

ROUTING SLIP

DIVISION OF WILDLIFE REFUGES

DATE: 6-25 1941

☒ MR. SALYER
 ① ☒ ~~MRS. WOODIN~~ *new*
☒ ~~MR. ELMER~~ *Q*
 MRS. GARVIN
☒ ~~MR. DUMONT~~ *PAD*

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~~Mr. Smith~~ *Pvt good report*
 Mr. Griffith *later*
 Miss Cook *two*

SECTION OF OPERATIONS:

Mr. Ball
☒ ~~Mr. [unclear]~~ *W*
 ② ☒ ~~Mrs. Watkins~~ *W*
 Mrs. Kricun

SECTION OF ERA:

☒ ~~Mr. Regan~~ *WGR*
☒ ~~Dr. [unclear]~~ *WSB*
 Mrs. Fishman

SECTION OF LAND MANAGEMENT:

~~Mr. [unclear]~~ *B*
~~Mr. [unclear]~~ *W*

STENOGRAPHERS:

Miss Price
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SECTION OF STRUCTURES:

~~Mr. Taylor~~ *W.W.*
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REMARKS:

Nine fife Quarterly
February - April 1941

Return to:

Cook

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2. W.

I. GENERAL.

A. Weather Conditions.

During the past three months the weather has been exceptionally mild.

The ice on Ninepipe thickened slightly in early February getting to be seven inches in thickness, which was the most ice of the winter. The weather gradually warmed up during the month ending with a mean temperature of 34.10° and only .51 of an inch of moisture.

On March 1, 1941 the ice began to break and by March 4, 1941 all the ice left in Ninepipe was in piles along the shores. Pictures taken on that date are included in this report. March was a very mild month. Lots of sunshine and only .38 of an inch of moisture. Temperature readings from the Indian Irrigation Service indicate a mean temperature of 42.8°.

April was also mild with a few days of light wind. The last day of the month was really warm, bringing the temperature to a high of 80° for the month. A total of 1.37 inches of moisture came during this month and the mean temperature was 48.80°.

The following weather chart is compiled from records of the United States Indian Irrigation Service weather station at St. Ignatius, Montana:

	<u>Precipitation</u>	<u>Max. Temp.</u>	<u>Min. Temp.</u>
February	.51	56	16
March	.38	68	15
April	<u>1.37</u>	<u>80</u>	<u>23</u>
Total	2.26	Extremes-80	15

Chart for the same period one year ago.

February	2.03	57	2
March	1.38	67	21
April	<u>1.76</u>	<u>74</u>	<u>19</u>
Total	5.17	Extremes-74	2

B. Water Conditions.

The reservoir has continued to rise all during this quarter due to the pumping plant on Crow Creek and to the cooperation of the Indian Irrigation Service in emptying Kicking-Horse Reservoir into Ninepipe, raising the water to near its greatest height of the season before any large amount of nesting was started.

I feel very grateful to Messrs. Sperry and Dexter of the U.S.I.I.S. for their help in eliminating the chance of destroying nests which late rises in water levels have caused in previous years.

A chart showing water level comparisons with last year follows:

End of:	Guage Readings	
	1941	1940
February	3005.7	3003.4
March	3008.8	3005.4
April	3009.4	3006.3

The crest of this reservoir is 3010.0. Due to a lack of snowfall in the valley during the winter and a lack of rain this spring irrigation will no doubt be started earlier than usual, precluding any chance of filling the reservoir to its crest this season.

II. WILDLIFE.

A. Waterbirds.

1. Population and behavior.

(a) Species.

Grebe, Horned--Several of these birds appeared on the reservoir in late April.

Grebe, Pied-billed--A few of these birds were in evidence before the close of the quarter.

Heron, Great Blue-- On March 12, 1941 the first Heron of the spring was seen on the ditch bank north of the house. These birds have a rockery on some small islands in Flathead Lake.

Swan, Whistling--On March 14, 1941 there were 34 of these birds on Winepipe the first of

the season here. However, flocks of these birds, ranging in number from a few to as high as 300 in a flock continued to go north through the valley until late in April, some of them stopping for a short rest while others kept on their way.

Goose, Canada--On February 7, 550 were noted. On the 15 of February 840 were counted which was the largest flock noticed here during this quarter. Flocks varying from a few birds to a few hundred are always in evidence.

Goose, Snow--On April 6, 1941 500 of these birds dropped in for a few hours rest. This was the only large flock which stopped here this season though occasionally a few birds were seen on the reservoir. Several flocks however, were seen flying north.

