

## ROUTING SLIP

## DIVISION OF WILDLIFE REFUGES

DATE: 9-26 194 2☒ MR. SALYER☐ MRS. WOODIN☒ ~~MR. BISHOP~~☐ MRS. GARVIN☒ ~~MR. DUMONT~~ACE-12-18-42PAD 12/28

## SECTION OF HABITAT IMPROVEMENT:

Mr. Kubichek

Mr. Smith

~~Mr. Griffith~~

Miss Cook

REG 12-23-4220012-19-42☒ SECTION OF OPERATIONS:~~Mr. Krombe~~~~Mr. Costarson~~

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Mrs. Kricun

WK 1/2KBY 12/29☒ SECTION OF ERA:

Mr. Regan

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Mrs. Fishman

1812 12/31/42WSB 10/14/42☒ SECTION OF LAND MANAGEMENT:~~Mr. Bentshaw~~~~Mr. Ackersicht~~

## STENOGRAPHERS:

Miss Whorley

☒ SECTION OF STRUCTURES:~~Mr. Taylor~~WWT 1/8/43REMARKS: NINEPIPE - PABLO NATL WILDLIFE REFUGESNARRATIVE REPORTMAY - AUGUST 1942Return to: Miss Cook



## I. GENERAL

### A. Weather Conditions

#### Ninepipe

Precipitation and temperature charts follow:

|          | Precipitation |      | Max. Temp.    |         | Min. Temp. |      |
|----------|---------------|------|---------------|---------|------------|------|
|          | 1942          | 1941 | 1942          | 1941    | 1942       | 1941 |
| May      | 4.58          | 2.38 | 78°           | 86°     | 28°        | 28°  |
| June     | 4.02          | 2.51 | 82°           | 94°     | 34°        | 39°  |
| July     | 1.25          | .61  | 89°           | 98°     | 43°        | 47°  |
| Aug.     | .35           | 1.36 | 94°           | 89°     | 40°        | 40°  |
| Total... | 10.20         | 6.86 | Extremes..... | 94° 98° | 28°        | 28°  |

May, the first month in the period covered by this report was exceptionally wet. The records kept at the U.S.I.I.S. at St. Ignatius indicated 5.12 inches precipitation which was more rainfall than had ever been recorded for that month in the history of the station, which has been in operation since 1908.

June 1916, with a rainfall of 5.24 inches, is the only month in which a higher figure has been recorded.

The Ninepipe station, however, recorded only 4.58 inches precipitation during May.

June was also a very wet month with a record of 4.02 inches precipitation.

July, with a rainfall of 1.25 inches was still wet enough to cause some loss to the farmers who had been unable to cut any hay during June, with a probable advantage to the wildlife of the valley as most of the ducks and pheasants were through hatching before any mowing was done.

August was rather a dry month, giving the U.S.I.I.S. a chance to use some of the water which had not been needed during the early part of the summer, as is usually necessary.

#### Pablo

Precipitation and temperature chart:

|           | Precipitation |      | Max. Temp.    |         | Min. Temp. |      |
|-----------|---------------|------|---------------|---------|------------|------|
|           | 1942          | 1941 | 1942          | 1941    | 1942       | 1941 |
| May       | 4.19          | .42  | 78°           | 86°     | 28°        | 28°  |
| June      | 3.64          | .61  | 82°           | 94°     | 34°        | 39°  |
| July      | 2.01          | 1.10 | 89°           | 98°     | 43°        | 47°  |
| Aug.      |               | 1.03 | 94°           | 89°     | 40°        | 40°  |
| Total.... | 9.84          | 3.16 | Extremes..... | 94° 98° | 28°        | 28°  |

## B. Water Conditions

### Ninepipe

Ninepipe reservoir was at its crest at the beginning of this period and was held at approximately the same level until nearly the middle of July.

