

PRESQUITE

NARRATIVE REPORTS

JANUARY-DECEMBER 1955

BRANCH OF WILDLIFE REFUGES NARRATIVE REPORTS

MR. SALYER \_\_\_\_\_

MISS BAUM MB

MR. GRIFFITH \_\_\_\_\_

Operations

~~MR. REGAN~~ WJR

~~MR. DELONT~~ PAD

Land Management

~~MR. ACKERNECHT~~ wa

~~MR. FOWLER~~ LCM

Habitat Improvement

MR. FRICKSON \_\_\_\_\_

MR. STILES WBS

MR. KULICHEK \_\_\_\_\_

Stenographers

REFUGE

PRESQUILE

PERIOD SEPT-DEC 1955

PRESQUILE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE  
NARRATIVE REPORT FOR THE PERIOD  
SEPTEMBER 1 TO DECEMBER 31, 1955

PERSONNEL

John L. DeLime

Refuge Manager

James J. Parlau

Refuge Maintenance-  
Man

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## PRESQUILE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

## NARRATIVE REPORT FOR THE PERIOD

SEPTEMBER 1 to DECEMBER 31, 1955

## I. GENERAL

A. Weather Conditions

Weather, as usual, has been a favored topic of conversation during the period. In September temperatures were about normal while precipitation doubled seasonal averages, marking the third straight month of excessive rainfall. Hurricane "Ione" scored a near-miss on the 19th. as the tropical disturbance bogged-down approximately 110 miles southeast of the area. After wallowing around for several hours, with little forward movement, the storm turned abruptly eastward and passed out to sea just south of Norfolk. Winds of some 50 miles per hour were experienced at Presquile and 3.12 inches of rain fell. The refuge suffered no damage but agricultural crops, principally corn, along the James River were further damaged, after being hard-hit during August by visits of "Connie" and "Diane".

October temperatures and rainfall conformed to past averages. November, however, was a month of extremes. The first half was unseasonably warm with a record breaking high of 85 degrees reached on November 14. Then, on November 29 the mercury dropped to 14 degrees, breaking all records for the date. Precipitation was near normal.

December has been unusually cold and dry as rapidly succeeding masses of arctic air were pushed across the state by high pressure systems. A total deficiency of 124 degrees was recorded for the month. Rainfall was sub-normal. Light snow fell on two occasions.

Maximum temperatures, minimum temperatures, precipitation and departures from normal, as furnished by the

United States Weather Bureau, are given below:

	Max. Temp.	Min. Temp.	Precipitation	Dep. from Nor.
September	90	49	6.51	3.12
October	84	35	2.86	.20
November	85	14	1.76	-2.00
December	74	15	.86	-4.70

#### B. Water Conditions

Luckily, excessive rainfall in September was confined to tidewater areas, easing threats of serious floods along the James such as were experienced during August when, heavy run-off from mountain streams resulted in a major flood.

Ferry travel was sharply curtailed during December as a result of the cold weather. Freezing over of upriver tributaries cut down normal stream flow. This condition coupled with strong westerly winds, which accompany each cold front, holding back incoming tides resulted in extremely low river levels. While not officially confirmed, experienced rivermen claim the river reached an all time low. To our knowledge at least two parties of duck hunters were stranded overnight on river bars and islands due to low water.

#### C. Fires

Nothing to report under this heading.

## II. WILDLIFE

#### A. Migratory Birds

##### 1. Populations and Behaviour

Warm weather appeared to have little influence upon early migratory waterfowl since 22 Canada Geese arrived September 22, 16 days earlier than "first seen" records of 1954. These birds soon moved on to be replaced by a flock of 13 on September 27. On October 9 a cold front brought in 210 geese. This figure corresponds favorably in both numbers and arrival dates of previous years. Area population jumped to 3,200 Canadas by November 1 and steadily climbed to a peak of 7,100 on December 20.



A slight drop has been noted during the last ten days of the year, probably due to the influence of moonlight nights. Peak numbers last year were reported at approximately 8,000 geese. This years decrease in the immediate vicinity is not believed to be a reduction of overall James River valley populations since there appears to be a decided intermingling of flocks. Brandon, Weyenoke and Eppe's Island plantations report increased numbers of wintering birds. One area, several miles downstream, locally known as "the seven mile reach" has also been a favored spot for geese. We suspect reports of 10,000 geese in that neighborhood to be a bit too optimistic. However, it is known that a sizable flock is present.

The intermingling of flocks plus other changes in behaviour and flight patterns has made it difficult to arrive at accurate population estimates. Probably the principal reason for these changes is due to vast amounts of corn left in fields along the James. Some farmers estimate that forty to fifty percent of the total production was unharvested due to ravages of three hurricanes. We have good reason to believe these estimates to be fairly accurate, since a nearby estate hired men to hand pick corn after the mechanical picker had gone through the field. More corn was gathered in the "gleaning" operation than had been harvested by the picker. Naturally the presence of so much good exerted its influence upon goose feeding habits and movements. If a flock found one favored feeding field to be populated with hunters they merely moved over into one which, at the moment, was free of gunning pressure. The writer has witnessed the cleaning of eight or ten geese at nearby Curle's Neck and they were "hog fat".

