

HOLLA BEND NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

- Location - West-central Arkansas on the Arkansas River between Corps of Engineers Lock and Dam No. 9 and No. 10, and along the south boundary of Pope County.
- Description- The refuge owns 4,082.7 acres, plus accretion lands. The soil is generally sandy loam, but varies greatly in texture from sand through silt. The area was once an island when the Corps of Engineers cut a plot channel across what is now the north boundary. Subsequent floods have now filled in the western side with sand so that the only remnants of the old channel are to be found on the southwest and from the south around to the north corner. The land is very undulating due to its long history of severe floods. An additional 2,700 acres of river channels, which completely surround the refuge, are closed to hunting migratory game birds.
- Personnel - Permanent: refuge manager, assistant refuge manager, maintenanceman, two laborers, and part-time clerk-typist; Seasonal: two to five laborers.
- Objective - This area is in process of development as a wintering habitat for approximately 15,000 Canada geese and 150,000 ducks. Special emphasis has been placed on establishment of a wintering flock of Canada geese through a three-year massive transplant program of immature birds. The peak concentrations to date have been 7,000 Canada geese and 110,000 ducks.
- Management - Approximately 2,500 acres of reverted lands have been reclaimed and are in various uses or stages of development. Seven cooperative farming agreements are in effect, covering 1,567 acres. Cropping consists mainly of soybeans, corn, milo, and small grains. The refuge's 25 percent share is normally left in the fields for waterfowl consumption. The refuge farming program encompasses over 300 acres of corn and milo, which is overseeded in the fall to a browse crop. Soil improvement practices, such as winter cover and green manure crops, are done on approximately 1,000 acres annually. Summer fallowing to reduce Johnsongrass rhizome infestations is usually required on 300 acres. Four irrigation wells provide water for 14 shallow seasonal pools dispersed throughout the farm area. Migratory game bird banding takes a high priority in the refuge operations.
- Public Use - Refuge visitor use is steadily climbing, especially during the waterfowl season. For such a small area, it is not uncommon to see 200 people watching the ducks and geese come in to feed. Public fishing in the waters surrounding the refuge is permitted by the State from April 1 through September 30 annually.
- Annual O&M - \$49,600 + \$7,000 to \$10,000 S&M.
- Problems - The high infestation of pest plants such as Johnsongrass and pigweeds make farming operations difficult. The power generation from the Dardanelle Dam creates, at times, vast fluctuations in the Arkansas River levels.

July, 1966

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Holla Bend National Wildlife Refuge, established in 1957, is located along the Arkansas River about 6 miles downstream from Dardanelle in Pope County, Arkansas. The refuge proper, containing 4,082 acres, is an island created by rerouting of the river channel by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. An additional 3,680 acres of accretion lands, river channels, mudflats, and sloughs are closed to hunting of migratory birds. The refuge is administered by the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife in the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior. The refuge office is in Room 110, Federal Building at Russellville, Arkansas, about 9 air miles northwest of the refuge.

Prior to establishment, the refuge consisted of reverted and badly eroded farm lands, low "hammocks" of cottonwood, elms, sycamore, pecan, and other hardwoods, patches of scrub, and a fringe of willows along the river channels. Development and management has consisted of reclaiming former farm lands and clearing new lands for the production of farm crops favored by waterfowl; also, the construction and regulation of pools within the agricultural areas to provide an abundant and attractive supply of foods for waterfowl, and an additional 1,000 acres are scheduled to be brought into production.

Located 150 miles west of the Mississippi River on the western edge of the Mississippi Flyway, Holla Bend Refuge has already shown merit as an important waterfowl wintering area. More than 110,000 ducks have been counted on the refuge. Mallards make up 95 to 98 percent of the duck population, with minor numbers of teal, American widgeon, pintails, shovelers, and gadwalls present.

