

RG 22 Narrative Report Union Slough NWR 1974-1975

Gray Stein 6/16/75 - 6/30/75

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UNION SLOUGH NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE
NARRATIVE REPORT
FY 75

I. GENERAL

A. Weather Conditions

It appears that the weather is becoming more atypical each year, particularly this reporting period. The lack of rain caused record drought conditions during late summer 1974, and it was evident at the close of FY 75 that we are re-caiving a repeat performance. The summer of 1974 came to a close with a hard frost hitting the area on 9/2, two weeks earlier than usual.

The winter ushered in the unusual, with a 4" snow storm in December, followed by the worst blizzard since 1888 occurring on 1/10-12. The duration of strong winds (50-70 mph.) and heavy snow fall (12") made this a granddaddy of all blizzards. And as if this was not enough, the blizzard was followed by subzero temperatures, a rare lightning storm on 1/28, a record low temperature of -11° on 3/13 and another blizzard on 3/26-27. Spring arrived 1-2 weeks later than normal and was accompanied by numerous storms and cool damp conditions.

B. Habitat Conditions

1. Water

In 1974, precipitation was 4.6' below normal with summer drought conditions persisting until freeze up. All managed pools ranged from .7 to 1.5' below planned levels. Water inflow for major pools was 5,651 ac. ft. as compared to 21,372 ac. ft. in 1973. At the lowest water level in October 50-60% of the refuge wetlands were dry. The droughty conditions of 1974 affected wildlife use, vegetative growth and public use as will be discussed in other sections of this report.

Although moisture was in short supply going into the winter, an abundance of precipitation in the form of snow and spring showers provided normal water levels in early 1975. However, a late spring thaw did not make water available until 4/16.

2. Food and Cover

A drought, early frost, severe winter and late spring all affected plant and animal life. Food plots of sorghum-sudan and corn were poor quality because of limited moisture and the early frost. By the end of December deer and pheasants had cleaned out a three acre corn plot, thus marking the beginning of depredation problems. Winter storms with abundant snow reduced the supply of cover and food drastically. Low water levels in A-2, B and C Pools did favor the growth of sago pondweed, while in D-2 Pool cattail unfortunately increased as well. Extensive areas of shallow water and mud flats caused by the drought created excellent shorebird habitat.

II. WILDLIFE

A. Migratory Birds

1. Whistling Swans

The 60 swans visiting the refuge in November 1974 were the largest number in years.

2. Geese

As reflected in Table I below, fall use increased significantly above the 12 year average of 7,785 use-days, while spring use fell 76% below the average.

Table 1. Geese Use Days - 1962 - 1975

Year	Spring	Fall
1962	602	2,170
1963	68,990	14,392
1964	6,174	920
1965	1,771	5,726
1966	38,276	8,092
1967	135,276	4,284
1968	157,226	8,071
1969	12,653	13,867
1970	4,167	11,102
1971	11,313	18,711
1972	60,660	1,920
1973	1,620	4,170
1974	59,460	13,258
1975	10,262	

The first geese arrived 9/17 and a peak of 355 (50% Canadians) occurred 10/30.

The late spring thaw reduced use for that period. About 3,000 geese stopped temporarily in an adjacent field, and then moved out apparently because of no open water. The first arrivals as well as the peak took place 3/25 with 600 Canada and 500 snow & blue geese present.

One pair of Canadian geese stayed until 6/2, but never showed any signs of nesting. No white-fronted geese were observed this year.

3. Ducks

The first indications of a fall migration started with an increase of 400 blue-winged teal. By the second week of September all common duck species were moving in and the population tripled. A peaked population of 7,400, 59% less than 1973, was reached 11/12. The 38% decrease in use-days this fall was contributed to low water levels in major refuge pools. Total freeze-over at low water levels caused the last mallards to leave 12/10.

Spring migrant use of Union Slough also was low. The first ducks did not arrive until 3/21, 23 days later than the previous year. A peak of 8,740 ducks on 4/17 was 39% below that of 1974. Most migrants had left by 5/2. The small short-lived migration was contributed to a late spring. Ice did not leave major refuge pools until 4/16.

As reflected in Table 2 duck production has been phenomenal for the second year, although slightly lower than 1973.

Table 2. Waterfowl Production 1969 - 1974

Species	1969 Broods Prod.	1970 Broods Prod.	1971 Broods Prod.	1972 Broods Prod.	1973 Broods Prod.	1974 Broods Prod.
Wood Duck	$\frac{43}{296}$	$\frac{87}{598}$	$\frac{94}{647}$	$\frac{96}{660}$	$\frac{177}{1218}$	$\frac{194}{1335}$
Mallard	$\frac{10}{62}$	$\frac{12}{75}$	$\frac{27}{168}$	$\frac{12}{75}$	$\frac{17}{106}$	$\frac{13}{81}$
B.W. Teal	$\frac{18}{111}$	$\frac{2}{121}$	$\frac{21}{129}$	$\frac{19}{117}$	$\frac{31}{191}$	$\frac{14}{86}$
Pintail			$\frac{1}{6}$	$\frac{1}{6}$	$\frac{1}{6}$	$\frac{2}{12}$
Shoveler			$\frac{1}{6}$		$\frac{6}{37}$	
Ruddy				$\frac{1}{3}$		
Totals	$\frac{71}{466}$	$\frac{101}{685}$	$\frac{144}{956}$	$\frac{129}{863}$	$\frac{232}{1538}$	$\frac{223}{1514}$

The six year old artificial nest box program is primarily responsible for the dominating wood duck production (88%). However, the decrease in other ducks produced is believed to be related to the summer drought.

Nest dragging conducted on 315 acres in 1974, resulted in 1 nest per 18.5 acres with 47% success. In 1973, the 16 nests found on 166 acres of non-use grassland dominated by quack-brome-blue grass averaged 10.4 acres per nest with 37.5% success.

It was suspected that duck production in 1975 would be lower because of the late cool spring followed by a repeat of low water levels. This was substantiated by low breeding pair, brood and nest drag counts.