Still another factor influencing movements has been increased use of surrounding river waters which were closed to gunning by Secretarial Order in 1954. All sections of the old river channel are used extensively for resting purposes, and to pick up gravel, with the exact location on any particular day being dependent upon wind direction and velocity. There is no doubt but that this action has greatly increased the effectiveness of the refuge. On December 29 some 5,150 geese were resting in the water between Curle's Neck and Presquille just after sunrise. The entire flock moved into refuge milo fields a short time later and fed there until noon when they returned to the river.

A single Snow Goose arrived November 7 and was still present at the close of the period. Five Blue Geese were observed on November 18 with their number building to 13 at this writing. A Whistling Swan, observed December 10 has not

been seen again.

Arrival dates of most ducks averaged five to fifteen days earlier than in 1954. Three Mallards were sighted on September 29, building to an estimated peak of 3,450 December 14. Black Ducks arrived September 27 and reached a maximum count of 1,050 on December 14. Wood Ducks also reached yearly peaks on, or about, this same date and Pintail a short time later. The figures on Mallard and Black Duck represent record "highs" for the refuge.

Other first seen records include "Blue-winged Teal, 3 - September 19; Gadwall, 2 - October 31; Pintail, 3 - October 4; Baldpate, 4 - October 31; Shoveler, 3 - December 8; Scaup, 11 - October 29; Ruddy Duck, 1 - October 31; Green-winged Teal, 3 - November 25; Ring-necked Duck, 2 - October 31; Canvasback, 1 - November 25; Redhead, 2 - November 13 and Bufflehead, 6 - November 9. The latter four species of diving ducks had not been recorded previously in refuge waters and are not common to the area.

Mallards and Black Ducks finally succumbed to the lure of 'easy pickings' in corn and milo fields. Until this year reports and observations of duck field feeding were few and far between with all such activity confined to bright moonlight nights. Now, practically each afternoon heavy flights gather in grain fields. During rainy weather ducks may be seen feeding in milo or corn fields at all times of the day. On one occasion 4,550 birds were observed in refuge milo fields. Presque Isle, Eppes Island and Brandon also report heavy duck use of corn fields.

The trend to field feeding has apparently effected movement and populations. In the past first heavy flights soon "ate-out" marshes and were forced to move on. Severe freezing of marsh and swamp areas usually resulted in a general exodus. This has not held true since populations of most species held up through December despite heaviest ice yet encountered by refuge personnel. Also, reduced feeding demands in marsh areas by Mallard and Blacks, have probably been responsible for the heaviest flight of diving ducks seen in this area for many years.

Duck populations have also reacted well toward the safety of closed waters. In fact goodly number have been observed feeding along shorelines opposite the island. Previously all activity had been confined to narrow margins around the island proper.

Coot, rather scarce in this vicinity, have been seen frequently, one flock of 51 was observed<sup>on</sup> several occasions.

Common Mergansers have been more numerous than in past years. A very few Hooded Mergansers are present.



Early hunting success in nearby waters has been very good and on the whole has held up better than last year. The advent of diving ducks has helped out considerably. One of the most persistent hunters bagged a limit of Redhead opening day and later stated that they were the first ones he had seen from his blind in ten years. Another limit of Canvasbacks was reported from Johnson's marsh at the mouth of the Appomattox. Ring-neck and Bufflehead have also appeared in bags with few hunters able to identify them.

Some grumbling about lack of ducks has been heard lately and is believed to be the result of field feeding cutting down flock movements.

Due to inaccessibility of marshes our observation of Sora are limited. However, there seems little doubt but that flood tide during nesting and brooding seasons resulted in a sharp reduction of this species.

Wilson's Snipe appear to be present in number comparable to those previously reported. In recent weeks freezing conditions have moved most birds in to a warmer climate.

Arrival date of returning Laughing, Ring-billed and Herring Gulls were noticeably behind schedule but finally built to peaks equal to those of last year. Laughing Gulls moved southward with the advent of cold weather. Build-up of terns, Royal, Common, Caspian and Forster's, was also late and populations never approached those of previous years.

Shorebird flights were confined to a few Spotted Sandpipers and an occasional Yellow-leg.

## 2. Food and Cover

Sixty-two acres of row crop and 16 acres of broadcast milo has been the principal food attraction for waterfowl; with an overabundance of rainfall in late summer yields were excellent. Use by both ducks and geese has been heavy and constant since arrival of cold weather, at this writing an estimated 15% of the grain is left in the refuge field and at present rate of consumption it will soon be gone. However, little concern is felt over feeding prospects of area flocks for the remainder of the winter. Hundreds of bushels of corn remain in nearby fields which have not been shot over. Closing of the gunning season will open additional fields to the birds.

Early arriving geese fed primarily in the 33 acres Ladino clover field. A late mowing of this legume was, luckily, timed just right and the stand far exceeded all expectations. Birds continue to visit the field although it is now browsed to ground level. Alternate freezing and thawing has held back regrowth.

Attesting to the abundant food supply 61 acres of winter wheat sown in September and October have not attracted a single goose. A three acre planting of rye grass has also been neglected. Eight acres of experimental plots and 14 acre wheat-rye grass planting east of headquarters has received light use on two or three days. At this time last year all fields were practically devoid of vegetation due to overbrowsing.

