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Talcot Lake National Wildlife Refuge Quarterly Narrative Report August, September, October 1941

United States Department of The Interior Fish and Wildlife Service Winona, Minnesota

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TRATHENTIME BY BEGIONAL OFFICE

I. General

A. Weather Conditions:

Weather throughout the quarter was generally fair, with normal rainfall. The first killing frost occurred on October 27. B. Water Conditions:

Water levels in the lake were below the top of the spillway in August and September, except for the first week in August, when $\frac{1}{2}$ " of water passed over the spillway. September was below level, with a minimum of 8.80 and with a normal of 9.00. In October average readings were 9.07, with a maximum of 9.14.

II. Wildlife

A. Waterfowl:

1. Ducks:

Few ducks used the Refuge during the period. A northern flight moved in on October 27 and at the end of the quarter about 4,000 were counted on the area.

Populations at the opening of the season were low and hunting on the State land was poor. Ducks moved in, however, and 1,200 were found on the Refuge on October 3. The second week of the season most of the ducks left, leaving only about 300 on the area. The count remained low until the flight of October 27.

2. Geese:

Geese moved in on October 3, when 40 Canada geese arrived. On October 6 there were 35; on October 10, 75; on October 11 there were 50; on October 14 there were 75; on October 17 there were 12; on October 21 there were 30; and on October 28 there were 40.

A mixed flock of snow geese and blue geese, composed of 80 birds, was seen on October 21.

3. Pelicans:

About 200 pelicans were seen on the lake on September 7, and 300 were seen on September 27.

4. Great Blue Heron:

Twenty blue herons were seen along the river below the dam on August 1.

B. Upland Game Birds:

1. Pheasants:

On August 6 a total of 64 small young pheasants were counted along three miles of road. Mr. Jadwin of the Madelia Game Farm released 420 pheasants on the Refuge on September 3.

It appeared that more pheasants used the Refuge this year than ever before. Pheasant hunting on State land was good and most hunters got limits within a short time.

2. Hungarian Partridges:

A few Hungarian partridges were seen on the Refuge during this quarter.

D. Fur-bearing Animals:

1. Mink:

A number of mink reside on the Refuge.

2. Muskrats:

There are more muskrats on the Refuge this year than ever before. Many new houses are appearing in marsh areas, and bank rats remain as usual.

E. Fish:

On August 8 the State Fish Rescue Crew removed 733 pickerel, 120 crappies, and 4 pike from the hole below the dam. These were taken to Okabena Lake near Worthington.

On August 22, 150 pickerel and 4,000 bullheads were removed. The pickerel were taken to Fish Lake and the bullheads to String Lake. On the same day, an additional 3,000 bullheads were removed and taken to Ocheda Lake.

III. Refuge Development

A. Physical Development:

1. Fire Lanes:

On September 6 preparations were made with Mr. Dick Buss to plow fire lanes on the Refuge.

2. Refuge Markers:

Floating markers were put up on September 3 to mark the Refuge line across the lake.

IV. Public Relations

4. Number of Visitors:

On August 8 the State Fish Rescue Crew was here in connection with fish rescue work.

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On August 17 State Fish Rescuer, Mr. Warren, and State Game Warden Getty were at the Refuge in connection with fish rescue work.

On September 3 Regional Refuge Inspector, F. C. Gillett, made an inspection trip on the Refuge. Mr. Jadwin of the Madelia Game Farm visited the Refuge and delivered pheasants.

On September 23 Ray C. Steele, Superintendent, Upper Mississippi Refuge, was here for a short visit.

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