4. Coots and Gallinules

American coots were all but non-existing during both the summers of 1974 and 1975, and no production has been observed for these periods. In 1974, the first migrating coots were observed 9/1 with a peak of 2,700 birds present on 10/2. All were gone by 11/21. In 1973, a peak of 1,900 occurred on the same date. During the spring migration coots peaked at 2,110 on 4/17 as compared to 2,740 on 4/2 in 1973. No gallinules were observed this year.

5. Water and Marsh Birds

The refuge was host to the largest number of white pelicans in years when they peaked at 630 on 10/5. Pie-billed grebe use was down 33%, while production decreased 78%. The rare visit of two western and four horned grebes occurred in the spring. Double-crested cormorants, common cerytes and black-crowned night herons all showed a slight increase over the previous year. A significant increase in great blue herons was noted this year with a peak of 235 attained on 8/31 as compared to 180 last year.

Most water and marsh birds found lower water levels and an abundance of fish to their liking.

A rare visitor for this refuge was a sandhill crane which took up temporary residence in Habitat Unit III for 3 weeks in the fall.

6. Shorebirds, Gulls and Terns

A total of 44,820 use days this FY was more than triple the 13330 use days received in FY 74. This increased use was stimulated by low water levels which exposed numerous mud flats throughout the refuge during the summer and fall of 1974.

Gull use which is dominated by Franklin's Gulls increased 85% this year.

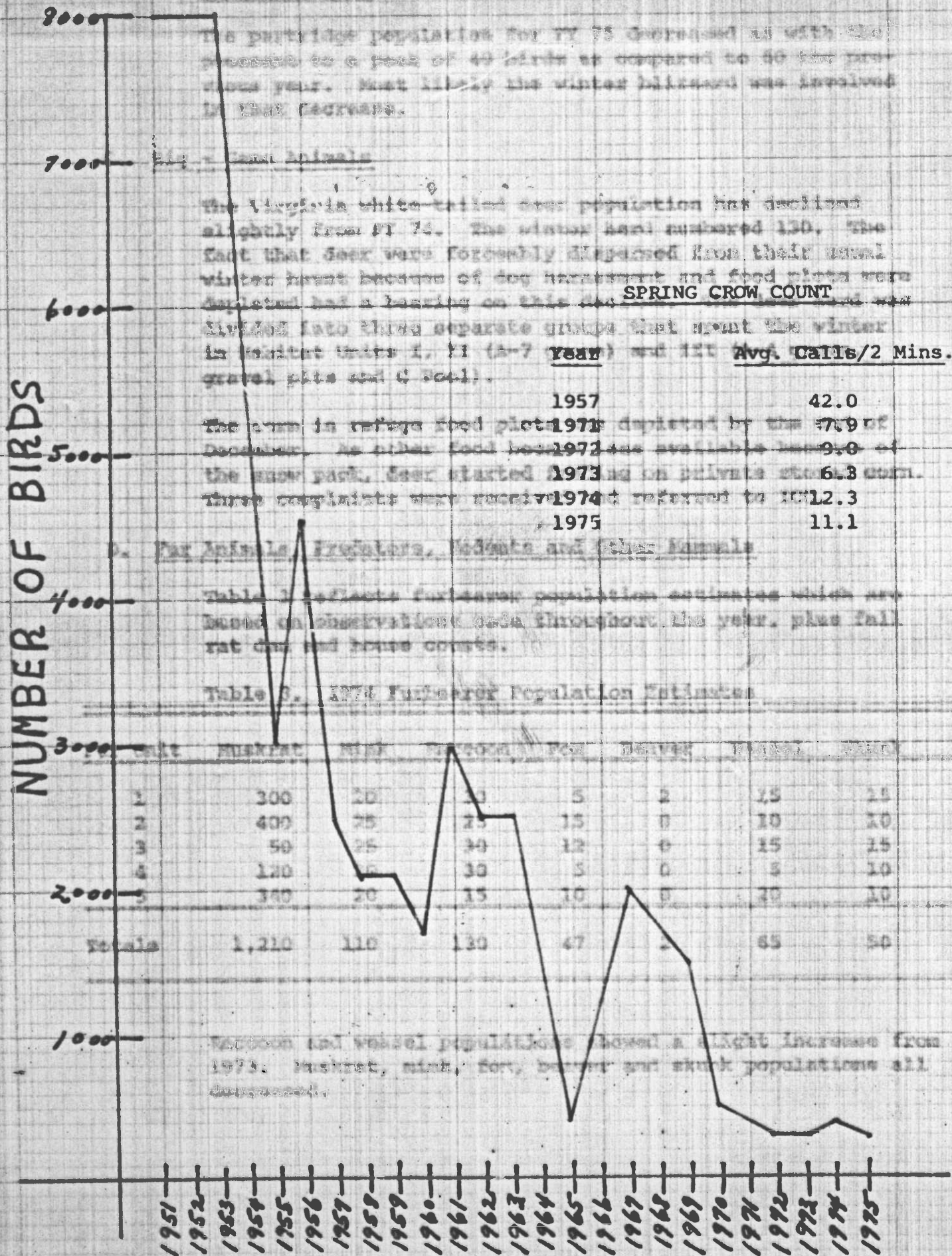
B. Upland Game Birds

1. Ring-necked Pheasant

Best drag survey in June 1974 revealed increased pheasant use of second year growth dense nesting cover. Production in 1974 was 200 birds as compared to 160 for the previous year. The peak population going into the winter of 1974-75 was 400. However, the devastating blizzard of 1/10-12 reduced the population an estimated 25%, while most of North-central Iowa lost as high as 75% of their pheasant population. Production for 1975 was estimated at 150.

The graph that follows shows the status of the ring-neck on the refuge since 1951, as well as being indicative of the trend state wide.

PEAK PHEASANT POPULATION UNION SLOUGH NWR



The pheasant population for FY 75 decreased as with the pheasant to a total of 49 birds as compared to 60 for the previous year. Most likely the winter blizzard was involved in that decrease.

1. Deer

The Douglas white-tailed deer population has declined slightly from FY 74. The winter herd numbered 130. The fact that deer were forcibly dispersed from their usual winter haunts because of dry meadow and food plots were depleted had a bearing on this.