The overplanting of buckwheat and Browntop millet in row crop milo added materially to food production in this field. Ten acres of Browntop millet was a total failure due to inundation by flood tides and trampling by deer.

At time of the last report we were concerned over production of natural foods in marshes and openings of the swamp. Apparently hurricane tides in August were beneficial in place of damaging yields. It is believed early maturing wild millet and smartweed seeds were covered by sediment just enough to encourage a second crop. Some smartweed was nipped by frost but most of it matured. Wild millet stands and yields were better than usual. Partridge pea appeared to be in normal yield. Acorn production in the limited oak stand along Deep Creek was about normal.

### 3. Botulism

None noted on this refuge.

### 4. Lead Poisoning and Other Diseases

None known.

## B. Upland Game Birds

### 1. Populations and Behaviour

Status of quail on the island is apparently at a critical stage. The one pair which spent the summer months between headquarters and the ferry were observed flying to the mainland and no birds have been seen since.

Turkey in numbers from one to six birds have been observed regularly. A slight drop in total population is suspected since no young birds were seen during the entire summer.

Doves, on the increase at the time of last report, have continued in an upward trend as birds were attracted to milo fields. Populations topped off at approximately the same levels as last year.

### 2. Food and Cover

Cover is more than adequate for all species. The supply of natural foods should sustain the small turkey flock. Of late the birds have been supplementing their diet with milo taken along field edges. Milo and millet has been the principal food taken by doves.

### 3. Diseases

None known.

## C. Big Game Animals

### 1. Populations and Behaviour

The deer herd remains at levels consistent with those of the previous report. Our high count for the period was 53 deer in the Ladino clover field. From 20 to 40 may be observed most any evening between sundown and dark. The fact that refuge grain and browse crops have not, as yet, been depleted this year is due to increased acreages and yields rather than to any reduction in deer demands for food. Total bushels consumed by the animals will reach previously estimated figures. Deer were also a definite factor in the "eat-out" of Ladino Clover.

Two factors show some promise of relief from deer pressure although we are not too optimistic. First, fawn production on the refuge was below usual standards. Secondly, several areas downriver which have been overpopulated report drastic reductions of herds. Hunting success has been far below par in some instances. On the negative side, Charles City County, bordering the refuge to the east, purportedly maintains the highest deer population per acre of any of the tidewater counties. It is but a short swim across the river. Deer are frequently observed swimming the east channel. Alas, the deer problem is still with us.

### 2. Food and Cover

Discussed under Populations and Behaviour.

### 3. Diseases

None known.

## D. Fur Animals, Predators, Rodents and Other Mammals

"Connie", "Diane" and "Ione" are believed to have been responsible for further decreases in Muskrat populations. All house were covered at least three times and, no doubt,



many young kits were drowned. House counts, and other sign, indicate populations are probably equal to those reported for the winter of 1954-55 but less than noted during the winter of 1953 - 54.

One Otter has been observed on two occasions. Apparently a limited number is present at all times. There has been no significant change in numbers of mink. They are still scarce.

Groundhogs are fully as numerous as last reported although cold weather has restricted their movements. Skunk populations dropped-off somewhat last spring and have not recovered to their original levels.

Cotton-tail Rabbit apparently enjoyed a successful breeding season and are still on an upward trend.

The status of Raccoon, Gray Squirrel and Opposum appears unchanged.

The island's population of Red Fox has grown to five, representing an increase of four animals in two years.

E. Predaceous Birds, including Crows, Ravens and Magpies

Barred Owls, Horned Owls, Red-shouldered and Red-tailed Hawks are permanent residents. Four Bald Eagles fall into the same classification although no nests are present. There has been a noticeable decrease in Marsh Hawk observations this winter. The Usual Short-eared Owl is wintering on the island. The population of American Crows remains constant. Fish Crows migrated southward during November. Turkey and Black Vultures are observed daily.

F. Fish

Commercial fishermen have reported normal seasonal catches of catfish. Ice has hampered their activities on two occasions. One haul-seine operation was conducted in waters off the north shore of the refuge throughout November. Carp taken were shipped alive in tank trucks to "pay as you catch" fishing pond operators in North Carolina.

Sport fishing was practically non-existent in nearby waters. A dredging operation and the high degree of pollution is held responsible. No "runs" of Rockfish were reported, which also may explain the scarcity of anglers.

## III. REFUGE DEVELOPMENT MAINTENANCE

A. Physical Development

Farming and related activities consumed the major portion of our working hours during September and October. Fall plowing had been largely completed at the close of the previous period with but 16 acres remaining to be broken. Heavy growths of Johnson and Bermuda grasses prevented plowing of eight acres of this total although three cuttings with a bush-and-bog disc served the same purpose.

Fifty-five acres were sown to winter wheat, three acres to rye grass and 22 acres to a wheat-rye grass mixture. Each field was disced and harrowed three times, fertilizer applied prior to seeding. Cultipacking after planting was the final step.

Eight acres of experimental goose browse plots were sown with the soil receiving the same preparation.

The 33 acre Ladino clover field was clipped with the rotary mower. Barn lots and wild pastures were gone over twice.