Management for Canada geese is a primary objective of the refuge. Although relatively few of these magnificent birds stopped in the area prior to establishment of the refuge, management efforts and a three year massive transplant program have resulted in the establishment of an expanding wintering flock. Blue and snow geese, and occasionally white-fronted geese, are seen on the refuge during migrations.

Holla Bend Refuge provides a limited variety of habitat for species other than waterfowl. The bobwhite finds the farm land habitat ideal and is an abundant resident. As would be suspected by its geographical location, Holla Bend Refuge provides an opportunity to observe both eastern and western species. The roadrunner is resident in limited numbers and the graceful scissor-tailed flycatcher is common during spring and fall. Both eastern and western meadowlarks are present. The fields and wooded areas are host to a variety of song and insectivorous birds while the sloughs and mudflats attract egrets, herons, ibises, and shorebirds. Both bald and golden eagles and various species of hawks are common during the winter months.

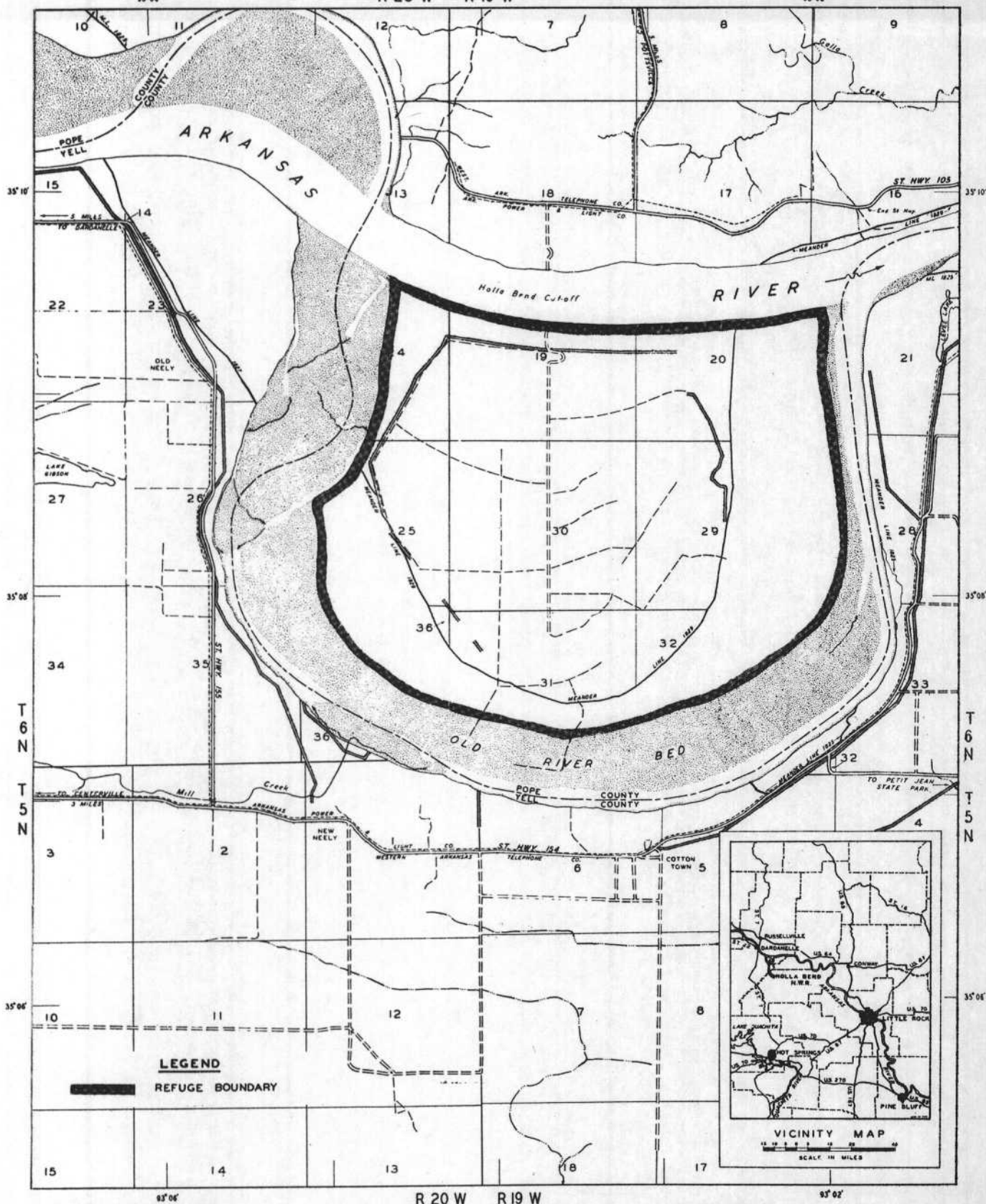
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POPE AND YELL COUNTIES, ARKANSAS

