

ROUTING SLIP

DIVISION OF WILDLIFE REFUGES

DATE: June 4, 194 6.

MR. SALYER

SECTION OF HABITAT IMPROVEMENT:

MR. ELMER

~~Mr. Griffith~~ REG 6-6

MR. KRUMHES WK 9/8

~~Dr. Bourn~~ WSB 6/4

MR. DUMONT DAD 8/1

~~Miss Cook~~ SWC 6-6

SECTION OF OPERATIONS:

SECTION OF LAND MANAGEMENT:

Mr. Regan

~~Mr. Kent~~ 7/3/46 7K

~~Mr. Krummes~~

Mr. Ball

~~Mr. Ackerknecht~~ WEA 6-12

~~Mr. Dumont~~

Miss Baum

SECTION OF STRUCTURES:

STENOGRAPHERS:

Mr. Taylor WWT 8/23

AK 7-16-46

REMARKS:

TALCOT LAKE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE.

NARRATIVE REPORT. & ANNUAL SUMMARY.

Jan. - Apr. - 1946.

Return to: \_\_\_\_\_

See NR-12



Talcot Lake National Wildlife Refuge

Narrative Report

January, February, March, and April 1946

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Talcot Lake National Wildlife Refuge

Narrative Report

January, February, March, and April 1946

I. General.

A. Weather Conditions.

No official weather data is available. The precipitation was below normal for the period.

B. Water Conditions.

Water levels were at lower levels this period than for the same period of 1945. The highest levels for 1945 were in January 9.60, March 11.32, April 9.70 and in 1946 January 8.94, March 11.06, and April 9.62. The spring break-up occurred March 25, and in general the water ~~shed~~ over the structure was the least in several years. Many small ponds adjacent to the Refuge which usually are full of water during the spring break up were almost dry.

C. Fires.

None during this period.

II. Wildlife.

A. Migratory Birds.

1. Population and Behavior

The Spring migration of waterfowl was noticeable March 2, however, approximately 35 mallards stayed at the control structure during the first part of the period. It is estimated that the Spring migration was one-third larger for all species, except geese than that of the same period of 1945. Migrations of Snow and Blue Geese were noticed during March, but very few stopped at the Refuge. Sufficient data is not available to show the decrease or increase in different species of waterfowl, as they were all classified together in a lump sum as being 5,000 using the Refuge for 1945. After this report is completed I will have a complete set of Narrative Reports and can show the trend of different species by percentage. It is estimated that a larger amount will remain during the nesting season than that of last year. As the marsh lands in the north area of the Refuge are more desirable with the low water levels.



WATERFOWL

Refuge Saloot Lake Months of January to April 1946

(1) Species  Common Name	(2) First Seen		(3) Peak Concentration		(4) Last Seen		(5) Young Produced		(6) Total
	Number	Date	Number	Date	Number	Date	Broods Seen	Estimated Total	Estimated for Period
Pelican.	75	4-12-46	400	4-15-46		present			500
I. Swans:									
Whistling swan									
Cormorant	40	4-1-46	150	4-15-46		present			250
II. Geese:									
Canada goose	150	3-2-46	250	4-1-46		present			300
Cackling goose									
Brant									
White-fronted goose									
Snow goose	6	3-4-46	30	3-30-46	1	4-16-46			35
Blue goose	10	3-4-46	75	3-30-46	5	4-16-46			100
III. Ducks:									
Mallard	75	3-2-46	4,000	4-1-46		present			5,000
Black duck									
Gadwall	15	3-26-46	275	4-1-46		present			400
Baldpate	45	3-26-46	350	4-1-46		present			500
Pintail	10	3-2-46	2,000	4-1-46		present			3,000
Green-winged teal	7	3-10-46	250	4-1-46					300
Blue-winged teal	30	3-10-46	1,200	4-1-46		present			1,500
Cinnamon teal									
Wood duck									
Red head	6	3-23-46	40	4-1-46	3	4-15-46			50
Ring-necked duck	9	3-23-46	150	4-1-46	8	4-15-46			200
Canvas-back	2	3-26-46	30	4-1-46	1	4-15-46			40
Scaup	25	3-26-46	300	4-1-46		present			500
Golden-eye									
Buffle-head									
Ruddy duck	4	4-1-46	50	4-1-46	10	4-15-46			75
IV. Coot	25	4-1-46	500	4-1-46		present			800
				(over)					



## SUMMARIES

Total Production:

Geese.....

