

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
BUREAU OF BIOLOGICAL SURVEY

Annual

In accordance with memo NO. 57 I am herewith submitting information for Pea Island Refuge for the fiscal year 1938.

1.

a. Wildlife using the refuge for nesting;

25 black ducks bluewinged teal (first year noted)
700 common, 50 gull-billed, 250 least and 100 royal
terns; 500 black skimmers, 1500 laughing gulls,
wilson plovers, meadow larks, seaside sparrows, red-
winged blackbirds, barn swallows, bullbats (first
year note) and clapper rails.

b. Wildlife wintering on the refuge;

6500 Canada geese, 3000 snow geese, 8 blue geese,
6500 ducks, (black ducks and pintail predominate
with a sprinkling of baldpates, gadwalls, shovelers,
teals, buffleheads and scaups). Herring, ring-billed
and great black-backed gulls. Sanderlings, redbacked
sandpipers and blackbellied plovers. Savannah, song
and seaside sparrows, duck, marsh and sparrow hawks,
eagles and ospreys. A few muskrats and an occasional
otter and rabbit.

c.

Wildlife using the refuge for migrating;

Shore birds, viz; knots, dowitchers, ruddy turnstones,
wilson, semi-palmated, piping and blackbellied plovers,
northern and red phalaropes, yellow legs (greater
and lesser), redbacked, semi-palmated, western, least,
spotted, pectoral and stilt sandpipers, curlews and
willetts; great blue, little blue, Louisiana, night
and little green herons; American egrets, American and
least bitterns.

We had an exceptional concentration of snow geese here
last winter also ruddy turnstones last spring. I have noted
the following here for the first time; glaucous gull, snowy owl,
indigo bunting, yellow-billed cuckoo, chuck-will's-widow and
towhee.

2.

The birds using the islands for nesting are;

laughing gulls, royal, common and least terns
and black skimmers.

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3. The following plantings have been made;
- 24 acres of sheet erosion in salt marsh grass,
16 acres of seeding and sodding.
5. The following refuge improvements have been made; by CCC
- 3245 rods of sand fence have been built,
1800 rods " " " " maintained,
4000 linial feet of dike has been built.
7. 1 buffle-head confiscated; case dropped by recommendation of the Washington office.
8. Water conditions have been much better this year than the proceeding year, due to an abundance of rain and development work.
9. An unusual condition which we have here this year is about 100 Canada geese which did not go north in the spring and are continuing to use the refuge. None of them are breeding here however as they are largely last years birds. Some of them have become very tame, allowing cars to pass within 75-100 feet of them at times without being frightened enough to fly.

I raised six mocking birds for Jack Miner's estate at Kingsville, Ontario. The young birds were taken from the nests at about nine days old and kept until they were about seven weeks old. They were shipped by plane to Mr. Miner and he states that they arrived in excellent condition.

Two trips have been made to Chatham, Va. and one to Chapel Hill, N. C. soil conservation nurseries and 110000 plants brought back. These plants, viz; black locust, red cedar, pitch and loblolly pine, false indigo, privet and Scotch broom were surplus stock and the only cost was transportation. These plants are to be used on the refuge later.

July 23, 1938

S.A. Walker
Under Refuge Manager.