Following flood waters during August, the south ferry slip filled in with mud and water-soaked leaves. A 500 gallon per minute high pressure pump enabled us to remove a 14 inch layer of this deposit. The operation aided immeasurably in allowing ferry travel for longer periods of time during low water.

The 35 X 20 foot steel barge, scheduled to replace the old wooden ferry, was received in good condition after being towed to its destination from Savannah, Georgia. Many long hours have been expended discussing and planning installation of a power unit. At this writing the unit is completed and will be placed on the ferry within the next few days.

One-half mile of old fence was torn down and all wire removed. Approximately one-half of the posts were pulled and a large percentage of the bushes and saplings growing in the fence row were pulled and disposed of.

All slate shingles were removed from the concrete shop building, extensive repairs made to sheeting and eaves, and one-half of the building covered with aluminium, V-crimp roofing. Cold, windy weather has prevented us from completing the operation as sheduled.



A dredging operation, deepening the navigational channel, made it necessary to frequently check work progress to circumvent possibility of damage to ferry installations. Despite these precautions the underwater telephone line was cut necessitating replacing by the telephone company with assistance by refuge personnel.

With opening of the waterfowl season patrol activities were stepped up. Periodic patrols have been made during the remainder of the year.

Three buildings were razed and debris disposed of. A small amount of lumber was worthy of salvage. breaking-up concrete floors and foundations proved to be an arduous and time consuming job. This material, plus brick from two chimneys, was hauled to Quarters number 2 and dumped over the high bank in an effort to stop the "cave-in" which threatens to undermine the residence.

Four sections of a floating boat dock, built of wooden forms fitted over metal drums were completed. The installation will be put into service following completion of a satisfactory anchoring devise.

Two coats of paint were applied to front and back porches of quarters number 1.

Forty-four pickup truck loads of a sand-gravel mixture were hauled and spread along the road leading from the ferry to quarters 2.

Office routine, ferry operation, procurement and the many minor maintenance jobs round out the work program.

## B. Plantings

### 1. Aquatics and Marsh Plants

No plantings made.

### 2. Trees and Shrubs

No plantings made.

### 3. Upland Herbaceous Plants

No plantings made.

### 4. Cultivated Crops



Fifty-five acres of wheat, three acres rye grass and 22 acres of a wheat - rye grass mixture were sown during September and October. All seed germinated well and subsequent growth has been excellent. The rye grass sown in the mixture was experimental since the seed was originally scheduled for overplanting of milo. A prolonged wet spell of weather in August and September resulted in a heavy growth of grass in these fields and the project was abandoned.

The goose browse experimental area, composed of eight one acre plots, was also seeded in October. As in the past wheat, alfalfa, crimson clover, Ladino clover, rye, oats, rye grass and barley are under study. Some type of aphid damaged part of the plots in the early stages of growth. Most of the plants recovered and growth is about average.

C. Collections

1. Seed and Other Propagules

No collections made.

2. Specimens

None collected.

D.D Receipts of Seed and Nursery Stock

None received.

IV. ECONOMIC USE OF REFUGE

A. Grazing

None.

B. Haying

None.

C. Fur Harvest

None.

D. Timber Removal

None.

E. Other Uses

None.

V. FIELD INVESTIGATION OR APPLIED RESEARCH

A. Progress Report

The Virginia Commission of Game and Inland fisheries requested permission to continue the Study of Utilization, Preferences, and Nutritional Value of Winter-Green Agricultural Crops for Goose Food. Permission was granted and plots were sown. As before the Commission furnished seed and fertilizer. Refuge personnel prepared the soil and made plantings. As yet geese have rarely visited the plots. Consequently, Mr. Warren H. Taylor, who is conducting the experiment has not been able to arrive at any conclusions.

As previously reported results of experimental clearings on three sites in the tidal swamp have been encouraging. Smartweed and various sedges have appeared in all clearings. No wild millet has been noted and the introduction of this food plant might well be of some benefit.

VI. PUBLIC RELATIONS

A. Recreational Uses

As previously reported Presquile's recreational possibilities are limited and difficulties involved in traveling to and from the island tend to discourage visitors. In view of the uncertain ferry we have been reluctant to encourage to encourage visiting.

Public use for the year amounts to some 92 visitor days.

B. Refuge Visitors

## Refuge visitors were as follows:

- 9/1/55 and numerous trips thereafter. Mr. Warren H. Taylor, Va. Game Commission. Goose Browse Study.
- 9/17/55 Mr. Richard Dittman, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Atlanta, Ga. Inspection.
- 9/22/55 Messers. Hogwood and Martin, Richmond, Va. Information on hunting regulations.
- 10/23/55 Messers. Flagler and Gill, Richmond, Va. Informal visit.
- 11/9/55 Mr. Lawrence Givens, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Atlanta, Ga. Inspection.
- 11/16/55 Mr. Darrel Shuffler, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Suffolk, Va. Law enforcement.
- 11/16/55 Messers. Joe Martin and Harry King, Va. Game Commission. Cooperation - law enforcement.
- 11/23/55 Mr. Bob Gordon, Petersburg, Va. Newspaper publicity.
- 11/26/55 Messers. Westbrook and Smith, Va. Game Commission, Richmond, Va. Cooperation - law enforcement.
- 12/4/55 Mr. James Hendricks, Colonial Heights, Va. Informal visit.
- 12/8/55 Mr. Garland Foster, Prince George, Va. Va. Game Commission. Cooperation - law enforcement.
- 12/11/55 Messers. Wilson and Tate and families, Chester, Va. Wildlife observation.
- 12/13/55 Mr. Ronnie Burrell, Bon Aire, Va. Informal visit.