Heavy rains, causing excessive runoff, filled the reservoirs early and much water was necessarily allowed to run down the creeks, where ordinarily nearly all of it is impounded for future use.

A chart showing water levels as compared to 1940 and 1941 follows:

| End of: | <u>1942</u> | <u>1941</u> | <u>1940</u> |
|---------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| May     | 3010.10     | 3006.9      | 3009.5      |
| June    | 3010.30     | 3006.7      | 3010.6      |
| July    | 3007.7      | 3001.7      | 3005.1      |
| August  | 3002.8      | 2997.7      | 3001.0      |

### Pablo

This reservoir was not filled to its crest this year, though held at near its seasonable high point for some time. Reliance seems to be placed on the pumping plant on the Flathead rather than putting too much pressure on the dyke.

A chart showing comparisons with the past two years follows:

| End of | <u>1942</u> | <u>1941</u> | <u>1940</u> |
|--------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| May    | 3209.8      | 3202.5      | 3209.5      |
| June   | 3209.8      | 3204.0      | 3209.5      |
| July   | 3206.4      | 3195.2      | 3199.3      |
| August | 3194.8      | 3194.1      | 3195.5      |

## C. Fires

The exceptionally wet spring and early summer caused a very heavy growth of all types of vegetation on both areas. As a consequence the fire hazard is great although there has been no fire on either area.

## II. WILDLIFE

### A. Water birds

#### 1. Population and Behavior.

### Ninepipe

The excessive wetness of the spring did not seem to



Form NR-1

## MIGRATORY BIRDS

Refuge Mississippi Refuge Months of May 1 to Aug. 31, inc., 1942

1612

| (1)<br>Species      | (2)<br>First Observed |      | (3)<br>Became<br>Common | (4)<br>Peak Concentration |         | (5)<br>Last Observed |      | (6)<br>Young Produced   |              |                         | (7)<br>Total              |
|---------------------|-----------------------|------|-------------------------|---------------------------|---------|----------------------|------|-------------------------|--------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| Common Name         | Number                | Date | Date                    | Number                    | Date    | Number               | Date | No.<br>Broods<br>Obsvd. | Avg.<br>Size | Esti-<br>mated<br>Total | Number<br>Using<br>Refuge |
| Common Mallard      |                       |      |                         | 7,000                     | 8/30/42 |                      |      |                         |              |                         |                           |
| Gadwall             |                       |      |                         | 100                       | 8/30/42 |                      |      |                         |              |                         |                           |
| Baldpate            |                       |      |                         | 1,500                     | 8/30/42 |                      |      |                         |              |                         |                           |
| Pintail             |                       |      |                         | 1,000                     | 8/30/42 |                      |      |                         |              |                         |                           |
| Green-winged Teal   |                       |      |                         | 200                       | 8/30/42 |                      |      |                         |              |                         |                           |
| Blue-winged Teal    |                       |      |                         | 400                       | 8/30/42 |                      |      |                         |              |                         |                           |
| Cinnamon Teal       |                       |      |                         | 50                        | 8/30/42 |                      |      |                         |              |                         |                           |
| Shoveller           |                       |      |                         | 150                       | 8/30/42 |                      |      |                         |              |                         |                           |
| Redhead             |                       |      |                         | 500                       | 8/30/42 |                      |      |                         |              |                         |                           |
| Ruddy Duck          |                       |      |                         | 100                       | 8/30/42 |                      |      |                         |              |                         |                           |
| Common Canada Goose |                       |      |                         | 1100                      | 8/30/42 |                      |      |                         |              |                         |                           |
| American Coot       |                       |      |                         | 3,000                     | 8/30/42 |                      |      |                         |              |                         |                           |

REMARKS: (Pertinent information not specifically requested)



# INSTRUCTIONS

Form NR-1 - MIGRATORY BIRDS (Include species in families  
Gaviidae through Strigidae; also doves and  
woodcocks)\*

In case a resident form occurs, such as mottled duck  
on the Gulf Coast, use only the columns that apply.

