

AnnualNarrative



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TOPPENISH NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

\* CONBOY LAKE NWR

NARRATIVE REPORT

1971

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
BUREAU OF SPORT FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE  
TOPPENISH, WASHINGTON

\* Report under this cover.

STATION PERSONNEL

Larry Larochelle . . . . . Refuge Manager  
Vickie Hamilton . . . . . Clerk-Typist  
(Resigned, maternity)  
Sally Conley . . . . . Clerk-Typist  
(Resigned, health)  
4/30/71  
11/27/71  
Pat Gadley . . . . . Clerk-Typist  
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George Fenn . . . . . Maintenanceman

TEMPORARY PERSONNEL

Ever Bounds . . . . . Maintenanceman  
(1/1/71 - 6/30/71)  
Kenneth Taylor . . . . . Laborer  
(5/17/71 - 9/17/71)

CONBOY LAKE

Paul Benvenuti . . . . . Assistant Refuge Manager

TEMPORARY PERSONNEL

Theodore Jeeeski . . . . . Laborer  
(5/1/71 - 10/2/71)

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## TOPPENISH NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

## NARRATIVE REPORT

1971

## I. General

A. Weather Conditions. The year opened with record snowfalls and was followed by a warm spring. Summer moisture was about normal but temperatures set all-time records. Summer ended with heavy storms in late September that deposited five times the months usual precipitation in windy gales. Warm and mild weather then prevailed until early December with rain and snows closing the year. The years annual precipitation total was some 40% above the long term average.

The following is a tabular view of the years weather:

Precipitation

	<u>Snowfall (in.)</u>	<u>This Month</u>	<u>Normal</u>	<u>Max. Temp.</u>	<u>Min. Temp.</u>
January	15.0	1.94	.89	68	12
February	4.25	.75	.66	67	20
March	.75	1.35	.48	65	17
April'	0	.30	.42	75	25
May	0	.57	.51	89	34
June	0	.78	.84	94	42
July	0	.06	.18	104	46
August	0	.21	.21	110	46
September	0	1.83	.35	87	35
October	1.25	.36	.72	83	16
November	0	.79	.76	62	18
December	9.0	1.20	.88	60	12
TOTAL	30.25	10.12"	6.90"	EXT. 110	12

B. Habitat Conditions.

1. Water The regular five or six months of annual spring flooding of Toppenish Creek, which flows through the refuge, began in mid-January and continued through mid-June much in the usual manner. During this time the creek fluctuated from full flow to heavy flooding through a range of only twenty-one inches in elevation, largely as a result of snow melt in the watershed. The creek rises quickly in a few days and takes from two to three weeks to recede. The annual fluctuation range is sixty inches and this year's low of four inches was reached on November 26.

The flooding covers some 250 acres of refuge and 450 acres of private lands in the main unit as well as 150 acres of refuge and 540 acres of private lands in the East Unit. The early flooding results in an immediate increase of aquatic habitat and comes at a time when virtually none exists. Wintering waterfowl populations which had been restricted to limited loafing sites and making long night feeding flights, responded immediately. There were some 240,000 ducks, mostly mallards, using the refuge and adjacent state area when flooding began and they lost little time in taking advantage of the situation.

Aquatic habitat virtually disappeared when flooding ended; all that remained was about 20 acres in the Main Unit. Flood irrigation of refuge meadows by haying and grazing permittees served to provide a habitat type utilized by nesting waterfowl and shorebirds.

Fall aquatic habitat was increased by only 60 acres over that available in summer for a total of 120 acres. These were small areas created by pumping and diversion. Though water was available from several creeks to flood another 160 acres, this was precluded by either lack of facilities or the fact that it would have flooded private inholdings. Flooding agreements will be sought and minor facilities will hopefully be installed before too long.

2. Food and Cover. Heavy January snows become crusted and made standing crops with their protruding seed heads especially attractive to ducks who made very heavy use of them at this time.

When the snows melted and flooding began ducks immediately took to the new aquatic habitat with its abundance of shattered and now available seed. Sheet-flooded cattle feedgrounds received especially heavy use with one 80 acre unit holding 225 head of cattle and 42,000 mallards. Being next to U.S. 97, this area was a spectator favorite.