SPRING CROW COUNT

divided into three separate groups that spent the winter in habitat (area 1, 2, 3) and in the gravel pits and C. (all).

Year	Avg. Calls/2 Mins.
1957	42.0
1971	47.9
1972	9.0
1973	6.3
1974	12.3
1975	11.1

The corn in refuge food plot depleted by the end of December. As other food has been available in the snow pack, deer started on pellets stored in the snow pack. Deer started on pellets stored in the snow pack. Deer started on pellets stored in the snow pack.

2. Fox, Badger, Weasels, and Other Mammals

Table 2 reflects fox-saver population estimates which are based on observations made throughout the year, plus fall rat and house counts.

Table 3. 1974 Furbearer Population Estimates

	Mustelid	Skunk	Badger	Coon	Beaver	Possum	Other
1	300	20	10	5	2	15	15
2	400	25	25	15	0	10	10
3	50	25	30	12	0	15	15
4	120	10	30	5	0	5	10
5	340	20	15	10	0	10	10
Totals	1,210	110	130	47	2	65	50

Mustelid and weasel populations showed a slight increase from 1973. Badger, skunk, coon, beaver and skunk populations all decreased.

The most significant decline was in muskrats which were 9% fewer in number. It is expected that low water levels which left most vegetation and shorelines far from the water edge caused a mass exodus of rats in search for better habitat conditions. The repeat of droughty conditions in 1975 will probably cause an even greater reduction of muskrats.

An increase in the harvest of fox for their pelts is responsible for their population decline. However, fox numbers should increase for 1975, as three new dens with 11 pups have been located on the refuge.

E. Hawks, Eagles, Owls, Crows and Ravens

1. Hawks

Hawk numbers were low and showed little change from the previous year. Only marsh, red-tailed, sparrow, Swanson's and rough-legged hawks were observed.

2. Eagles

Eagles have been very scarce with only one observed 11/30.

3. Owls

Great horned and screech owls, both year around residences, decreased in numbers to 12 each as compared to 20 and 16 in late summer 1974. One barred owl was observed, along with the rare visit of one snowy owl on 3/8.

4. Crows

The crow population has remained stable with most crows seen during the winter feasting on dead animals after the blizzard and dead fish around tile outlets.

F. Other Birds

The annual mourning dove oo-count survey conducted 5/27 suggests a continued area population decline for the third year.

In 1974, 1 wren and 6 starlings made use of wood duck nest boxes.

G. Fish

Rough fish populations were very low to begin with in 1974, however, through reproduction and introduction via water control structures their populations were quickly restored. The abundance of rough fish and low water levels during the summer and fall of 1974 offered good fishing for the various marsh and water birds. A total fish kill was received during the winter of 1974-75.

The Iowa Conservation Commission has been restocking and surveying game fish in the refuge gravel pits over the past 2 years. Things were looking promising for opening the pits to fishing in 1975, until low water, coupled with a heavy snow pack and subzero temperature struck. A check on February 6 found dissolved oxygen in the pits critically low. As the ice melted in late April, 150+ bass 11" to 14" long and 1,000's of smaller fish were found dead. The state started restocking again this year.

H. Reptiles

This year two blanding turtles which are rare around Union Slough were observed in Habitat Unit III.

I. Disease

No significant diseases of flora or fauna were detected this year.

J. Rare and Endangered Species

Currently, no endangered wildlife are known to range through this portion of Iowa.

III. REFUGE DEVELOPMENT AND MAINTENANCE

A. Physical Development

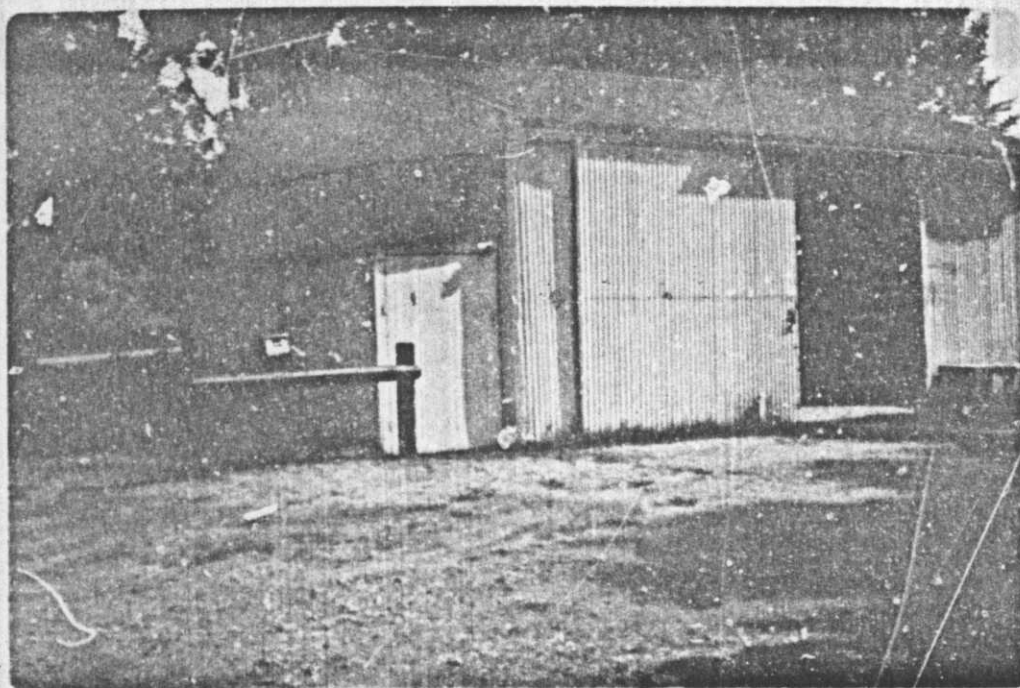
Two desilting basins were designed by SCS in early 1974 for construction on the new Goche Tract. The basins are necessary to improve the quality of water entering C Pool in Habitat Unit III. This pool is most severely affected by siltation. One of these basins was established in July 1974 when the dam was constructed by contract and a 12" droptube was installed by FA.