Total waterfowl usage during period 13,550

Ducks.....

Peak waterfowl numbers 9,950

Coots.....

Areas used by concentrations Talcot Lake

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 these data are necessarily based on an analysis of the rest of the form.



## 2. Food and Cover.

Food and cover was available on the marsh area for the small and diving duck. The mallard and pintail used the corn fields north of the Refuge for their feeding site. Very little of the Service's Share of corn remained on co-operative farming Units. The upland game birds utilized it during the winter months.

## 3. Botulism.

None during this period.

## 4. Lead poisoning and Other Diseases.

None during this period.

## B. Upland Game Birds.

### 1. Population and Behavior.

It is estimated that 500 pheasants used the Refuge during the period and nesting was started the last part of the period. However, many migrate to adjacent areas during the nesting season and seek the protection of the Refuge during the hunting season. The Hungarian Partridge have increased during the time of last period. It is believed the increase is due to the release of Breeding Stock by the Minnesota Conservation Commission.

## 2. Food and Cover.

The food and cover was adequate for the upland game birds. The share cropping corn did not provide as much food as previous year because the corn was of poor quality.

## 3. Disease.

None noticed during this period.

## C. Big Game Animals.

Five deer are present on the Refuge of which <sup>FOUR</sup> were observed March 2, 1946 in the wooded area on the west side of the Refuge.

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

The muskrat population increased the last part of the period due to the low water levels in the ponds adjacent to the Refuge and moved into the Refuge to seek more desired habitat.

Refuge TALBOT LAKE Months of January to April, 194

(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.
Ring-Neck Pheasant	G.2 & HI 2 500	1			1-4	0	0	0	500	
Ungarian Partridge	" " "	5			Unknown	0	0	0	100	



## 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.



Two mink were caught in January and twenty-one in December. Making a total of twenty-three pelts. After the number was taken very few mink signs were even noticed.

The raccoon population does not appear as large as during the early fall month's.

The Red Fox is still present in number to large for the benefits of the other wildlife using the Refuge. Several were taken in community fox hunts during the period on lands adjacent to the Refuge.

Beaver signs are still noticeable and if a normal breeding season is provided they will show a large increase.

Cotton tail rabbits are present in large numbers as they are not hunted to no large extend in the vicinity.

#### E. Predacious Birds.

Very few hawks were noticed during this period. Only the ones that are migrating.

#### F. Fish.

Very little sport fishing was done during the period, none during the last part due to the State Closed Season.

The State Conservation Commission removed 60,910 pounds of rough fish from the Refuge and State owned part of Talcot Lake under Special Use Permit from January to April 15, 1946. During the removal program a large amount of game fish were returned to the water. The largest percent being crappies. Very little winter kill was noticed during this period.

### III. Refuge Development and Maintenance.

#### A. Physical Development.

The paint was purchased for the two room cabin and two out buildings. The paint job should be completed by this time as it was well under way April 25, 1946. It is planned to paint the radial gates and build the cat walk at the structure this fiscal year. If the weather permits the funds are available for the purchase of the materials.

#### B. Plantings.

None during this period.

##### 1. Cultivated Crops.

One co-op farming permit was issued for the crop year 1946.

