

January 8, 1973

Mr. George E. Gage  
Refuge Manager-in-Charge  
Long Island Refuges  
Target Rock National Wildlife Refuge  
Target Rock Road, Lloyd Neck  
Huntington, N.Y. 11743

Dear Mr. Gage:

Herewith is my report for 1972 on the Amagansett Wildlife Area (formerly the U.S. Navy Radio Station).

1. SAND FENCE - in good condition for the entire length. Plenty of sand has accumulated on the beach and ocean side of the fence. The "pocket" at the extreme west end of the fence is filled with embedded sand. Several small "breaks" occurred during the winter of 1970-1971. I was able to salvage wood slats and wire and haul them to the locations from remote areas. Repairs at several locations appeared satisfactory when I left in early October.

2. THE BEACH improved again in 1972. It appears to be wider. The sand bar, several hundred feet in the ocean, appears unchanged from 1971.

3. THE DUNES do not appear to have changed very much, except for the better. New dune grass is gradually creeping down the dunes on the ocean side. How the winter will affect this will be observed in June 1973.

4. Not much change occurred between the dunes and your property line south of Bluff Road. Some of the scattered small evergreen trees are growing normally. No sudden unusual growth of greenery was evident (which, of course, is not anticipated). The Township has not changed the location, nor have they added any structures. The old Coastguard building, moved from the center of your area to town property adjacent to Atlantic Avenue, remains unused and unpainted.

5. Bird and animal life during April to October is not abundant, as expected, because of the lack of foliage and fresh water. Birds use the area but do not seem to nest there. Rain-fall seemed normal. No heavy ocean surf occurred. On one occasion the surf reached the dunes, but did not wash over them. The clump of wild white roses, which has been at the western edge of the preserve for the last twenty years, remains intact.

6. There is very little trespassing. The sand piling up almost to the top of the dunes, towards the Atlantic Avenue end, seemed to invite persons to step across, but careful observation did not confirm my concern. There were two occasions of trespass, by horse and by motorcycle. A careful and polite explanation of trespassing was made, and no evidence of tire or horse tracks were observed later. On two occasions I reported my observations to Police Lieut. Adams (I have known him for twenty years).

7. Beach surf casting was spotty. The Haul Sieners based in Amagansett were active. Bluefish catches were average. Strippers were scarce. Weakfish were abundant. On several occasions the hauls took five hours or more from one set. This weakfish activity in the last three years again confirms theories of "cycles". Weakfish were also plentiful in Long Island Sound.

8. There have been several suggestions made from time to time to extend or enlarge the Town car parking area east of Atlantic Avenue, also some so-called improvements in the food concession. All have been vigorously fought by the Amagansett Residents Association. The present parking area is rarely, if ever, 100% occupied. One idea was to permit parking adjacent to Atlantic Avenue West. This would border your Wildlife Refuge. It would be ideal if the Town, with the aid of the Amagansett Residents Association, would transfer this strip to the Interiors Wildlife area.

This trend would follow the desire of some members of the Atlantic Beach Club (Atlantic Avenue and the ocean, not adjacent to your area) to transfer and buffer a piece of ocean front property to some protective agency (this would save taxes). You have experience in these transfer plans, and any advice you could give would be welcomed by area people through the Amagansett Residents Association.

If any of your staff, at times when you are in Amagansett, have time, I would welcome a visit from them (June to October).

Sincerely,  
  
Harold Eckes

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