*Spill out with first use
and put in () for
future use. JWS*

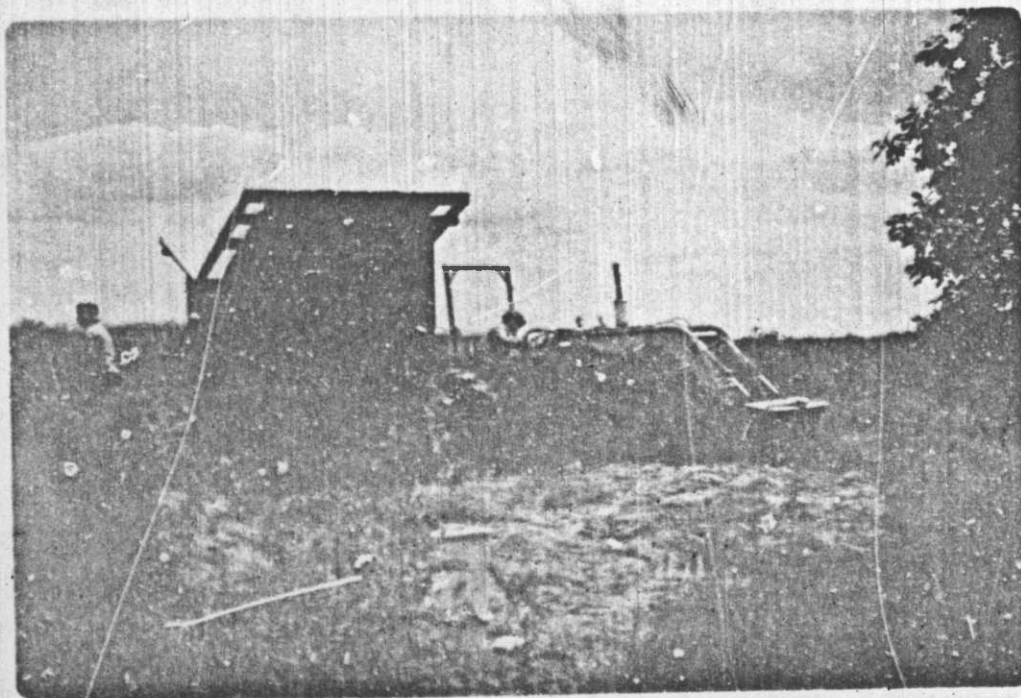


This new desilting basin will impound
.8 surface acres of water below a
private tile outlet.
(8/22/74, J.C.W.)

The installation of a 560 gallon underground fuel tank with electric pump and replacement of a septic tank were started, but not completed before July 1975. The underground fuel tank and pump were installed at the shop area to provide added security of the refuge fuel supply and efficiency in operations. The septic tank replaced a badly cracked one located in the picnic area.



Replacement of the overhead fuel tank with an underground tank and electric pump has improved the shop area appearance.
(7/75, J.C.W.)



The damaged holding tank under these toilets was replaced to meet pollution requirements.
(7/75, B.P.)

A 12 foot section of catwalk was constructed by FA in August along the photo blind trail in an area that was frequently too wet.

The picnic area and deer observation parking lots were graveled in July by contract to improve the gravel base.

Mark McGuire was contracted 8/5 to stockpile 400 cu. yds. of gravel to be used in spot graveling refuge trails by FA. A dragline was used to gather and pile the gravel adjacent to the existing pits as it was located below the water table.

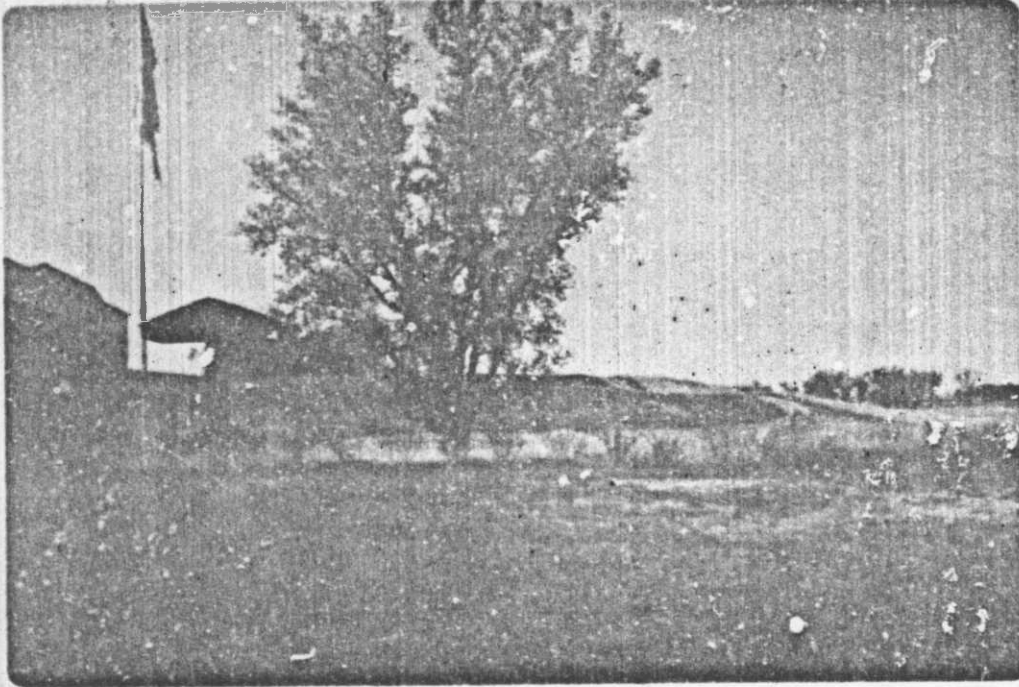
Several wood signs and fences required extensive repair during the spring following damaging winter storms.

The new Goche Tracts were posted in August for the first time.

Nine new wood duck houses were erected on D-1 and Ruddy pools in 2/75. At two sites two houses were installed on each steel post.