Mallard--The estimated 25,000 of this valuable duck which stayed in this valley over winter came through in fine shape due to lack of snow

leaving the food in the grain fields easily accessible. On February 15 an estimated 10,500 ducks of which probably 99% were Mallards were on Ninepipe in and around the pool kept open by the pump ditch. On Monday, March 10, 1941, with the reservoir free of ice, an estimated 13,000 mallards were feeding in the shallow water on the area. Many females had appeared over the week end bringing the count nearly to an even sex ratio while during the winter there were approximately three males to one female. A goodly number are still in the area as the quarter ends while every pothole around the valley seems to have one or more pairs.

Gadwall--A few of these birds spent the winter in the valley. Three were noted on February 7, 1941, eleven on March 10, 1941; however, no large flight was noted during spring migration.

Baldpate--The largest group seen this spring were 500 on March 10, 1941, though frequently a few were seen during the winter. There seems to be quite a lot of them staying here this year as they are quite common on this area and in

potholes throughout the valley.

✓
Pintail--A few of these birds spent the winter with us and many of them went through the valley during spring migration. The largest group noted this spring was an estimated 4,000 on March 10, 1941.

✓
Teal, Green Winged--No large concentration of these birds was seen this spring, though they were quite frequently seen during the winter. The largest group noted was 100 on March 10, 1941

✓
Teal, Blue-Winged--Only a very few of these birds had returned at the end of this quarter.

✓
Shoveller--Every pothole seemed to have a pair or two of these birds by the end of the quarter and they are very often seen in shallow water on the reservoir.

✓
Redhead--A few pairs are apparently nesting here this year though no large flocks have been seen.

✓
Canvasback--Apparently very few use this area, though a few were seen during spring migration.

✓
Scaup, Lesser--A few small groups were

seen during spring migration and an occasional pair are seen on the reservoir.

Golden-eye, American--These birds are not so much in evidence at the end of the quarter as during late February and early March. Four were noted on February 4, 1941 and six on February 7, 1941 while on March 10, 1941 fifteen were seen. Since that time only an occasional bird has been noticed.

Merganser, Hooded--On February 4, 1941 six were noted and February 7, 1941 three were seen. During March only an occasional bird was seen and by April none were in evidence.

Merganser, American--On February 7, 1941 one was noted and on March 10, 1941 forty were here. Since that date they have seemed very scarce.

Coot--As soon as the ice was gone from Ninepipe, in early March, many of these birds were in evidence. They apparently came from Flathead Lake where several thousand spent the winter. An estimated 600, on March 10, 1941 was the largest group noted. During early April many

of them began building nests.

(b) Groups.

There are apparently a few geese nesting on the area, to judge from the actions of the birds, though no nests have been located to date, due to lack of time for that work.

Ducks are very plentiful on the reservoir and indications are that we will see many young ducklings during May.

At the end of the quarter very few shore birds had appeared.

Gulls are very scarce here, though a few are seen occasionally, which I believe to be California gulls,

2. Food and Cover.

Food for all varieties of birds seemed plentiful during this quarter. No grain was fed during this quarter.

B. Upland Game Birds.

1. Population and behavior.

Pheasants started nesting in late March after coming through a light winter in excellent condition. No feeding stations were used during this quarter.

The few Hungarian Partridge which we have on this area were seen in pairs early in February. Two pairs of them are frequently seen around the office or residence.

D. Fur - bearing Animals, Predators, Rodents, and other Animals.

1. Population and behavior.

A few Muskrats inhabit the area here. Very few skunks, coyotes or badgers are seen. Ground Squirrels are frequently seen and also an occasional ground hog.

2. Control.

No rodent control work has been carried on here during this quarter.

E. Fish.

1. Conditions are exceptionally good for the fish in this reservoir. High water during the winter and a stream coming into it nearly all the time kept everything in fine condition.

Perch, sunfish, bullheads and bass appear to be very plentiful. Though I was informed last fall that most of the bass here were of the small mouthed variety I found that those taken this spring were the common black bass.

III. REFUGE DEVELOPMENT AND MAINTENANCE.

No large amount of development work has been done during this quarter. The maintenance of buildings, grounds, trails, and equipment has been kept up.

However, with the aid of a home-made water-wheel attached to a small barrel pump and set in the inlet ditch east of the house we have irrigated part of the yard and have a lawn started on that portion.

We also have a few flowers started around the house which, we hope, will, in time, enhance the appearance of the place.

*Distribution
of seed?*

IV. PUBLIC RELATIONS.

A. Recreational Uses.

1. Recreation areas.

Very few groups have used the picnic grounds this spring, most of those who have being fishermen and their families at lunch time.