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
93°06'

R 20 W R 19 W

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
BUREAU OF SPORT FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE
93°02'



COMPILED IN THE BRANCH OF REALTY
FROM SURVEYS BY G.L.O. CORPS OF ENGINEERS,
AND AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHS.

ATLANTA, GEORGIA

JANUARY, 1960

FIFTH PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN

Scale 0 1000 2000 4000 6000 8000 FEET
0 1/4 1/2 1 MILE

1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30
31	32	33	34	35
36	37	38	39	40

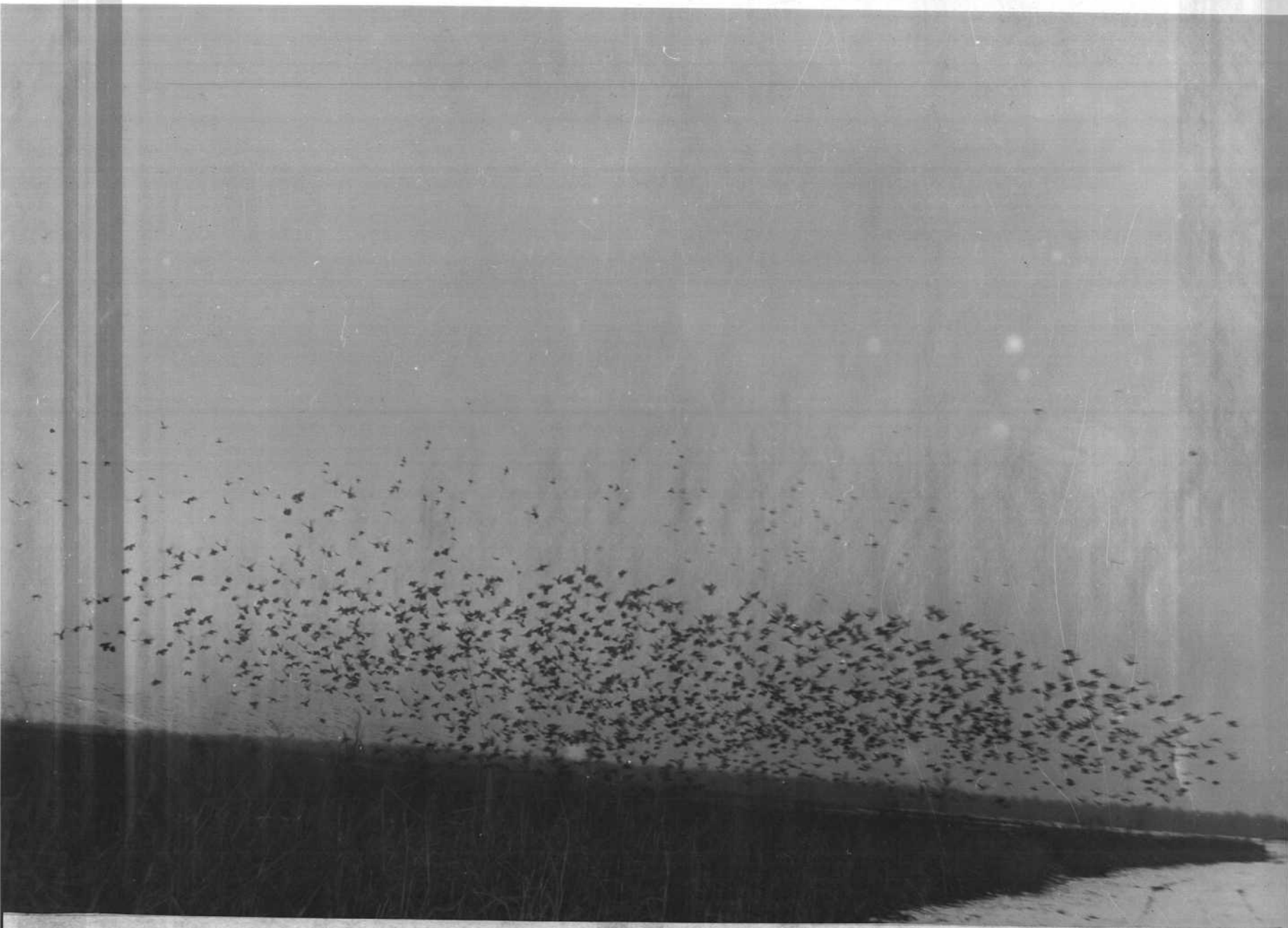
TOWNSHIP
DIAGRAM

MEAN
DECLINATION
1953

4R-ARK. 498-403



Holla Bend gets its name from the nine mile course the Arkansas River made prior to the Corps of Engineers channelization and straightening program. Over the years, the river had meandered, scoured, silted and left its effects on the lands in the form of undulations and fields of heterogeneous soil types. 7/6/66



The mallard population drawn to the refuge has resulted in increased hunter success. Prior to the establishment of Holla Bend, few hunters could count on killing their limits. Present population peaks now exceed 100,000.

CF4 2/1/66



The three year massive transplant program of bringing in 1,500 immature Canada geese from Swan Lake National Wildlife Refuge has resulted in an increased migrant population. During this period (1963-1965) the migrant population has risen from 1,800 to 5,500.

R90-15

12/20/65



With the advent of high waterfowl numbers, banding is by necessity receiving a very high priority in refuge operations. The cannon net is a valuable tool in capturing such bait-trap shy birds as the American widgeon and Canada goose. R89-12 12/28/65