- (1) SPECIES: Use correct common names as found in the  
A.O.U. Check List, 1931 Edition, and list  
in A.O.U. order. General terms are to be  
avoided, such as "scaup", "teal", etc.;  
use "green-winged teal" or "lesser scaup".
- (2) FIRST OBSERVED: The first refuge record for the species  
during spring migration, fall migration,  
wintering, or summering, and the number  
observed. In the case of resident species  
this column may be disregarded.
- (3) BECAME COMMON: The date the species became common on the  
refuge.
- (4) PEAK CONCENTRATION: The greatest number of the species present  
on any one date or limited interval of time.
- (5) LAST OBSERVED: The last refuge record for the species  
during the spring or fall migration,  
wintering, or summering, and the numbers  
observed exclusive of obvious cripples  
or non-migrants.
- (6) YOUNG PRODUCED: Estimated number of young produced based  
upon observations and actual counts or  
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 are to  
be omitted.
- (7) 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 manner in  
which birds come through; i.e., in waves or  
all at once. On refuges representing the  
terminus of the flight lane, the figures  
would probably be the same in many cases.

\* Only columns applicable to the period covered should be used.



cause the waterfowl on this area any apparent difficulty.

On May 30 the islands in Ninepipe were visited. Island No. 5 was found to have twelve duck nests, all Mallard with a total of 72 eggs, or an average of a little more than 7 eggs each. Two of these nests, one of which had contained and the other with 7 eggs, had hatched at that time.

On island No. 8, 5 Avocet, 1 Canada Goose, 3 Mallard, 1 Sandpiper, 6 Black Tern, and 5 other nests, apparently shore birds which I was unable to positively identify, were found.

Shore birds used these islands much more this year than last while the number of duck nests seemed about the same as last year.

From the four Canada Goose nests located on these islands this year having a total of 27 eggs, 22 young were hatched but nothing is known as to the number growing to maturity.

Many Mallards, Baldpates, Teal, Redheads, Shovelers, and Coots which were reared on the sloughs and potholes in the valley have, at the end of the reporting period, collected on the reservoir. An estimated 11,000 ducks, 3,000 coots, and 1100 Canada Geese were on the area at the end of August. Form N R-1 shows numbers of various types.

#### Pablo

Due to my low mileage allotment, trips to this area have been few and far between. No attempt has been made to make counts or estimates of the birds on this area.

The few trips made have been merely routine checks. During the early summer one could not get around on the area with a pickup due to the excessive rains and work has been too pressing to allow time to be taken to make the trip on foot since the water was lowered.

However, I now have most of the equipment on hand for fitting up the overnight cabin and expect to spend considerable time on the area in the next two months.

#### 2. Food and Cover.

#### Ninepipe

The wet spring and early summer produced a heavy growth of vegetation on this area which will make excellent cover for the fall and also for the nesting season in the



spring. Though no grain is raised on this area, the many nearby grain fields and meadows furnish plenty of grain and forage, although the geese seem to feed very heavily on the small spike rush which grows so quickly on the flats here soon after the water is gone. The growth of sago pondweed and water smart weed was exceptionally heavy this summer.

#### Pablo

The extremely wet spring and early summer caused a very heavy growth of vegetation on this area, giving promise of good nesting cover for the ducks in the coming spring. Nearby grain fields which have produced an excellent crop in most cases, will furnish many meals for the waterfowl during the fall.

### 3. Botulism.

#### Ninepipe and Pablo

No botulism has been noted on these areas this summer.

### 4. Lead poisoning and other diseases.

#### Ninepipe and Pablo

No sick ducks have been noted on either area this period.

## B. Upland Game Birds.

### 1. Populations and Behavior Pheasants.

#### Ninepipe

The continuous high water this spring tended to force many pheasants outside the boundary of this area for their nesting, though the high water mark was reached early enough to forestall flooding of any large number of nests.