Refuge Taloot Lake RefugeApril 30, 1946

(1) Species	(2) Density		(3) Removals					(4) Disposition of Fur						(5) Total Popula- tion
Common Name	Cover Types & Total Acreage of Habitat	Acres Per Animal	Hunting	Fur Harvest	Predator Control	For Re- stocking	For Research	Share Trapping			Total Refuge Furs Shipped	Refuge Income	Furs Donated	Furs Destroyed
								Permit Number	Trappers' Share	Refuge Share				
Muskrat	Three were taken during the mink removal program and turned over to the State Conservation Commission, as the State open trapping season was closed for rats.													30
Mink	Removal or trapping program conducted by State & Federal Employees.													
Striped Skunk	Taken in mink set.													
Red Fox	" " " " " " " " " " " " " " " "													
Raccoon	" " " " " " " " " " " " " " " "													
All pelts sent to the New York Auction, Except the three muskrat pelts.														

REMARKS:

1615



# INSTRUCTIONS

Form NR-4 - SMALL MAMMALS (Include data on all species of importance in the management program; i.e., muskrats, beaver, coon, mink, coyote. Data on small rodents may be omitted except for estimated total population of each species considered in control operations.)

- (1) SPECIES: Use correct common name. Example: Striped skunk, spotted skunk, short-tailed weasel, gray squirrel, fox squirrel, white-tailed jackrabbit, etc. (Accepted common names in current use are found in the "Field Book of North American Mammals" by H. E. Anthony and the "Manual of the Vertebrate Animals of the Northeastern United States" by David Starr Jordan. "List of North American Recent Mammals" by G. S. Miller, Jr., a very good reference, is now out of print, although a revision is scheduled for publication in the near future.)
  - (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, bottom land 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) REMOVALS: Indicate the total number under each category removed since April 30 of the previous year. Also show any removals not falling under heading listed.
  - (4) DISPOSITION OF FUR: On share-trapped furs list the permit number, trapper's share, and refuge share. Indicate the number of pelts shipped to market and the total income to the refuge by species, including share-trapped furs and furs taken by Service personnel. Total number of pelts of each species destroyed because of unprimeness or damaged condition, and furs donated to institutions or other agencies should be shown in the column provided.
  - (5) TOTAL POPULATION: Estimated total population of each species reported on as of April 30.
- REMARKS: Indicate inventory method(s) used, size of sample area(s), introductions, and any other pertinent information not specifically requested.

C. Collections.

None during this period.

D. Receipts of Seed and Nursery Stocks.

None during this period.

IV. Economic Use of Refuge.

A. Grazing.

None during this period.

B. Haying.

None during this period.

C. Fur Harvest.

The fur harvesting program was carried on by Mr. Jadwin, State and Federal Employee. A total of twenty-three mink, three Red Foxes, one raccoon, one skunk, and three muskrats were taken during the program of which two of the mink were caught during this period. The muskrats were turned over to the Minnesota Conservation Commission as the muskrat trapping season was closed, and the rats were caught in traps set for the mink. All other pelts were sent to the New York Auction. Returns were received for twenty mink which sold for \$620. and gave a net profit of \$589., after the sales commission was subtracted.

D. Timber Removal.

None.

E. Other Uses.

None.

V. Field Investigation or Applied Research.

A. Progress Report.

None.

VI. Public Relations

A. Recreational Areas.

The only recreational area of the Refuge is the sport



fishing at and below the control structure, which was used very little during the period, as the weather was not desirable for fishing the first part of the season and the State Fishing Season being closed the last part of the period.

B. Refuge Visitors.

<u>Names.</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Time Spent</u>
Mr. F. C. Gillett, Regional Refuge Supervisor	1-16-46	
Mr. Milfred J. Smith, Refuge Manager	2-17-46	4 hrs.
Mr. Milfred J. Smith, Refuge Manager	4-15-46	7 hrs.
	4-16-46	

C. Refuge Participation.

None.

D. Hunting.

None during this period.

E. See A. Recreational Uses.

F. Violations.

None were apprehended during this period.

VII. Other Items.

A. Items of Interest.

The State Conservation Commission are starting a nursery on the State owned land adjacent to the Refuge and have a manager assigned to the project.