Major restoration of Ruddy and D-2 dikes was scheduled for accomplishment in 7/75 with FY 75 rehab funds. Erosion, settling and animal burrowing had caused gradual deterioration of these dikes and rendered the service road on top impassable and water management capabilities minimal. The dikes were inspected by engineering in October 1974. Bid specifications and schedule were completed by engineering 2/75. The repair was to be accomplished by equipment rental. Myron Reutzel of Burt, Iowa was awarded the contract in April with a low bid of \$11,120 out of 4 bids submitted.

A proposal to construct a new office-vehicle storage building on the refuge has been made this year and is now pending approval in Washington. The existing leased office building in Titonka (6 miles from the refuge) is extremely inadequate because of size and sub-standard conditions (wiring, lighting & heating). Also, five government vehicles must be stored out-of-doors throughout the year. There are no other buildings within 25 miles available for lease. A new office building on the refuge would greatly improve or increase supervision, safety, communication, expediency in problem and enforcement solving, public image and public use.



The new office would be located on a site adjacent to our trailer shop where water and sewage facilities are now present. (5/74, J.C.W.)

B. Plantings

1. Aquatics and Marsh Plants

There were no aquatics planted. One objective of the refuge water management program is to encourage the natural growth of desirable aquatics through water manipulation.

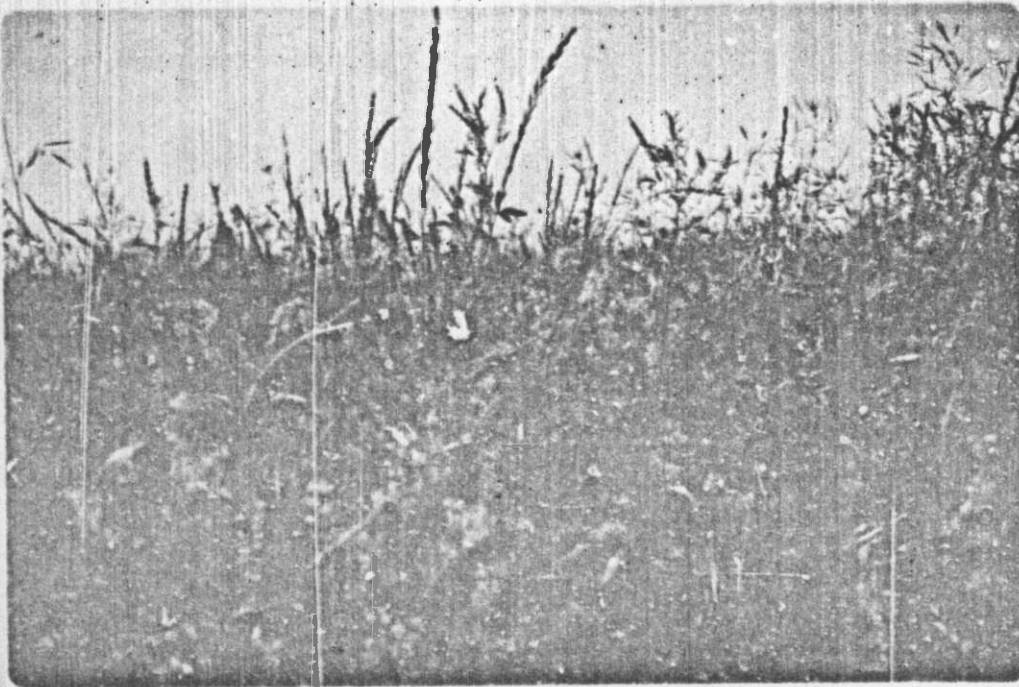
2. Trees and Shrubs

No trees or shrubs were planted this FY.

3. Upland Herbaceous Plants

Four sites totaling 14.4 acres planted to native grasses in 1972 in A-1, A-5, A-7 and P-2 are now taking on the appearance of quality grasslands. Large patches of big blue stem, Indian, little blue stem and switch grasses are now present. Evidence of switch, Indian and big blue stem were also showing by the close of FY 75 on 23 acres in G-1a and G-7. These 23 acres were planted to native grasses in 1974.

In A-2 Unit 13 acres of depleted tame hay ground scheduled for DMC planting by a cooperator in 1974 was canceled because of wet conditions. It was rescheduled for 1975, and planted by William Goche to a DMC mix of sweetclover, alfalfa, red clover, switch grass, tall and intermediate wheatgrass. A good catch of the DMC plants is questionable because this year the area was hit by droughty conditions at planting time.



High quality DMC in its second year of growth is now present in A-4, 5 & 6 Units. (7/10/74, R.L.J.)

The new dam and spoil area for the desilting basin on the Art Goche Tract were seeded in early August of 1974 to crown vetch, orchard grass and oats. Vincent Becker seeded the terrace constructed November 1974 on the refuge boundary adjacent to G-3 to crown vetch.

4. Cultivated Crops

Twentyone acres of corn were planted by two cooperators in 1975. The government's share will be used to replanish the supply for use in banding, depredation control and potential DVE outbreak. William Goche planted 10 of the acres on old farm ground with atrazine carryover located on the new Richard Goche Tract. Vincent Becker planted the other 11 acres of corn on depleted grassland which was once cropped. This area will eventually be planted to DNC.

A 3-year rotation of sorghum-sudan grass - legume - legume was continued in 1974 and 1975 on the four farming units. Ping Marlowe continued farming 20 acres of A-1 as a crop rotation of corn and sweetclover to provide winter food for resident game.

C. Collections and Receipts

1. Seed or Other Propegules

In February 1975, 301 bushels of 3 year old shelled corn was transferred to Sherburne NWR for their resident goose flock.

2. Specimens

One Canada goose which died of food impaction was collected for educational display purposes. A blandings turtle was taken for research use at Drake University in Des Moines.

D. Control of Vegetation

In 1974, 196 acres required spraying for thistles, while 238 acres were sprayed in 1975. All spraying was accomplished by FA. A tractor-sprayer rig and hand sprayer were used. A low volatile ester 2-4-D was used at a rate of 4 lb. A.E. per acre. The cost of inflation for weed control can readily be seen through the average cost per acre for labor, material and equipment; \$1.61 in 1973, \$1.93 in 1974 and \$2.73 in 1975. The current price for aerial spraying is \$5.00 per acre for application plus the cost of material. Spraying in 1975 started a week later than usual because of slow vegetative growth.