Due to the cold, wet spring, the early hatch was just fair. Many of the early hatched chicks were taken by disease. The heavy rains and cloudy weather and the consequent lack of sunshine made conditions such that they were unable to survive. Of the early broods, very few numbered more than two or three by the first of July.

There seemed to be an unusually large number of broods of small chicks in late June, possibly indicating a definite loss of the early hatch. However, a plentiful supply of birds is indicated for fall shooting.

#### Pablo

As there is a larger area of this refuge, than at Ninepipe, which was not flooded this spring, the pheasants are much more numerous here.

Another factor which helps keep the pheasants on the area is the fields on which grain is raised by the Indians. No count has been made on the area but these birds are noted much more frequently than at Ninepipe. There was also some loss of the early hatch here.

Hungarian Partridge.



Hungarian Partridge.

---Ninepipe and Pablo---

These birds do not seem to increase very much in the vicinity of these refuges. An occasional group is noted but they are far from plentiful.

2. Food and Cover.

---Ninepipe and Pablo---

Food and cover are both very abundant on and around these areas at this time. Weeds and grasses of all types have grown exceptionally well this summer.

3. Disease.

---Ninepipe and Pablo---

No disease, other than that which caused the loss of young birds in the early spring, has been noted. None of the birds noted were posted. All showed symptoms of diarrhea.

D. Fur Animals, Predators, Rodents, and other Mammals.

---Ninepipe---

Muskrats are by far the most numerous of the furbearers here, though not plentiful enough to cause any damage to the bird life on the area.

Skunks are slowly increasing in number and some of them may have to be removed within a year or two.

Coyote sign is frequently noted on the area, but there are not any great number of them in this community, and no particular damage done by them has been noted during the summer.

Ground Squirrels are exceptionally plentiful on a few small areas, while on some other areas, the few Badgers we have seem to have removed most of them.

Weasels are frequently seen on the area and they seem to be doing a good job of keeping the mice in check, possibly also catching an occasional pheasant but apparently doing no appreciable damage.

---Pablo---

Muskrat- Though no damage to bird life is done by these animals they do some damage to dykes and ditch banks. They are not, however, very plentiful on this area at present.

Skunk- A few of these animals have been noted on the area, but no noticable damage has been found.



Coyote- These predators are frequently seen on or near this area, but not in any large numbers.

Ground Squirrels- These rodents are apparently being kept in check on this area by the Badgers, with the exception of a few small groups, the largest of which on the north side near the Hdqtrs. bldgs.

#### E. Predaceous Birds.

##### ---Ninepipe and Pablo---

An occasional Crow or Magpie is seen on either area but no heavy concentrations nor damage have been noted.

#### F. Fish.

##### ---Ninepipe---

Conditions appear to be excellent for the fish in the waters of this area. Bass are seen much more often than other types and in large numbers. No sign of loss has been noted this period. Food conditions are good.

##### ---Pablo---

Very cool water, with a large stream being run into it from the pumping plant on Flathead should make this reservoir an ideal spot for fish. Bass, Perch and Bullheads are often seen and an occasional trout minnow is seen in the ditch, indicating at least some trout in these waters. As very little fishing is done on this area no check can be made from that angle.

### III. REFUGE DEVELOPMENT AND MAINTENANCE

#### A. Physical Development

##### ---Ninepipe---

By far the most important development on this area during this period was the building of the well house and installation of the pump and tank.

A carpenter was hired for seven days and men furnished by the U. S. Indian Irrigation Service worked eight days assisting with the excavation, form building and the pouring of the cement wall and floor.

I set the pump and drop pipe, and put in the well rods with the assistance of my son. An electrician was hired for three hours to make a temporary hookup so that I could pump out the well before installing the tank.

I was again assisted by the U. S. Indian Irrigation Service when hooking up the tank and pump and in putting the rafters on the



well house.