The National Wildlife Refuges also serve as an excellent training area for persons interested in the broad field of wildlife. These wildlife students can not only observe sexing and ageing techniques on live birds, but they can actually learn by doing it themselves. (Harold Grimmett, Ark-Tech) 11/3/64



A new refuge requires special protection while a waterfowl population is being established. This is particularly true when captive decoy flocks are maintained. A 6' wire fence will not always be adequate to protect pinioned geese. As a deterrent to predators control programs are activated. Timber wolves, coyotes, and foxes are removed from the refuge through the predator control program.



The Division of Wildlife Services provides expert assistance in the predator control program. Employees with thorough knowledge of predator habits experience outstanding success in removing the predators. The trapper must be extremely skillful if success is to be obtained in snaring the wary animals.



The resident game have thrived under protection and the abundant food supply. Bob-white populations are estimated at approximately one bird per 1.5 acre. This quail nest contained 18 eggs. CF-1 7/18/64



The efforts at restoring a wintering flock of Canada geese resulted in a mated pair and two goslings. Since the early days Canadas have raised seven goslings. R59-6 5/15/62



The youth organizations of the country have an excellent opportunity to visit our refuges and learn some of the wonders of nature. Scout type activities are always welcomed. CF-6 3/16/64



One of the more enjoyable public uses which refuges provide is bird watching and nature photography. In so many cases, the only place interested people can observe wildlife is on National Wildlife Refuges.

CF-1 10/21/64



Many refuges have problems with pest plants. Controlling these plants may involve quite a variety of operations. Usually where pest plants grow, such as this Johnson grass, a more important crop can be produced. CF-4 8/25/65