UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

BUREAU OF BIOLOGICAL SURVEY

IN REPLY REFER TO

SENEY MIGRATORY WATERFOWL REFUGE

The following report is a tabulation of wildlife populations present within the refuge area and includes migratory species and residents.

The information given here applies to the period October 1 to December 31, 1937, inclusive.

Systematic censusing of the various species of wildlife was not begun until January 1, with the exception of ruffed grouse, which were censused in conjunction with the cover survey project begun in November. All other estimates given are based on field notes of the refuge personnel and Junior Biologist Eklund.

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Common Loon (Gavia immer immer)

No records

Horned Grebe (Colymbus auritus)

No records

Pied-Billed Grebe (Podilymbus podiceps podiceps)

Approximately 25 birds were seen in the pools of Unit I between October 1 and October 20.

Great Blue Heron (Ardea herodias herodias)

Several observations were made of this heron during October, both in Unit I and along the Walsh ditch in Unit III.

American Bittern (Botaurus lentiginosus)

Two observations were recorded on this species.

Eastern Least Bittern (Ixobrychus exilis exilis)

No records

Canada Goose (Branta canadensis canadensis)

Approximately 4500 wild geese passed through the refuge during the fall migration. One flock of 30 remained on F pool along with 12 of the captive geese for a number of days and fed readily on grain put out for them.

Lesser Snow Goose (Chen hyperborea hyperborea)

It is estimated that 650 of the Lesser Snow Geese passed through the refuge during the fall migration. One of these birds remained in the company of the 30 Canada geese for several days and evidently left with the flock when it resumed flight.

Blue Goose (Chen caerulescens)

14 observed

Common Mallard (Anas platyrhynchos platyrhynchos)

Few grey mallards observed during this period.

Common Black Duck (Anas rubripes tristis)

There were considerable number of black ducks using the refuge until about November 1, at which time most of them had gone south. The last observation recorded was of a flock of 12 ducks which were flushed from a small pond along the north boundary of the refuge in Unit I on November 9. It is estimated that about 3000 black ducks passed through the refuge during fall migrations.

Gadwall (Chaulelasmus streperus)

No records.

Baldpate (Mareca americana)

No records.

American Pintail (Dafila acuta tzitzihoa)

This duck appeared to be almost as numerous in frequency of observations as the black duck, but it seldom occurred in flocks of any size. Most observations would read, "Two pintails and 16 black ducks flushed just north of G spillway." Approximately 250 pintails migrated through the refuge during the period.

Wood Duck (Aix sponsa)

No records.

Green Winged Teal (Nettion carolinense)

Very few teal were observed during this period, perhaps no more than 50 birds passed through the area after October 1.

Blue Winged Teal (Querquedula discors)

No records.

Ring Necked Duck (Nyroca collaris)

No records.

Canvas-back (Nyroca valisineria)

No records.

Greater & Lesser Scaup Duck (Nyroca marila & affinis)

No records.

American Golden-Eye (Glaucionetta clangula americana)

Two of these birds were observed by Mr. Johnson during this period.

Buffle-head (Charionetta albeola)

No records.

Hooded Merganser (Lophodytes culcullatus)

No records.

American Merganser (Mergus merganser merganser)

Four of these mergansers were recorded as passing through the refuge from October 1 to October 20.

Canada Spruce Grouse (Canachites canadensis canace)

This species does not migrate in any sense and is present throughout the year on the refuge, occurring chiefly in the dense stands of spruce, balsam, tamarac, and hemlock in Unit III. Based on the number of birds seen on a strip survey run in Unit III and suitable cover types, there are approximately 450 spruce grouse within the refuge.

Canada Ruffed Grouse (Bonasa umbellus togata)

Observations of ruffed grouse were made almost daily during this period. Common

Strip counts and computations based on R. T. King's census method indicate a population of 2313 grouse on all three units.

Greater Prairie Chicken (Tympanuchus cupido americanus)

Based on field observations of birds flushed within a given distance from a base line and over a definite route, the prairie chicken population for this period is computed at 1875 chickens.

Sandhill Crane (Grus canadensis tabida)

64 sandhill cranes were seen between October 9 and 12. This flock proved to be the last seen during this period.

American Coot (Fulica americana americana)

Many observations of this bird were made during the month of October. Approximately 125 coots passed through the refuge during the migrations of this period.

American Wood Cock (Philohela minor)

No records.

Wilson's Snipe (Capella delicata)

No records.

Moose

Fresh moose tracks were observed between the diversion ditch and the north boundary of the refuge within a 1936 "burned-over" area. It was either a large cow or a bull. This observation was made on November 4 and no records have been filed before or since. It is quite possible that more may be present in some of the remote areas of Unit III.

Bear

Tracks of two bear were observed along the Walsh Ditch during October. There are perhaps between 6 and 10 individuals on the refuge.

Snowshoe Rabbit

The snowshoe is quite evidently on the way back. Although there are large areas that do not support a single species, there are also areas of favorable food and cover types that contain quite dense populations.

Beaver

The period with which this report is concerned is an opportune time to make observations as to the presence, location, and numbers of beaver, as it is the period of greatest activity. Beginning about September 1 the beaver perform much work in laying up winter food supplies, repairing dams, building houses, etc., and much of the area was covered at this time. There are approximately 20 houses which have actually been located and which are known to contain beaver. (Based on W. F. Cox's (Minnesota) studies, which indicated an average of four beaver to one house, the total population is computed at between 60 and 80 beaver for the refuge.) Protection afforded

by the refuge should help this furbearer to increase.

Otter

No records.

Muskrat

Muskrats are increasing in population steadily. The present population is concentrated largely in Units I and II and is estimated at 1200 individuals. This count is based on a count of homes and assigning an average of six muskrats to a house.) Counted 200 houses

Skunk

No sight records, but tracks and other signs indicate a fairly large population.

Raccoons

No records.

Mink

No attempt made to census mind during this period, but frequent signs along the many creeks, ditches, and ponds indicate that this furbearer is at least holding its own.

Weasel

Numerous throughout the refuge.

Coyote

Tracks of the coyote were in evidence in all areas during this period, but were by no means dangerously abundant. No evidence of predation was observed.

Wolf

No records.

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Fox

Quite numerous and evidently on the increase in comparison with past records.

Bobcat

No records.

Woodchuck

A few individuals were seen, but cold weather in the middle of October evidently forced them into hibernation.

Porcupine

Present, but by no means abundant.

Hawks

Marsh Hawk (Circus hudsonius). Several of these hawks were observed in the northwest part of Unit II and along the Walsh Ditch between October 1 and 20.

Broad-winged Hawk (Buteo platypterus platypterus). One observation was recorded for this period. The majority of the hawks had left for the South by October 15 and no observations were recorded after October 20.

Owls

Snowy Owl (Nyctea nyctea). One snowy owl was seen along the Driggs road during this period.

Great Horned Owl (Bubo virgiananus virginianus). Great horned owls were observed on several occasions during this period, but were not abundant.

Duck Hawk (Falco peregrinus anutum). One duck hawk was observed by Patrolman W. G. Anderson along the Driggs River.

Observations too common and numerous to record have been possible almost daily on the regular winter residents, such as chicadee, nuthatch, hairy woodpecker, snowbird, English sparrow, pine grosbeak, and others.

Carded 4/1/38 - Brom

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