At the end of the period the shingles have not been put on, nor the window put in. There are also a few other little jobs to do besides the final cleanup.

To date, I have put in approximately twenty-six days work on the well-house and pump, including excavation, building, setting pump, cleanup etc. This also includes the drain from the well-house and cutting a doorway thru the wall into the basement of the house.

The next most important item of construction was the loading ramp which I have built this summer, pictures of which will be included in this report. It is complete except for gravel which will be hauled when returning from work at Pablo during the fall. The ramp is located just to the north-east of the service building, approximately fifty feet from the graveled court.

From the standpoint of appearance, the improvement of the lawn and grounds adjacent to the house is very important. Several small trees have been set in and around the lawn and a caragana hedge has been put along the east side of the lawn. Many varieties of flowers have been put in and several are in full bloom at the close of the period. Pictures taken near the close of the period will be included in this report.

Service trails have been mown and the picnic area cleaned up, weeds cut, etc.

The headquarters grounds have been maintained and kept in as good condition as time would permit.

Patrol work on this area has been done by horse instead of pickup this summer. Though one cannot make the rounds so fast, I believe the slower method more efficient.

Drawer pulls were put on the new map cabinet and the drawers sanded down until they could be easily opened and closed.

The doors to the bookcase were glazed and hung but the shelves have not been put in as yet.

A rack has been put on the mower for carrying a box of extra guards, knives, etc.

Several hours have been put in sorting and rearranging the files removed from the four-drawer filing cabinet which was taken to the Bison Range for use there and much more is yet to be done before completing the job.

Three days were spent on trips to Smith Lake during this period.

#### Pablo

No work of any sort, with the exception of an occasional patrol trips, has been done at Pablo during this period. However, I expect to spend much of my time there during the next two months.

#### B. Plantings

##### 2. Trees and shrubs.

#### Ninepipe and Pablo

The only planting done on either area was a few trees and shrubs



around the Ninepipe residence.

#### 4. Cultivated Crops.

##### Ninepipe and Pablo

The only farming done on either area is what is being done by the Indians on Pablo.

#### IV. Public Relations

##### A. Recreational uses.

##### Ninepipe and Pablo

Possibly due partly to the tire shortage and also to the high water in the reservoir which has made the fishing rather poor, the picnic area on Ninepipe has not been used to any extent, probably not more than one hundred people using it during the summer.

There is no recreational area on Pablo and very little fishing is done there.

##### B. Refuge visitors.

The list of visitors for this period is rather short, though, if the names of all those driving in to inquire regarding fishing or hunting were recorded the list would be very much longer.

George E. Mushbach made several calls during this period, to check on various items of work being done here.

Cy Young made two business calls during the same time.

Kenneth Roahen, Game Management Agent, spent  $1\frac{1}{2}$  hrs. at the office on August 8.

Lowell Adams, of our service and Mr. Anderson of the Indian Service called at the office on May 12, and an hour's discussion of local wildlife problems followed. Mr. Adams was here again on July 29, and spent four hours with the refuge manager on Ninepipe.

Dr. R. W. Hiatt, of the State College, and Dr. Philip Wright, of the State University, working with the State Game Department on pheasant investigation and brood counts, spent three days in late August working in this vicinity, making their headquarters at the refuge.

R. H. Lambeth, Deputy State Game Warden, made several calls at the office during this period.

Mr. Sperry, Project Engineer, and C. H. Dexter, Water Master, of the U.S.I.I.S. were here a number of times during the laying of the pipeline and the installing of the tank.

##### C. Refuge Participation

Several evenings' meetings of the Office Civilian Defence school



were attended by the Refuge Manager during the summer.

On July 2, the Refuge Manager attended a Forest Service Fire-fighting school and demonstration at Polson.