C. Refuge Participation

Nothing to report.

D. Hunting

Nothing to report.

E. Fishing



Nothing to report.

F. Violations

Violation of the closing order was limited to the apprehension of three men found in the west channel shooting from an open boat, at mid-stream. These cases are still pending trial.

Three men were apprehended on opening day of the waterfowl season, shooting one-half hour after sundown in Johnson's marsh at the junction of the James and Appomattox Rivers. Another case was made the same day when one man was found in a floating blind without a duck stamp. All four men were later found guilty in a trial justice courts and paid minimum fines. The cases were first referred to Game Management Agent Atkinson.

Regular patrol trips have failed to disclose evidence of further violations.

VII. OTHER ITEMS

F. Items of Interest

Suzy Q, the whitetail fawn, rapidly became a close member of the refuge family providing many hours of enjoyment as it romped on headquarters lawn with our aggregation of dogs. It was indeed a sad day when the little lady was found dead late one afternoon. The incident was totally unexpected since the animal seemed to be in perfect health at the time. Apparently she had panicked from some unknown reason and ran into a brick foundation, breaking her neck. Burial was made in the old orchard, with appropriate ceremonies.

The old ferry scow has been rather tempermental throughout the period, seemingly realizing it is destined for the junkpile. Among others, its favorite trick was to suddenly stop in mid-channel. Invariably the tide would be ebbing with a tug and five heavily laden barges bearing down at, seemingly, a much greater speed than usual. Only those who have been aboard at this time can appreciate the helpless feeling of such a predicament. Fortunately, we have always been able to make emergency repairs and make the landing in time. As matters now stand, since the new ferry should be in operation within the next ten days, this problem should be solved. However,

we have no doubt but that some new one equally as serious will soon crop up.

B. Photographs

We sincerely regret that no photographs are available for this report. Some exposures were made but faulty film made them unsuitable for reproduction.

Acknowledgement: We wish to thank Mr. John Walther for his assistance in preparing this report.

Submitted by: \_\_\_\_\_

John L. DeLime

Date: JAN 11 1956

Title: Refuge Manager

Approved by: \_\_\_\_\_

*Lawrence S. Giam*  
ASST. Regional Refuge Supervisor

3 -1750a

Cont. NR-1

(Rev. March 1953)

**W A T E R F O W L**  
(Continuation Sheet)

REFUGE <u>Presquile</u>		MONTHS OF <u>September 1</u> TO <u>December 31</u> , 19 <u>55</u>									
		(2) Weeks of reporting period								(3) Estimated	(4) Production
(1) Species	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	waterfowl days use	Broods:	Estimated seen : total
<b>Swans:</b>											
Whistling											
Trumpeter											
<b>Geese:</b>											
Canada	4900	5000	5300	6100	6900	7100	6500	6100	378,525		
Cackling											
Brant											
White-fronted											
Snow	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	56		
Blue			4	4	13	13	13	13	424		
Other											
<b>Ducks:</b>											
Mallard	1700	3400	2850	3100	3450	3450	3400	3400	194,147		
Black	900	950	950	950	1050	1050	1050	1050	70,490		
Gadwall	6	15	15	15	10	10	10	10	644		
Baldpate	5	6	5	5	5	5	5	5	315		
Pintail	15	55	60	55	275	285	275	275	9,254		
Green-winged teal			3	15	15	10	10	10	511		
Blue-winged teal	5								483		
Cinnamon teal											
Shoveler				3	5	5	5	5	161		
Wood	395	425	425	435	450	390	275	225	39,330		
Redhead		2	4						40		
Ring-necked	5	5	10	10	10	5	5	5	599		
Canvasback			1	2					21		
Scaup	10	35	65	25	25	25	25	25	1,792		
Goldeneye											
Bufflehead	6	10	10	5	5	10	10	10	462		
Ruddy	2	4	5	10	5	5	5	5	287		
Other											
<b>Coot:</b>	5	3							224		

(over)



	(5)	(6)	(7)
	<u>Total Days Use</u>	<u>Peak Number</u>	<u>Total Production</u>
Swans	:	:	:
Geese	379,005	7,114	:
Ducks	318,536	5,305	:
Coots	224	10	:

**SUMMARY**  
**Principal feeding areas** Geese: Agricultural fields, marsh and river edges. Ducks: Marsh, swamp, river edges and agricultural fields.

**Principal nesting areas**

Reported by

John L. DeLime, Refuge Manager

**INSTRUCTIONS (See Secs. 7531 through 7534, Wildlife Refuges Field Manual)**

- (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) **Weeks of Reporting Period:** Estimated average refuge populations.
- (3) **Estimated Waterfowl Days Use:** Average weekly populations x number of days present for each species.
- (4) **Production:** 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.
- (5) **Total Days Use:** A summary of data recorded under (3).
- (6) **Peak Number:** Maximum number of waterfowl present on refuge during any census of reporting period.
- (7) **Total Production:** A summary of data recorded under (4).