E. Planned Burning

As a management tool, burning is used to restore warm-season native grasses and forbs on depleted near monotype stands of quack-brome-bluegrass. Burning also is used to retard the invasion of buck brush and other woody plants onto grasslands reserved for nesting cover.

Between 5/7 and 5/16 this year, 99 acres were burned in G-5 (9 acres in 2 sites) and G-11 (90 acres). Burning was accomplished by FA. The Lakota Fire Department was called in for standby during the burning of G-11 on 5/16. It was necessary to cancel the scheduled burn for 43 acres in G-2a because of the time and wild fire hazard. The fire covered 80-90% of the areas set afire and 90-100% of the litter accumulation was consumed.

F. Fires

None

IV. RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

A. Grazing

The G-3 & 4 grazing unit was reduced from 90 to 57 acres this year in order to exclude depleted farm ground scheduled for corn and followed by DMC planting. The 57 acres were grazed from May 1 to June 1 this year. Donald Weber, previous land owner was the permittee. A fee of \$2.25 per AUM was charged. Total utilization amounted to 28 AUMs. After warm season grasses are reestablished a rest-deferred-rotational system will be initiated.

B. Haying

None this year.

C. Fur Harvest

No trapping was allowed on Union Slough during the fall 1974 and special spring 1975 seasons. Critically low water levels which caused muskrats to move, as well as high harvests during the previous two seasons reduced the rat population significantly. The current population does not warrant trapping for program management purposes.

D. Timber Removal

None

E. Commercial Fishing

None

F. Other Uses

A permit covering beekeeping was in effect with Harold Gartner for an apiary located in A-6 grove. This permit was renewed June 1, 1975 at a fee of .15¢ per colony.

V. FIELD INVESTIGATION

A. Refuge Wood Duck Study

This study was instituted in 1958 when the need for information on the wood ducks adaptability to nest boxes, relationship to natural cavities and the area of influence for brood-rearing habitat was recognized. To date this study has been merely a data collecting process. A full analysis can not be accomplished until more manpower and funds are made available. However, in the meantime, the data has been very useful in computing wood duck production.

Table 4. Wood Duck Box Data Trend

	1968	1969	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974
Boxes available	100	114	126	123	109	107	108
Wood duck nesting attempts	11	15	18	32	52	73	79
No. of successful hatches	8	13	16	30	40	53	61
% Success	72.7	80.0	88.9	93.8	77.0	72.5	77.0
<u>Other Users</u>							
Starling	18	32	37	21	20	1	6
Screech Owl	0	6	13	4	3	2	0
Tree swallow	4	5	15	6	1	0	0
Sparrow hawk	0	3	3	3	2	2	0
Squirrel	1	2	0	4	1	2	1
Other*	8	7	6	12	4	9	4

*Other - wasp, sparrow, flicker, blackbird, house wren, thrasher, honey bee, raccoon and unknown species.

As reflected in Table 4, there has been another increase in wood duck box nesting attempts and successful hatches. With the continued increases noted over the past seven years and phenomenal acceptance of apartment style settings the potential for an expanded production program is great.

B. Upland Habitat Study

Initiated by an ISU graduate student in 1972, the objectives were to establish procedures for monitoring and evaluating flora and fauna changes resulting from the institution of new land use practices. A system of 25 permanent photo points, 10 upland transect lines, two exclosures and nest dragging was established to monitor vegetative and animal changes.

The intervals between surveys on permanent upland transects and photo points were lengthened as approved in the 1974 amendment to the Land Use Plan. It was felt that surveys conducted every second year would improve efficiency and still provide sufficient data for the purpose intended.

C. Siltation and Pollution of Refuge Wetlands

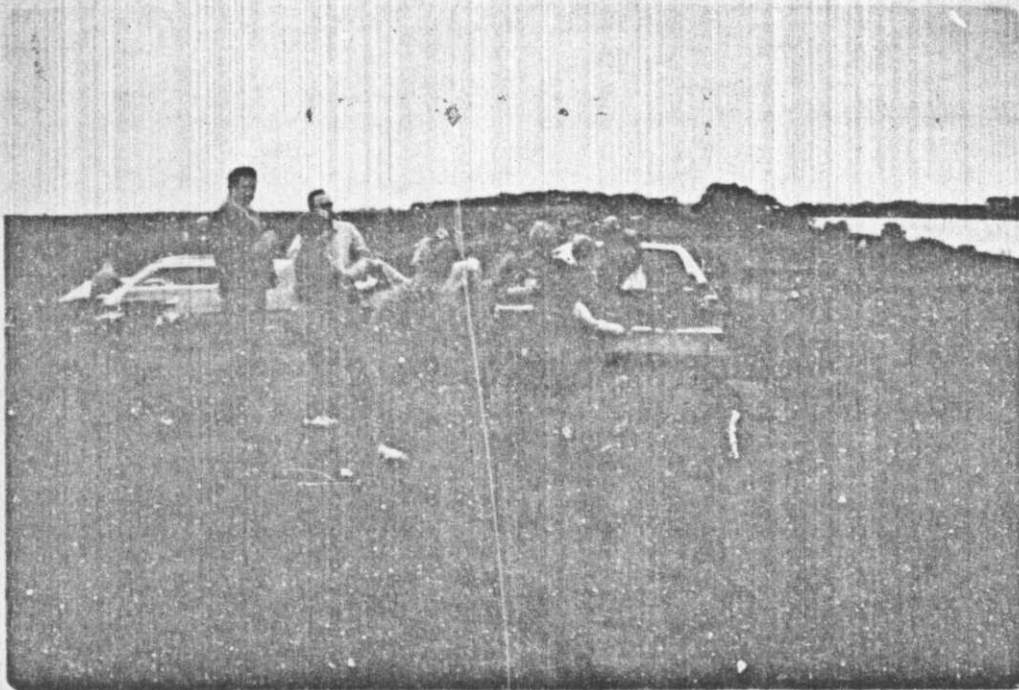
This research need was identified, and reported to the Regional Office, as well as included in the FY 74 Narrative Report. There has been no further action since that time.

what do you expect to happen? jws

VI. PUBLIC RELATIONS

A. Public Use

Demand for use of the partially developed 5 mile self-guided auto tour route has been increasing, although weather conditions kept down actual use this year. Actual use by 1,930 visitors reflected a 38% decrease from the previous year. The spring tour periods had to be canceled because snow was still blocking the route. For the first time, the route was opened for a summer tour on 8/28, however, extremely hot temperatures held visitation down. In the near future it is planned to make this tour route entirely self-guided with guide leaflets provided and an extended use period.