The Refuge Manager has been a regular attendant at the Charlo Community Church and Sunday School and also the meetings of the official board of that organization, of which he is vice-chairman, and has regularly attended the meetings of the local Grange, of which he is Master.

#### E. Fishing.

##### Ninepipe

Many fine catches of Bass have been taken this summer but the area has not been fished as heavily as last year, nor has the average catch per person been so large. The high water, flooding so much of the area, and the consequent supply of food which, it was expected, would be available, has discouraged some of the fishermen to such an extent that they failed to return as regularly as usual. Very few Perch, Sunfish and Bullheads have been taken this summer mostly because the water was so high the favored potholes could not be reached.

##### Pablo

Practically no fishing has been done on this area this summer, though the few who have tried report fair bass catches.

#### F. Violations.

##### Ninepipe and Pablo

No violators have been apprehended on either area during this period.

#### VII. Other Items

##### A. Items of interest.

Five Redhead ducklings were found in the pipeline ditch on the morning of August 7. After taking pictures of them, they were released on the reservoir.

Respectfully submitted,

*Ancil O. Talmage*  
Ancil O. Talmage  
Under Refuge Manager.

Report completed 9/16/42

*Approved By:*  
*[Signature]*  
OK 9/23/42





Smith Lake, east side, showing type of cover  
Roll 7 Exp. #1 Taken 5/19/42



Redhead nest, Pablo, Destroyed by Coyote.  
Roll 7- Exp. 6- Taken 7/10/42





Equipment as used, form material in left foreground  
Roll #7, Exp. # 7, Taken 7/19/42



Showing pump in pit and opening partially cut thru wall  
Roll # 8, Exp. # 2, taken 7/19/42





Canada Geese, heading in from feeding grounds, taken from office steps, 8:10 A.M. 8/25/42. Roll 8, Exp. 6



Redhead ducklings in pipeline ditch near Ninepipe residence  
Roll #8, Exp. # 4, Taken 8/7/42



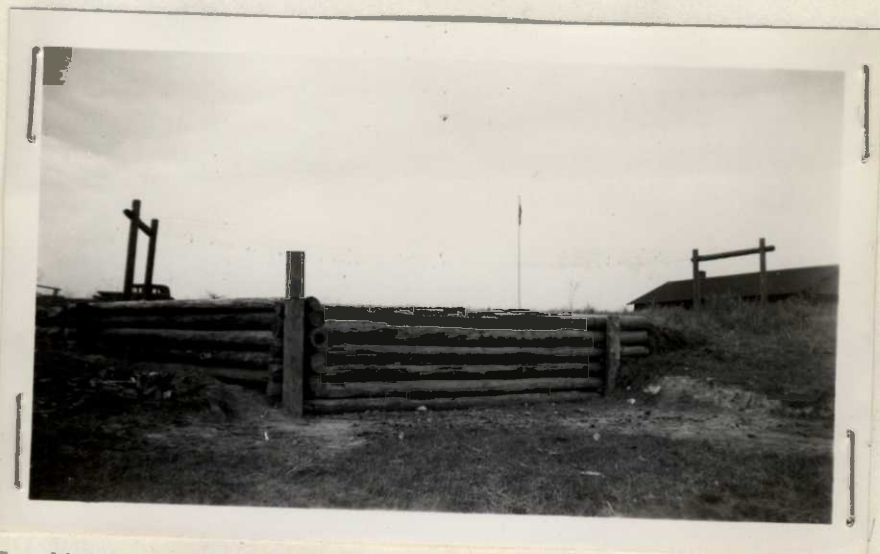


Mabel, and five Redhead ducklings.  
Roll 8, Exp. 5, taken 8/7/42



Loading ramp upper side-from near Northeast corner  
of graveled court. Roll 8, Exp. 7 taken 8/30/42





Loading ramp--from the north or lower side.  
Roll 8, Exp. 8, taken 8/30/42



Residence from southeast. Personal film.





Residence from the southwest. Personal film.



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