SEASONAL ABUNDANCE OF BIRDS

IN THE BEAR RIVER REFUGE



When is the best time of year to see whistling swan? Are there any ducks that stay through the winter? When do the long-billed curlews arrive at Bear River and how long do they stay? How many pheasants are found on the refuge?

These and hundreds of similar questions can best be answered by referring to a series of charts showing the seasonal occurrence of many birds frequenting the Bear River Refuge. These charts also indicate the average peak numbers each species has attained over many years of record keeping at the refuge.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE



INTERESTING BEAR RIVER MIGRATORY BIRD REFUGE DATA

HOW FAR DO THEY FLY?

Duck bands placed on birds at Bear River Refuge have been recovered in 31 States and 5 foreign countries. They have been reported from as far north as Siberia, USSR; as far south as Columbia, South America; as far west as Palmyra Island in the Pacific (1,000 miles southwest of Honolulu); and as far east as Cambridge, Maryland.

A male pintail was treated for botulism and banded on August 15, 1942. Eighty-three days later this duck was found in an exhausted condition on Palmyra Island, Territory of Hawaii, a distance of 3,500 miles.

HOW LONG DO THEY LIVE?

A pintail found dead in Ohio on June 25, 1959 was wearing a band placed on it 17 years and 10 months earlier at this Refuge.

A green-winged teal, banded as an adult, carried the band for 9 years. It was at least 10 years old when taken by a hunter.

Two shoveler ducks, banded on the refuge, lived to be at least 10 years of age. This is the longevity record for this species.

HOW MANY BIRDS HAVE BEEN BANDED?

Through 1972 a total of 58,000 birds, representing 48 species, have been banded on the Refuge. Most of these have been waterfowl, and the information gained from band returns is useful in tracing migration patterns and forming hunting regulations.

WHAT ABOUT SWANS?

One of the largest fall concentrations of whistling swans in the United States occurs on this refuge. The largest single count in recent years was 40,000 in 1969.

Historically, the trumpeter swan occurred in the vicinity of the Bear River Refuge. Recent archeological excavations of Indian campsites revealed many bones of this species.

HOW MANY KINDS OF BIRDS NEST HERE?

Of the 222 species of birds which have been recorded on the Refuge, 60 are known to nest here.

Such traditionally tree nesting birds as Herons, Egrets, and Cormorants nest on the ground here because of the absence of trees.

AVERAGE MONTHLY ABUNDANCE BY SPECIES OF BIRDS ON THE BEAR RIVER REFUGE

* INDICATES THOSE SPECIES THAT NEST ON REFUGE.