The mild spring produced heavy cover stands of brush along watercourses and on uplands. Grazing was deferred until October in the 240 acre Jensen Unit and resulted in an extremely heavy stand of Basin Ryegrass (Elymus condensatus) filling in the sagebrush/greasewood uplands with Beardless Wheatgrass (Agropyron inerme) filling the interzone while a solid stand of American threesquare (Scirpus americanus) developed in the shallow marsh areas. Nesting upland game and waterfowl made particularly good use of this area. Early fall waterfowl use of the marsh area was very light until cattle were turned in opening up the area and shattering seed making the area more available.

All of the 240 acres of refuge crops available to wintering waterfowl were well utilized by them before spring departure, (Table 1). Burning in early February made remaining crops all the more attractive as well as pushing volunteer resprouts which were used by ducks and geese alike.

Some 195 acres of crops (Table 2), were planted this year for wildlife utilization during the 1971-72 migration/wintering period. Permittees share-cropped 70 acres and the refuge farmed 125 acres. The fifty acres less farmed by the refuge this year is the result of leaving wider borders on all fields and fallowing some poorer areas. All refuge crops consisted of Idaho 59 Wheat and Hairy Vetch planted at a rate of 100 and 20 lbs/ac. respectively. The vetch was added for its nitrogen fixing properties and to produce green browse for spring goose use. Pheasants accounted for about 12% of total use going as high as 25% in the South Headquarters unit. Overall use at the close of the period was about the same as for last year at the same time.

Tables 1 and 2 depict crops available to wildlife for the 1970-71 and 1971-72 migration/wintering period. The percentage utilization figures are the total use by waterfowl, upland game, and Brewers blackbirds as of the date indicated.

Table 1. Refuge crops available to 1970-71 wintering and migrating waterfowl.

Unit	AC.	Farmed By:	Crop	Yield (lbs.)		Utilization as of:			
				/ac.	Tot.	12/31/70		3/31/71	
						%	lbs.	%	lbs.
Brinkley	20	Refuge	Barley	1,750	35,000	10	3,500	100	35,000
Chambers	65	Refuge	Barley	3,000	195,000	75	150,000	100	195,000
Cloe	20	Refuge	Barley	4,000	80,000	20	16,000	100	80,000
Clyde	40	Refuge	Milo	1,000	40,000	10	4,000	100	40,000
HQ (H)	10	Refuge	Wheat	2,250	22,500	10	2,250	75	16,800
HQ (S)	15	Refuge	Milo	3,000	45,000	25	11,250	75	33,750
Green	20	Hankins	Barley	2,000	40,000	10	4,000	50	20,000
Healy	20	Hankins	Barley	2,000	40,000	10	4,000	50	20,000
Isiri	22	Schell	Barley	1,000	22,000	5	1,100	75	16,500
Petty	8	Starr	Barley	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	240				519,500		196,100		425,550

Table 2, Refuge crops available to 1971-72 migrating and wintering waterfowl.

Unit	AC.	Farmed by:	Crop	Yield (lbs)		Utilization as of:	
				/ac.	Tot.	12/21/72 %	lbs.
Brinkley	12	Refuge	Wheat	200	2,400	50	1,200
			Wheat	3,000	180,000	50	90,000
Chambers	60	Refuge	H. Vetch	200	12,000	25	3,000
			Wheat	4,000	64,000	20	13,000
Cloe	16	Refuge	H. Vetch	200	3,200	10	320
			Wheat	1,200	30,000	40	12,000
Clyde	25	Refuge	H. Vetch	100	2,500	25	625
			Wheat	2,500	75,000	25	19,000
HQ	30	Refuge	H. Vetch	200	6,000	10	600
Green	20	Hankins	Barley	1,200	24,000	25	6,000
Healy	10	Healy	Corn	3,500	35,000	25	8,750
Isiri	22	Schell	Barley	1,500	33,000	10	3,300
Total	195			467,100			157,795

An abundance of Star Duckweed (*Lemna trisulca*) and Common Duckweed (*Lemna minor*) as well as invertebrates developed in low-lying areas of flood irrigated hay meadows. This food source, in combination with the excellent cover provided by the heavy overstory of reed canarygrass, provided excellent brooding and molting habitat for waterfowl and shorebirds.