3-1750  
Form NR-1  
(Rev. March 1953)

W A T E R F O W L

REFUGE Presquile

MONTHS OF September 1 TO December, 1955

(1) Species	(2) Weeks of reporting period									
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
<u>Swans:</u>										
Whistling										
Trumpeter										
<u>Geese:</u>										
Canada				22	13	200	200	525	2675	2540
Cackling										
Brant										
White-fronted										
Snow										
Blue										
Other										
<u>Ducks:</u>										
Mallard					3	25	75	575	1050	1250
Black					5	30	100	490	620	875
Gadwall										1
Baldpate										4
Pintail						3	5	5	5	9
Green-winged teal										
Blue-winged teal				3	15	11	15	10	5	5
Cinnamon teal										
Shoveler										
Wood	45	45	45	45	45	95	175	190	210	275
Redhead										
Ring-necked										2
Canvasback										
Scaup									11	10
Goldeneye										
Bufflehead										
Ruddy										
Other										
<u>Coot:</u>							1	3	10	10

Int. Dup. Sec.,

Wash. D. C. 37000



3-1751  
Form NR-1A  
(Nov. 1945)

MIGRATORY BIRDS  
(other than waterfowl)

Refuge Presquile Month of September 1 to December 31 19 55

(1) Species	(2) First Seen		(3) Peak Numbers		(4) Last Seen		(5) Production			(6) Total
Common Name	Number	Date	Number	Date	Number	Date	Number Colonies	Total # Nests	Total Young	Estimated Number
<u>I. Water and Marsh Birds:</u>										
Great Blue Heron			11	10/31/55	Resident					15
American Egret			33	10/1	1	12/2				35
Little Blue Heron			3	10/1	1	10/5				3
Little Green Heron			2	10/1	1/	10/5				3
American Bittern			2	10/1	1	11/16				
<u>II. Shorebirds, Gulls and Terns:</u>										
Ring-billed Gull			585	12/17	Winter Resident		of river			585
Herring Gull			16	12/17	Winter Resident		of river			20
Laughing Gull			330	10/31	2	12/2				330
Royal Tern			5	10/4	1	10/31				10
Common Tern			115	10/8	2	11/11				115
Caspian Tern			45	10/8	1	11/14				50
Forster's Tern			27	10/2	1	10/31				30
Common Snipe	1	10/31	7		Still here					25
Sora Rail			3	10/1	1/	10/31				20

(over)



(OASL)

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
III. <u>Doves and Pigeons:</u> Mourning dove White-winged dove		200	Good population still present		
IV. <u>Predaceous Birds:</u> Golden eagle Duck hawk Horned owl Magpie Raven Crow		2 3 2 2 3 30	Resident  Resident		30 32 30 4 10 30 30 302
			Reported by _____		
			John L. DeLime, Refuge Manager		

#### INSTRUCTIONS

- (1) Species: Use the correct names as found in the A.O.U. Checklist, 1931 Edition, and list group in A.O.U. order. Avoid general terms as "seagull", "tern", etc. 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. Groups: I. Water and Marsh Birds (Gaviiformes to Ciconiiformes)  
II. Shorebirds, Gulls and Terns (Charadriiformes) & Gruiformes)  
III. Doves and Pigeons (Columbiformes)  
IV. Predaceous Birds (Falconiformes, Strigiformes and predaceous Passeriformes)
- (2) First Seen: The first refuge record for the species for the season concerned.
- (3) Peak Numbers: 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.
- (5) Production: Estimated number of young produced based on observations and actual counts.
- (6) Total: Estimated total number of the species using the refuge during the period concerned.

3-1752

Form NR-2  
(April 1946)

## UPLAND GAME BIRDS

1613

Refuge PresquileMonths of September 1 to December 31, 1955

(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	Percentage	Hunting	For Re- stocking	For Research	Estimated number using Refuge	Pertinent information not specifically requested. List introductions here.
Bob-white Quail	200 acres, fields & swamp edges.	40							5	
Wild Turkey	1150 acres, swamp, marsh and field edges,	115							10	



## 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.



Form NR-3  
(June 1945)

BIG GAME

Refuge Presquille Calendar Year 1955

(1) Species	(2) Density	(3) Young Produced	(4) Removals			(5) Losses			(6) Introductions	(7) Estimated Total Refuge Population		(8) Sex Ratio	
Common Name	Cover types, total Acreage of Habitat	Number	Hunting	For Re- stocking	Sold	For Research	Predation	Disease	Winter Loss	Number	Source	At period of Greatest use	As of Dec. 31
White-tailed Deer	300 acres agricultural land 780 acres swamp, 250 acres marsh	11	0	0	0	0	0	0	2*	0		115	105
* Cause of death unknown													

Remarks:

Reported by \_\_\_\_\_

Form NR-3

# INSTRUCTIONS

## Form NR-3 - BIG GAME

- (1) SPECIES: Use correct common name; i.e., Mule deer, black-tailed deer, white-tailed deer. It is unnecessary to indicate sub-species such as northern or Louisiana white-tailed deer.
- (2) DENSITY: 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 total number of young produced on refuge.
- (4) REMOVALS: Indicate total number of each category removed during the year.
- (5) LOSSES: On the basis of known records or reliable estimates indicate total losses in each category during the year.
- (6) INTRODUCTIONS: Indicate the number and refuge or agency from which stock was secured.
- (7) TOTAL REFUGE POPULATION: Give the estimated population of each species on the refuge at period of its greatest abundance and also as of Dec. 31.
- (8) SEX RATIO: Indicate the percentage of males and females of each species as determined from field observations or through removals.