B. Photographs.

None.

May 9, 1946  
(Date)

Milfred J. Smith  
(Signature)

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

Milfred J. Smith  
Refuge Manager  
(Title)

APPROVED:

Stanley J. ...  
Acting REGIONAL DIRECTOR

MAY 24 1946

Fishing at and below the control structure, which was used very little during the period, at the weather was not desirable for fishing the first part of the season and the State Fishing Season being closed the last part of the period.

B. Refuge Visitors.

<u>Name.</u>	<u>Date.</u>	<u>Time Spent.</u>
Mr. F. C. Elliott, Regional Refuge Supervisor	1-18-46	
Mr. Milled J. Smith, Refuge Manager	2-17-46	4 hrs.
Mr. Milled J. Smith, Refuge Manager	4-18-46	7 hrs.
	4-18-46	

C. Refuge Participation.

None.

D. Hunting.

None during this period.

E. See A. Recreational Use.

F. Violations.

None were apprehended during this period.

VII. Other Items.

A. Items of Interest.

The State Conservation Commission are starting a survey on the State owned land adjacent to the Refuge and have a manager assigned to the project.

B. Photographs.

None.

May 3, 1946

(Date)

Mr. Fred J. Smith

Refuge Manager

Willie





## SUMMARY OF THE YEARS ACTIVITIES

Talcot Lake National Wildlife Refuge, Dundee, Minn.

Covering Period May 1, 1945 to April 30, 1946



The precipitation was not abundant as previous years. The temperature the first part of the period was cool and made adverse condition for the wildlife nesting and share cropping. However warm weather conditions advanced to late fall which made up for some of the adverse conditions in the first part of the period.

The Refuge pool remained around normal throughout the period.

No fires occurred during this period.

Few waterfowl used the Refuge for nesting sites during the first part of the period. Mostly Blue-winged teal, and mallards were noticed at different times and at least one pair of Canada Geese nested on the area.

The Fall migration started in mid August which were Blue-winged teal, followed up with Pintail and Mallards in the last part of August and September. Peak concentration for mallard and pintail occurred mid November. The largest percent of Blue-winged teal left the Refuge by October 1. Thirty-five mallards remained on the Refuge during the winter months. This Springs migrations was increased over that of last falls.

Spring migration of Pelicans were larger than last Springs.

The only vegetation for waterfowl was in the marsh area in the North part and on the islands and shoreline, as very little was noticed in the open water of the pool. 55 lbs. of wild rice seed was planted in the pool last fall.

The corn on the uplands of the co-operative farming Units provided a sufficient amount of food for upland game birds. The ducks also fed in the grain field to a large extent. The corn was of poor quality, but was all used by the wildlife.

The pheasants came through the winter in good condition, and are above the number of the breeding stock of last year.

No noticeable diseases have occurred during the period.

Boundary line fences were repaired during the period. Paint was purchased for the cabin and two out buildings and the paint job is well under way if not completed by this time.

One co-operative farming permit was issued for the 1945 crop year, and one has been issued for the 1946 crop year.

The grasses were adequate for the 1945 grazing. Three permits were issued for grazing. One permit was issued for rental of the cabin. Total Revenues received for all permits issued was \$92.55. Total receipts for fur received from the New York Auction was \$751.28, which were not all harvested this period, which makes the grand total for all revenues \$843.83.

Twenty-three mink were pelted, one raccoon, one skunk, three Red Foxes, and three muskrats. The muskrats were released to the State Conservation Commission.

The hunting on the State Public Shooting Land adjacent to the Refuge was not equal to that of the previous year.

The sport fishing at the control structure was very good during the first half of the period. Large catches of crappies, pickerel, wall-eyed pike and bull heads were caught.

The State Conservation Commission removed 60,910 of rough' fish from the Talcot Lake area under Special Use Permit.

May 9, 1946

Date)

Approved:

Milfred J. Smith  
(Signature)

Milfred J. Smith  
Refuge Manager