All forms of wildlife enjoy an abundance of food and cover in the form of heavy willows along watercourses and the wild rose tangles along fencerows.

## II. Wildlife

### A. Migratory Birds.

1. Waterfowl - general populations. This years total waterfowl use of 8 1/3 million days exceeds last years use by 3 million and surpasses the previous high of 7 million in 1968.

Swans. A flock of ten whistling swans used the refuge during May and another group of five was present during October. They were most often seen on the Brinkley ponds or flying along Toppenish Creek.

Geese. Goose use, primarily by lesser Canadas, has shown huge increases each year since the 61,096 days recording in 1967 and this year totaled 377,265 days - a five fold increase in five years!

The bulk of the use occurred from mid-February through mid-April on greening reed canarygrass meadows of the Lower Unit that had been closely clipped by grazing livestock during the summer and fall. The 25 acres of wheat planted in the Clyde Unit was the only grainfield utilized by geese and it was completely cleaned up. The population peak of 7,600 occurred during the third week of March whereas in the past the peak has been during early February.

Ducks. Ducks accrued nearly 8 million use days this year as compared to the 5 1/4 million last year and exceeded the previous high of 7 million recorded in 1968. Factors contributing to the increased use of the refuge were water and other management problems on the 3,700 acre Satus Unit eleven miles east which was proposed as part of the refuge but is now being managed by the Yakima Indian Tribe, as well as problems, including the loss of 2,000 acres of croplands in the vicinity of the 3,300 acre Upper Unit eleven miles west, which was also scheduled for inclusion in the refuge but is now being jointly managed by the Yakimas and State F & G Department.

The mid-winter inventory, a 15 man joint State & Refuge venture, tallied close to 300,000 ducks, mostly mallards, wintering in the Yakima Valley; two thirds of these birds were on the 1,200 acre Lower Unit, the only area we are actively managing, as originally planned, each unit, Upper, Lower and Satus, would hold peaks of 100-150,000 birds but this years figures were twenty four thousand, 204,000 and 3,000 respectively.

Most duck use occurred during late fall and winter when the area is used as a loafing ground during the day by ducks that night-feed throughout the Upper and Lower Valley's on some 1/2 million acres of farmlands, much of it in corn and grain, as well as on about 40,000 acres of wetlands.

Duck Production was slightly better than most years and estimated at 250 birds raised to flight stage. Mallards accounted for 130 young, cinnamon teal 60 and wood ducks 60; thirty-five broods were observed.

Seven of the 36 wood duck boxes were used by wood ducks with sparrow hawks using three, screech owls two, red-shafted flickers one, and starlings five for an overall use of 50%. No use was made of the five "Mallard Baskets" set out this year.

Fall Migration. The fall buildup began in late September when the population of some 4,500 tripled to 13,000 within a week mostly as a result of 7,000 mallards coming in. Populations kept building and peaked slightly (77,290), in mid-November but the years peak of 93,195 wasn't reached until the last week of the year.

With unusually warm and clear weather prevailing until mid-December ducks spent days on loafing grounds of the Lower Unit and made night feeding flights. This weather, combined with problems mentioned above, on the State and Tribal Refuges resulted in poor dispersion for hunting despite the abundance of birds. About 85% of the fall population consisted of mallards with the balance evenly divided between widgeon, pintail, and green-winged teal; few divers frequent the area.

2. Other Water and Marsh Birds. Great blue herons, Virginia rails and coot were the principal members of this group. Coots, though limited by our restricted marsh habitat, did manage to bring off young and three broods were noted. Pied-billed grebes were seen throughout the year.

3. Shorebirds, Gulls, and Terns. A few lesser yellowlegs and western sandpipers were seen during summer and fall as were common snipe and Wilson's phalaropes. Killdeer were ever-present and seemed especially vociferous this year; several nests were found and young observed. Ring-billed gulls were seen during most of July when they came in to feed on prey exposed by haying operations.

4. Mourning Doves, were quite plentiful during summer and fall and made much use of refuge grain crops. Some 500 birds present during nesting season are estimated to have produced 600 young to flight stage. A few were present throughout the year, five were found dead during the severe December weather.