(1) (2) (3) (4) (5) (6) (7) (8)

BIG GAME



Refuge Fresquile Year 194

## Botulism

## Lead Poisoning or other Disease

Period of outbreak NONE

Period of heaviest losses \_\_\_\_\_

## Losses:

	Actual Count	Estimated
(a) Waterfowl	_____	_____
(b) Shorebirds	_____	_____
(c) Other	_____	_____

Number Hospitalized	No. Recovered	% Recovered
(a) Waterfowl	_____	_____
(b) Shorebirds	_____	_____
(c) Other	_____	_____

Areas affected (location and approximate acreage) \_\_\_\_\_

Water conditions (average depth of water in sickness areas, reflooding of exposed flats, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_

Condition of vegetation and invertebrate life \_\_\_\_\_

Remarks \_\_\_\_\_

Kind of disease NONE

Species affected \_\_\_\_\_

Number Affected Species	Actual Count	Estimated
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Number Recovered \_\_\_\_\_

Number lost \_\_\_\_\_

Source of infection \_\_\_\_\_

Water conditions \_\_\_\_\_

Food conditions \_\_\_\_\_

Remarks \_\_\_\_\_



REMARKS: There is no fishing permitted within boundaries of Presquile Refuge.

3-1757  
Form NR-7  
(April 1946)

PLANTINGS  
(Marsh - Aquatic - Upland)

Refuge.....Presquile.....Year 1955

Species	Location of Area Planted	Rate of Seeding or Planting	Amount Planted (Acres or Yards of Shoreline)	Amount & Nature of Propagules	Date of Plant- ing	Survival	Cause of Loss	Remarks
NO PLANTINGS MADE								

TOTAL ACREAGE PLANTED:

Marsh and aquatic.....  
Hedgerows, cover patches.....  
Food strips, food patches.....  
Forest plantings.....

CULTIVATED CROPS

Refuge Presquile Year 195 5

Permittee (If farmed by refuge personnel, so indicate)	Permit No.	Unit or Loca- tion	Crops Grown	Avg. Yield per Acre	Permittee's Share		Government's Share or Return				Compensatory Services, or Cash Revenue
					Acres	Bu. Har- vested	Harvested		Unharvested		
							Acres	Bu.	Acres	Bu.	
Refuge Personnel		Field 2	Milo	35	0	0	0	0	38	1230	0
Refuge Personnel		Field 4	Milo	40	0	0	0	0	25	1000	0
Refuge Personnel		Field 5	Milo	35	0	0	0	0	15	525	0
Refuge Personnel		Field 5	B.T.Millet	5	0	0	0	0	10	50	0
Refuge Personnel		Field 2 overplanting	B.T.Millet	4	0	0	0	0	18	72	0
Refuge Personnel		Field 2 overplanting	Buckwheat	4	0	0	0	0	18	72	0

Summary of Crops Grown:	Crop	Acreage	Permittee's Share		Government's Share				Total Revenue
			Acres	Bushels	Harvested		Unharvested		
					Acres	Bu.	Acres	Bu.	
	milo	78			0	0	78	2755	
	Millet	28			0	0	28	122	
Interior Duplicating	Buckwheat	18			0	0	18	72	
Section, Wash.D.C.									



DIRECTIONS FOR PREPARING FORM NR-8  
CULTIVATED CROPS

Cultivated Crops Report Form NR-8 should be prepared on a calendar-year basis for all crops harvested or utilized during the calendar year and submitted with the December 31 refuge report.

Permittee - List each permittee separately. If lands of the refuge are farmed by refuge personnel or hired labor, this should be indicated in the Permittee column.

Permit No. - List the number of the Special Use Permit issued to the individual.

Use or location - The Unit No. or name specified in the Economic Use Plan should be listed in this column.

Crops Grown - A separate line of the form should be used for each crop grown by each permittee or by refuge personnel. This is important, since if each crop grown by each operator is not specifically enumerated, the report will be of no value for statistical purposes.

Average Yield per Acre - It is important that the average yield per acre of each crop grown by each operator should be shown.

Permittee's Share - Only the number of acres harvested or utilized by the permittee for his own benefit should be shown under the Acres column, and only the number of bushels of farm crops harvested by the permittee for himself should be shown under the Bushels Harvested column. It is requested that all crops harvested be reduced to bushels wherever possible, or, as in the case with the harvesting of seed such as that of sweet clover, alfalfa, bromegrass, etc., the total harvested crop in pounds may be shown. Timothy, alfalfa, or other hay harvested by the permittee should be shown on Form NR-10 and should not be shown in the Permittee's Share column.

Government's Share or Return - Harvested - Show the number of bushels harvested for the Government and the acreage from which this share is harvested, both for grain raised by refuge personnel and by permittees. Unharvested - show the exact number of acres of crops allowed to remain unharvested as food and cover for wildlife. An estimate of the number of bushels of grain that is available for the wildlife in such unharvested crops should be shown in the Bushels column.