One group, Boy Scout Troop No. 3, Missoula, Montana, consisting of eleven boy scouts, the Leader, C. E. Lord, and Assistant Leader, Ed. Domer, came Saturday afternoon, March 29, 1941 and spent the night in tents on the area. They left early Sunday morning in a cold drizzling rain.

2. Fishing.

Due to the fullness of the reservoir, less fish were taken this spring than usual according to the fishermen who tried their luck here. There were many fine catches of perch and sunfish but very few bullheads were caught during the early spring.

Some bass were caught but the anglers stated that they had poorer luck than usual. The largest one taken from the reservoir this spring weighed 7 lbs. 2 oz. and was taken by L. J. Lemke of Missoula.

No estimate has been made of the numbers of fish taken but an estimate taken from the amount of licenses checked on week ends would indicate that well over 600 fishermen used this area during the spring season.

4. Number of Visitors.

(a) Official

Official visitors during this quarter include:

Mr. George E. Mushbach of the Bison Range;

Mr. George Reddick of the Regional Office at Portland;

Mr. Kenneth Roahen, Game Management Agent, Billings, Montana;

Mr. James Gerow, Game Management Agent for Idaho.

(b) Public

Les Colby of the Missoulian, Missoula,
Montana;

Gov. Sam C. Ford, Helena, Montana;

Dr. J. S. McFarland, State Game Warden,
Helena, Montana;

Robert Lambeth, Deputy State Game Warden,
Polson, Montana;

Dick Morrison, Advertising Manager of the
Missoulian, Missoula, Montana;

Professor Cogwell of the University of
Montana, Missoula;

Al Knutsen of Ronan, Montana;

George Sterling of Ronan, Montana;

G. R. Reed of Ronan, Montana;

Justice W. A. Cross of Polson, Montana;

Carl Rumberg of St. Ignatius, Montana;

Many fishermen called during the spring
requesting information regarding fishing.

Charles Kaiser and Frank Gallagher of
Charlo called to inspect the fireplace in the
house with the idea of building one like it
in the home of Mr. Kaiser.

B. Violations.

K. B. Sanders and John Olsen both of Missoula were apprehended on Ninepipe Dyke while using two lines each for fishing. The information was turned over to Warden Lambeth. The two men later plead guilty in Justice Court before Justice W. A. Cross of Polson and were fined \$12.50 each. These were the only violators apprehended during this quarter.

V. ECONOMIC USES OF REFUGE.

E. Fur Harvest.

The only trapping done on this area, this past quarter was by Indians on a "trapper take all" basis.

<u>Permit No.</u>	<u>Issued to</u>	<u>No. pelts taken</u>
1	John P. Phillip	51

No report has been received as to income from these rats.

Four Indians, Walter and Ben McDonald, Wesley McKeever and a Mr. Deschamps came in March to assist in removing muskrats from the dyke and ditches. They removed a total of 132 rats between March 9, 1941 and March 24, 1941.

VII. OTHER ITEMS.

The first Red-winged Black Birds of the spring were two seen near the house on February 5, 1941. On the 8th 65 were counted in the cattails southeast of the house. On the 25th an estimated 350 of which 90% were adult males

were in the same area.

A Robin was seen near the house on February 23, 1941 and the first Bluebird was seen on March 5, 1941. On the morning of March 6, 1941; two killdeers, the first of the season, were seen on the gravelled court near the office.

Most of the photographs in this report were taken of the goose nests on an island in Flathead Lake. It was with much interest that I looked over this island of two and one half acres with its forty goose nests.



The first nest seen when Warden Lambeth and I went ashore. Taken April 7, 1941, Roll No. 2, Exposure No. 1.

Nousutem
Nhco



Showing the rocky shoreline of the goose-nesting
islands in Flathead Lake. Taken April 7, 1941,
Roll No. 2, Exposure No. 2.



Geese swimming away from the island in Flathead Lake.
Taken April 7, 1941, Roll No. 2, Exposure No. 3.



Sunlight and shadows make this a cozy-looking nest.
Taken April 7, 1941, Roll No. 2, Exposure No. 4.



A nest in the crotch of a fallen tree.
Taken April 7, 1941, Roll No. 2, Exposure No. 5.



The same nest at close range. Taken April 7, 1941,
Roll No. 2, Exposure No. 6.



Ice in piles on shores of Ninepipe.
Taken March 4, 1941, Roll No. 3, Exposure No. 1.

Respectfully submitted,

Ancil O. Talmage
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Under Refuge Manager