B. Upland Game Birds. Both pheasant and California quail fared well during the mild remnant of winter during the early part of the year, there were 1,500 and 800 respectively estimated to be using the area. Excellent habitat and weather conditions prevailed during nesting season and some 600 pheasant and 400 quail are estimated to have been produced.

C. Big Game. Mule deer are the only animals in this category occurring on the area and are very seldom seen. Tracks were the only evidence of their presence this year.

D. Fur Animals, Predators, Rodents and Other Mammals. Cottontails and black-tailed jackrabbits are the most common members of this group and were seen in greater abundance than in the past few years. Coyotes were often seen and regularly heard especially during early winter when they utilize the abundant food supply resulting from unrecovered hunting game.

Bobcats were seen on several occasions. One extended 45 minute observation occurred during which a large male caught mice and a muskrat, remarked scent posts and sharpened his claws. It was interesting to watch him walk through an area holding 45,000 ducks at 10,000 per acre and see how calmly the ducks moved out of his path allowing him 20-30 yards of space on each side.

Raccoon, mink, striped skunks, beaver and badgers were often evidenced by their sign; muskrats and the two ground squirrels, (Townsend and Washington) were often seen.

E. Hawks, Eagles, Owls, Crows, Ravens and Magpies, Golden eagles were seen during most of the year. Bald eagles were seen several times during winter when a pair regularly hunted the loafing ground.

The usual contingent of other members of this group was present with no unusual observations.

F. Other Birds. Nothing unusual to report.

G. Fish. The sportfish population consists of smallmouth and largemouth black bass, carp and catfish. These are fished for from bridges and roadsides by a small number of people; fishing is not allowed on the refuge property.

H. Reptiles and Amphibians. Blue racers, garter and gopher snakes were common in warm weather. Five rattlesnakes were seen and killed, all were near residences. Bullfrogs were very plentiful and created the greatest chorus yet heard by this writer. There is much frogging in the area.

I. Disease, was not noted in the wildlife population.

### III. Development and Maintenance

#### A. Physical Development

1. Water Facilities. Routine maintenance was performed on all pumps and sprinkler systems. A 48" CMP with flashboard riser was relocated to lower the flow line 21" in order to permit draining the 8 acre Brinkley Pond in preparation for a small dike renovation job as well as permitting water level manipulation. A 100' section of a low dike in the Davis Unit was also rehabilitated. Nine water control structures that had been washed out for 5-10 years were back-filled and made operational.

2. Roads and Trails. The use of a back-mounted 4' blade on a wheel tractor for grading the one mile refuge road was discontinued this year. Now we simply drag an 8' X 12' cattleguard behind the tractor and in four passes end up with a better and quicker job. A road contractor who was allowed to park his equipment on the refuge has agreed to renovate and gravel "the" road. The cattleguard-drag was also used on 1½ miles of trail between HQ and the Brinkley Unit.

The hunter parking lot in the west end of the Chambers Unit was abandoned and a new one established at the east end. This eliminated maintenance of ½ mile of road but more importantly, prevented hunters from driving throughout the area.

3. Fencing and Posting. All fence maintenance work was performed by permittees. Some 2¼ miles of new fence was also put up by them with the refuge supplying materials. The usual number of signs were stolen, shot up or otherwise vandalized and required replacement. The entire posting system was reviewed and several adjustments made that will hopefully simplify matters.

Hunting area parking lots were fenced to restrict cars to specified areas and prevent them from driving throughout the hunting area.

4. Buildings and Structures. Cleanup of excess buildings, corrals and other properties continued through sales or removal by force account. Routine minor work was performed on remaining facilities.

5. Vehicular or Other Equipment. Routine maintenance was performed as necessary. Dual wheels were installed on the farm tractor which allowed it to replace a D-4 crawler for a large part of farming operations. The D-4 crawler received a minor overhaul and was transferred to Conboy Lake. The 1951 Wards-La France low boy tractor blew its engine and was surveyed. It was replaced by a 1955, 6X6 Reo obtained from Tule Lake Refuge.

## B. Plantings

1. Aquatic and Marsh. None.

2. Trees and Shrubs. The 4,500 tree and shrub nursery stock destined for windbreaks and shelterbelts was irrigated and cultivated. These plants will be transferred to appropriate sites in the spring of 1972.