Compensatory Services, or Cash Revenue - Show other services received by the Government in cooperative farming activities, the number of acres of food strips planted for wildlife, the amount of wildlife crops not otherwise reported that are planted by cooperators for the Service, or the cultivation of wildlife plantations. If the permit is on a fee basis, the total cash revenue received by the Service.

# REFUGE FARMING PROGRAM

1955

Total acres of land in share crops	0
Total bushels of grain harvested (Permittee's share)	0
Total bushels of grain harvested (Refuge share)	0
Total bushels left in field for waterfowl	0
Total acres of grazing lands	0
Animal use months	0
Grazing (cash receipts)	0
Total acres of hay land	0
Tons of hay cut	0
Cash receipts for hay	0
Refuge farming operations (acres)	208 *
Total bushels of grain harvested	0
Total bushels food left for wildlife	2949

- \* Eighty-eight acres of grain crops and 120 acres browse crops. Browse crops include; 33 acres Ladino clover, 8 acres experimental plots, 3 acres rye-grass, 50 acres winter wheat, and 26 acres winter wheat-rye-grass mixture.



## REFUGE GRAIN REPORT

Refuge .....

Months of September 1 through December 31, 1955

(1) VARIETY*	(2) ON HAND BEGINNING OF PERIOD	(3) RECEIVED DURING PERIOD	(4) TOTAL	(5) GRAIN DISPOSED OF				(6) ON HAND END OF PERIOD	(7) PROPOSED OR SUITABLE USE*		
				Transferred	Seeded	Fed	Total		Seed	Feed	Surplus
Wheat	150 bu.	0	150	0	142	4	146	4		4	
Rye-grass	700 lbs.	0	700	0	650	0	650	50	50		
Ladino Clover	102 lbs.	0	102	0	40	0	40	62	62		

(8) Indicate shipping or collection points Hopewell, Virginia(9) Grain is stored at Headquarters shop building

(10) Remarks .....

\*See instructions on back.



NR-8a

## REFUGE GRAIN REPORT

This report should cover all grain on hand, received, or disposed of, during the period covered by this narrative report.

**Report all grain in bushels.** For the purpose of this report the following approximate weights of grain shall be considered equivalent to a bushel: Corn (shelled)—55 lb., corn (ear)—70 lb., wheat—60 lb., barley—50 lb., rye—55 lb., oats—30 lb., soy beans—60 lb., millet—50 lb., cowpeas—60 lb., and mixed—50 lb. In computing volume of granaries, multiply the cubic contents (cu. ft.) by 0.8 bushels.

- (1) List each type of grain separately and specifically, as flint corn, yellow dent corn, square deal hybrid corn, garnet wheat, red May wheat, durum wheat, spring wheat, proso millet, combine milo, new era cowpeas, mikado soy beans, etc. Mere listing as corn, wheat, and soybeans will not suffice, as specific details are necessary in considering transfer of seed supplies to other refuges. Include only domestic grains; aquatic and other seeds will be listed on NR-9.
- (3) Report all grain received during period from all sources, such as transfer, share cropping, or harvest from food patches.
- (4) A total of columns 2 and 3.
- (6) Column 4 less column 5.
- (7) This is a proposed break-down by varieties of grain listed in column 6. Indicate if grain is suitable for seeding new crops.
- (8) Nearest railroad station for shipping and receiving.
- (9) Where stored on refuge: "Headquarters granary," etc.
- (10) Indicate here the source of grain shipped in, destination of grain transferred, data on condition of grain, unusual uses proposed.



## HAYING AND GRAZING

Refuge

Presquile

Year 1955

Permittee	Permit No.	Unit or Location	Actual Acreage Utilized	Animal Use Months	Tons of Hay Harvested	Period of Use From - To	Rate	Total Income	Remarks
NO HAYING OR GRAZING PERMITS HAVE BEEN ISSUED.									

Totals:

Acreage grazed \_\_\_\_\_

Animal use months \_\_\_\_\_

Total income Grazing \_\_\_\_\_

Acreage cut for hay \_\_\_\_\_

Tons of hay cut \_\_\_\_\_

Total income Haying \_\_\_\_\_



Presquile

Year 1955

Permittee	Permit No.	Unit or Location	Acreage	No. of Units Expressed in B.F., ties, etc.	Rate of Charge	Total Income	Reservations and/or Diameter Limits	Species Cut
NO REMOVALS								

Total acreage cut over

Total income

No. of units removed B. F. \_\_\_\_\_

Cords

Ties

Method of slash disposal

PUBLIC USE - F. Y. 1955

Please supply figures or your best estimates for the following categories when applicable to your refuge.

A. Presquile National Wildlife Refuge

B. Estimated total use of all types 92 visitor days.

1. Hunting use (for those refuges having public or regulated hunting.)

Estimate visitor days \_\_\_\_\_

2. Fishing use Estimate visitors days \_\_\_\_\_

3. Miscellaneous use: ( Lump such uses as picnicking, swimming, wildlife observations, birdwatching, as well as those on the area for business or official use, including economic uses such as farming or trapping.)

Estimate visitor days 92

1/7/56

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

John L. DeLime, Refuge Manager