People are commonly traveling 30-150 miles to participate in the auto tours and find a mid point overlooking B Pool a choice advantage point.
(J.C.W.)

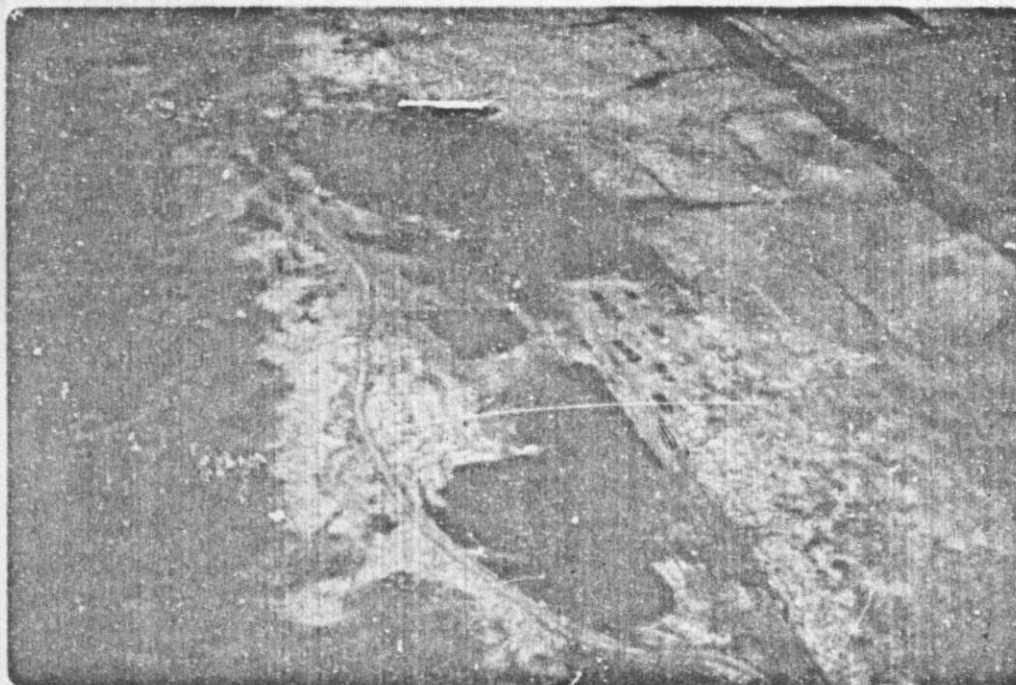
Use of the 1½ mile self-guided nature trail increased 234% this fiscal year with 2,222 visits received. The publicized auto tours have been very instrumental in promoting expanded nature trail and EE use.

The Deer Meadow Picnic Area primarily supports wildlife-wildland related activities. Only 25% of the picnicking use is non-wildlife-wildland related. Picnicking was down slightly this year because low water in Buffalo Creek discouraged fishing from the picnic area.

Corwith-Wesley Elementary & Junior High School and Iowa Universities Lakeside Laboratory are the only two schools using the refuge for environmental educational purposes. Increased EE use can be expected only through intensive promotion with area educators when additional manpower is available.

The dispersion of the refuge deer herd because of dog harassment caused deer observation by the public to decline this past winter.

The refuge gravel pits were scheduled for public fishing in 1975, until it was evident that they received a 100% fish kill during the previous winter. It will be at least three years before these pits will again have a fish resource adequate for public fishing. Fishing for rough fish was all but non-existing also because of low water levels and winter kill.



The 6 acres of refuge gravel pits have provided excellent but limited game fish fishing in the 60's. (4/25/74, J.C.W.)

B. Refuge Visitors

This year 29,713 actual visits to the refuge occurred as compared to 33,089 last year. The decrease in fishing and auto route use is responsible for the decline. The visitors list at the office showed 190 visitors as compared to 200 the year before.

Two Japanese tourists sponsored by the local Lutheran Church visited the refuge 9/18.

Ira Gabrielson, 1st Chief of Wildlife Services in Washington (1935-1946), who was instrumental in the establishment of Union Slough NWR visited the refuge in October 1974.

On 7/12, James Hubert, Refuge Division Specialist from Washington made a courtesy visit.

A complete listing of other visitors is kept in the refuge files.

C. Refuge Participation

Complete records of the 62 meetings, programs, news releases and other activities in which refuge personnel participated in FY 75 are on file in the refuge office.

The refuge manager actively participated in the local Lions Club, chaired a committee for tree planting in Titonka and assisted in the establishment of a teen center in Titonka.

By cooperating with the Titonka Telephone Company we were successful in getting a refuge picture and caption printed on the cover of their new directory.

D. Hunting

No hunting of any kind was permitted on the refuge. Surrounding the refuge waterfowl hunting success decreased 50% as a result of low water levels.

E. Violations

This year three citations were processed in state court. All three cases involved hunting waterfowl with an illegal firearm, and the violators were found guilty in each case even though one required a court appearance.

The Kossuth County Road Department was found responsible for dumping junk off a public road into D-1 marsh. They were asked to clean up their mess, which they did without any further problems.



Dumping by the county road department did not leave a very appealing sight.
(8/12/74, J.C.W.)

Some contractors working a night shift on a nearby grain elevator took up temporary residence in the refuge picnic area. After some prodding the two tents and contractors moved on.

Hunting from road ways traversing the refuge has constituted a real problem without Federal regulations closing them to hunting as in the past. On one public road crossing Union Slough 300+ shell casings were found during the first week of hunting. We were informed by our Service that the old regulation can not be re-instated, and the only way these roads can be closed is by a special Federal or state regulation. The local ICC officers and the refuge manager requested a state closing of these roads which is now pending before the ICC.