3. Upland and Herbaceous Plants. None.

4. Cultivated Crops. Much of the spring and summers activities centered on the farming program. The refuge farmed 143 acres and permittees 52 acres. The provision of grain crops for the large wintering population is of great concern to both us and the State Game Department.

Table 2 on Page 4 depicts this years crops, yield and degree of utilization by the end of the year.

#### C. Collection and Receipts.

1. Seed or Other Propagules. The following seed was purchased during the year.

Idahed 59 Wheat	- 17,000 lbs.
Hairy Vetch	- 600 lbs.

About 150 bushels of Gaines Wheat and 500 bushels of shelled corn was fed to the captive goose flock at Conboy Lake.

2. Specimens. Some twenty six duck carcasses seized from hunters or found in the field were donated to Washington State College for class use.

D. Control of Vegetation. Two areas were chemically treated to control weeds (see NR 12). Four acres of the Cloe and eight acres of the Chambers grain crops were treated with 2 lbs. A/E/acre of 2, 4-D liquid amine between May 20 and June 10, to control Canada thistles, cocklebur and whitetop. A 100% kill was acheived.

About four acres of pepergrass (Lepidium perfoliatum) was chopped using a tractor mounted chopper.

#### E. Planned Burning.

1. Buildings. Several buildings and building sites were burned following removal of useful items.

2. Habitat. About two acres of tules were burned prior to fall flooding in the Brinkley Unit.

F. Fires. None.

### IV. Resource Management

A. Grazing. Livestock grazing was permitted on 1,430 acres of land, permittee cattle utilized 2,497 AUM's at \$2.50/AUM for a return of \$6,242.50. Most grazing was on previously cut haylands and took place from June through November. Stock management difficulties experienced.

by the permittee using the 240 acres Jensen Unit resulted in use beginning in late October rather than early September. The resultant hunting management complications are discussed under Hunting.

Another permittee who also had stock management problems fed his cattle hay during December snows despite the fact that he was still being charged the full rate. Ducks soon moved in and mixed with cattle to glean grass seed from hay and manure, about 15,000 used the feedground each day. When flooding finally drove the cattle off, ducks moved in, in yet greater numbers, and continued to clean-up.

B. Haying. One permittee harvested 329 tons of hay from 140 acres of land consisting of wild species and reed canarygrass at 6.50/ton for a return of \$2,138.50. Haying began July 10, and was completed August 19.

C. Fur Harvest. None.

D. Timber Removal. None.

E. Commercial Fishing. None.

F. Other Uses. The Halverson Corrals were rented to the indian cattlemens group using that area for \$25.00/year. One beekeeping permit was issued for 50 hives @.25/hive/year.

Quarters no. 53 was rented to a Washington State Game Department Protector @ \$73.00/month.

A summary of the years revenue for "Other Uses", follow:

Corral rent	\$25.00
Beekeeping	12.50
Quarters rental	<u>3,048.00</u>
	\$3,085.50

V. Field Investigations or Applied Research

A. Banding. Preseason dove banding during August resulted in 1,630 birds being banded. This was a cooperative program with the refuge furnishing bait, traps and sites while the State and M & E took care of trapping and reporting.

Post season duck banding was also a cooperative effort and took 590 mallards and a few of other species.

B. Mallard Baskets. Five "mallard baskets", also called "Danish Mailboxes", and other names were installed according to literature details from several sources but none were used by mallards or any other species. They will be set out again next season.

C. Phenological Survey. The refuge continued as an observer in the Western States Phenological Survey coordinated by the Montana Agricultural Experiment Station.

D. Breeding Bird Survey. A twenty-five mile census route was completed in cooperation with the Patuxent Bird Populations Station. This years census tallied 1,691 birds of 29 species.

E. Nest Record Program. Completed cards for 107 nests were submitted to Cornell University's laboratory of Ornithology North American Nest-Record Card Program.

F. Public Use Survey. Prompted in large part by need of a well developed information base from which to develop refuge objectives a simple and efficient system of enumeration was initiated early in the year to replace the old system of estimation. This consisted of keeping track, during the course of regular work, of observed public use on a daily tally sheet. Results are discussed in part VI A below.

## VI. Public Relations

A. Recreational Uses. Wildlife oriented use accounts for nearly all visits to this station. Visits by permittees, people offering various goods or services, employment seekers etc., constituted a small part of total use.

