Peak Concentration: The greatest number of the species present in a limited interval of time.

(4) Last Seen: The last refuge record for the species during the season concerned in the reporting period.

(5) Young Produced: Estimated number of young produced based on 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 should be omitted.

(6) 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 nature of the migrational movement.

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61365

Chase Lake Refuge: 6-17-49 - Banding a few pelicans on the island.
R83-1.

Chase Lake Refuge: 6-17-49 - Gulls and pelicans on Chase Lake Refuge.
R83-2.

Chase Lake Refuge: 7-11-49 - View of Chase Lake from the west.
R84-1.

Chase Lake Refuge: 7-11-49 - Shows pelicans and gulls on Chase Lake - island in background taken from the west.
R84-2.

Chase Lake Refuge: 7-11-49 - The east shoreline of the island on Chase Lake - gulls and pelicans in background.
R84-3.

Chase Lake Refuge: 7-11-49 - One group of young pelicans on the island and also showing the largenumber of adults in the background.
R84-4

Chase Lake Refuge: 7-11-49 - Banding party at Chase Lake eating lunch on the island.
R84-5.

Chase Lake Refuge: 7-11-49 - Adult pelicans in background - shows heavy growth of marsh elders where pelicans nested.
R84-6.

Hobart Lake Refuge: 8-25-49 - View of east shoreline on the north alkali unit just north of the dam. Numerous birds present.
R88-5.

Hobart Lake Refuge: 8-25-49 - Protective cover along south side of the dam - looking west.
R89-1

Stoney Slough Refuge: 8-25-49 - Unit No. 5 nearly full of water.
R89-2.

Stoney Slough Refuge: 8-25-49 - Unit No. 3 where several thousand ducks were staying. A colony of black crowned night herons nested in the trees in the foreground.
R89-3.