An unauthorized special deputy sheriff from another county disrupted the refuge manager's undercover pursuit of late shooters by stopping him with flashing red lights going for a hunting inspection. The Kossuth County Sheriff was notified and investigated the matter.

Arthur Goche threatened to sue because of damaged corn by deer unless he received grazing privileges on the refuge as compensation. This was simply denied as there was no basis for a suit. Apparently Goche was bluffing as nothing further developed.

During the winter, as the refuge corn food plots were depleted, the snow accumulated and dog harassment of deer increased, four deer depredation complaints were received. These complaints were referred to the local ICC officers.

After confirming the killing of 12 deer by dogs on and adjacent to the refuge this past winter, an all out campaign was launched to eradicate the dogs. Following much effort by the refuge staff and the local ICC officers, three of the six responsible dogs were killed during March.

F. Safety

Union Slough NWR's first Safety Plan was completed May 2, 1975.

Safety meetings were held periodically during the year. Subjects of first aid, safety shoes, tornados, vehicle safety, safe use of pesticides, safe use of tools, fire hazards, etc. were covered by films, literature and discussions.

As of June 30, 1975, the number of days since a lost time accident stood at 8014.

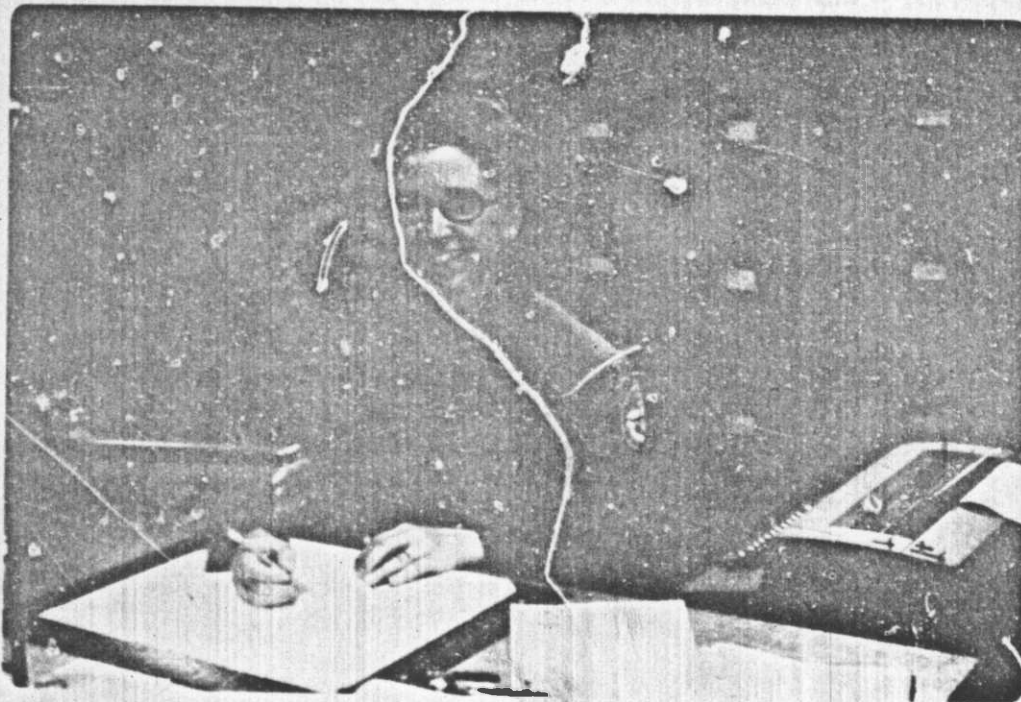
VII. OTHER ITEMS

A. Items of Interest

As reflected by the personnel roster, Union Slough NWR participated in the NYC and CETA summer programs via the local GEO Organization.

September 16-18, our clerk-typist Mayer completed a CSC secretarial course in Kansas City. Manager Womble attended the Gyroscope Conference in Salt Lake City during the week of April 13. On May 22-23, manager Womble and maintenance worker Welp participated in a Law Enforcement Workshop at Sioux City, Iowa. Then on June 4-5, clerk-typist Mayer and manager Womble attended a Management Systems Workshop in Kansas City.

In recognition of increased job responsibilities accompanied by high performance, Barbara Mayer was promoted to GS-4 on December 22, 1974.



Our office acquired a new face lifting when Clerk-Typist, Barbara Mayer went into full uniform in March 1975.

College student, Richard Joens was ill for one week in August with what the doctor diagnosed as Rocky Mountain spotted fever. It is suspected that Mr. Joens acquired this disease via a tick while on the job.

On December 3, 1975, a 5 year special use permit was executed with Vincent Becker to allow this neighboring farmer to run field tile drains into Union Slough. Mr. Becker went to considerable expense to engineer his terraces and establish a drainage system that would result in practically silt-free water draining into the slough.



The example set by Mr. Becker establishes a pattern that can be applied to present and future permits whereby we insist on silt free discharges. (11/74, J.C.W.)

Ownership of our leased office building changed hands July 1, 1975. Our new landlord is Mrs. Loren Hanson.

Purchasing flexibility and timely accomplishment of projects seems more difficult each year as continued resolution periods become longer and end-of-the-year deadlines come earlier.

To a large degree monthly activity reports and annual narrative reports are a duplication of each other. Since we are striving to gear both of these reports more to the current management system, why not find a means of combining the two reports at the same time.

3. Credits

All sections of the report were prepared by the refuge manager. The clerk-typist did all the typing and prepared the pheasant graph. Credit for the photos are indicated under the captions.

should not be more than accomplishment report based on success of each if it toward achieving objectives tend to be more of a drawing job's

SIGNATURE PAGE

Submitted by:

*Jack C. Womble*Jack C. Womble
(Signature)Date: 11/25/75Refuge Manager
(Title)

Approval:

James W. Salzer
(Area Manager, Kansas City, Mo.)
*acting*12/1/75
(Date)