Although the record will show this years use of 10,112 visits with a total activity of 24,022 to be double last years figures, there actually was not a doubling of use but simply closer record keeping as described in F. Public Use Survey, under Field Investigations on page 10. Much of the increased use (3,000) visits came from recording people stopping at the several pull-offs along U.S. 97, that runs through the refuge, to look at waterfowl, coyotes or other wildlife that are abundant in that area.

In addition, 2,100 people were personally contacted and asked the why, where from, and how long, type questions. Of these contacts, 1,469 were made during routine hunter bag checks with another 2,639 hunters surveyed during courtesy contacts; 180 people were contacted while parked along U.S. 97 where it passes through the refuge as they observed wildlife on the refuge.

This survey had much the same results of similar surveys taken elsewhere - that we are often greatly under rating our actual use.

The second annual Pointing Dog Field Trial was sponsored by the Washington State Brittany Club during September. The two day event attracted 135 dogs from Northwestern U.S. and Southwestern Canada with an entourage of horses, handlers and 440 spectators.

The annual Audubon Spring Field Trip was conducted for 47 people during March and featured spring migrants. The group showed an unexpected interest in watching a cattle drive in progress through the refuge and spent over an hour watching some outstanding work by cowboys and cattle dogs as they worked to push the balky herd across the creek in front of the office.

A combined Cub Scout group of 64 was given a tour on an extremely cold, windy and snowy December day. The cold did not seem to diminish their enthusiasm for watching and listening to the waterfowl show staged by the 160,000 birds on the area at the time.

Hunters tallied 6,770 visits this year, most of which (4,645) were for waterfowl with the balance for pheasant and quail and a few (105) for snipe. Although use appeared to be down slightly from last year as a result of circumstances discussed under hunting, the record will show a substantial increase which is actually the result of enumerating rather than estimating use as mentioned above.

B. Refuge Visitors. A listing of our less-frequent visitors follows. Frequent visits were made by GMA Halstead, State Game Department, BIA, permittees and other persons.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Organization</u>	<u>Purpose</u>
1/9	Orville Hale	BIA Appraisor Yakima, WN.	Information on hunting success.
1/28	Morrie Thomas	State F & G Area Supervisor	Visit
1/28	Ellis Bowhay	State F & G Area Supervisor	Visit
1/28	Wendell Oliver	Dept. of Game Yakima, WN.	Courtesy Visit
2/4	Larry Len	SCS Conservationist Yakima, WN.	Courtesy Visit
2/17	Bill Cramer	Dept. of Game Yakima, WN.	General Visit

## Refuge Visitors cont.

2/17	Buck Little	Farmer Toppenish, WN.	Water on Toppenish Creek.
2/24	Phil Lehenbauer	Div. Wildlife Services Portland, Oregon.	Acquisition
3/8	Mel Nail	Project Leader, San Luis NWR Los Banos, California	Refuge visit while at Law Enforcement school.
3/8	Gene Sipe	Biologist, San Luis NWR Los Banos, California	"
3/8	Jack Helvie	Biologist, Desert NWR Las Vegas, Nevada	"
3/8	Leon Hill	Asst. Manager, Desert NWR Las Vegas, Nevada	"
3/8	Tom Miller	Asst. Manager, Desert NWR Las Vegas, Nevada	"
3/8	Bob Ellis	Refuge Manager, Salton Sea Calipatria, California	"
3/8	Gene Barney	Asst. Manager, McNary NWR Burbank, Washington	"
3/8	Fred Zeillermaker	Biologist, W.L. Finlay NWR Corvallis, Oregon	"
3/12	Jim Micuda	Asst. Manager, W.L. Finlay NWR Basket Slough, Dalles, Oregon	"
3/12	Sean Furnis	Asst. Manager, Malheur NWR Burns, Oregon	"
3/12	Steve Vehrs	Asst. Manager, Modoc NWR Alturas, California	"
3/12	Mike Stephenson	Maintenanceman, Sheldon NAR Lakeview, Oregon	"
3/12	Jack Richardson	Asst. Manager, Sheldon-Hart NAR Lakeview, Oregon	"
4/2	Don Doughton	Realty Specialist Portland, Oregon	Acquisition
4/2	Alan Bonsack	Realty Officer Portland, Oregon	"
12/2	Barney Martin	BIA Recreation Leader Toppenish, Washington	Satus Hunting Unit
12/2	Don Neilson	BIA Land Operations Officer Toppenish, Washington	"
12/20	Dale Young	Chief Deputy, Sherriff's Dept. Yakima, Washington	Crowd Control
1/21	Walt Grimes	National Fish Hatchery Winthrop, Washington	Pick up valves.
2/2	Diane Petit	Den Mother Toppenish, Washington	Arrangements for Cub Scouts tour.

## Refuge Visitors cont.

2/8	Richard Peters	Range Aid, BIA Toppenish, Washington	Waterfowl pop. count.
2/8	Russell Murry	Range Conservationist BIA Toppenish, Washington	"
2/14	Mr. Brennen	M.A.I. Research Yuba City, California	Waterfowl information
2/15	Mr. Staley	Wildlife Student Yakima, Washington	Counseling and Visit
2/28	Mr. Young	Toppenish City Police Toppenish, Washington	Hunting regulations for Indians on the Refuge.
2/28	Mr. Hopptowit	Tribal Police Toppenish, Washington	"

C. Refuge Participation

Manager Laroche attended regular meetings and activities of the local Rotary Club, furnished appropriate news articles to newspapers and generally took part in community activities. In order to get a better appreciation of "the other sides" views he attended several tribal meetings and celebrations in the various longhouses - usually in company with or by invitation of, tribal members. These were most interesting and the traditional feasts of venison, elk, salmon, roots and other wild foods a real treat.

The usual gamut of meetings and functions were attended, a brief resume of some of the more significant ones follows:

Jan.	- Wapato BIA Irrigation District pre-irrigation season meeting.
Feb.	- U.S. 97 R.O.W. negotiations meeting. - Met with SCS concerning Conboy Lakes Bird Creek Ditch job, plans and specifications.
Mar.	- One week Law Enforcement School at Yakima, Washington. - Yakima Valley Audubon Club program.
Apr.	- Hell Roaring Irrigation District (Conboy) annual meeting and election. - Annual State F & G Refuges meeting to discuss refuge programs for upcoming year.
May	- Appear before County Commissioners to discuss Bird Creek Drain (Conboy) project. - To R.O. for Refuge Division meeting on Toppenish acquisition plans and problems.
June	- Met with Yakima Tribal Council members on R.O.W. in Satus Unit.

- July - Met with Yakima Tribal Council members to discuss Bureaus waterfowl management plans.
- Aug. - County Cattleman's meeting and tour.
- Nov. - Met with U.S. Attorney on course of action in handling delinquent rent tenants at Conboy.
- Dec. - Met with County Sheriff to formulate Crowd Control Plan.  
- Attended meeting called by Yakima Tribe to discuss reasons for poor waterfowl hunting with M & E, State F & G, and duck clubs.

D. Hunting. A total of 644 acres opened to waterfowl hunting with an additional 271 acres opened for upland game only hunting. Hunters made 6,770 visits to the area as compared to the 3,650 recorded last year. Again, this reported increase is the result of improved surveying. Use was actually down from last year as a result of the Yakima Tribe opening up 1,600 acres of prime shooting in the Satus Unit. Hunting there was allowed on Wednesday and weekends for a maximum of 60 hunters. Manager Laroche worked with the Tribe formulating a hunting plan for the area which included blind design, placement, hunter selection etc. However, last minute "innovations" by the Tribe hoplessly boggled things such that the season opening had to be delayed two weeks. Hunters who had hoped to hunt the area then came to the refuge and increased our load. The Tribe also had water problems resulting in a nearly dry 1,600 acre marsh during most of the season, which coupled with extensive construction work in the area, meant few birds.

Probably the greatest factor serving to decrease refuge use was the increased cost of the Reservation Permit - from \$3.00 last year to \$6.00 this year; the permit is required to hunt on the refuge. In all, the substantial decrease in refuge use that we had expected to result from the increased Permit cost and opening of the Tribal area was actually a small one but will hopefully be substantial next year.

The 110 day season began on October 16, and extended through January 23, with shooting hours from ½ hour before sunrise until ½ hour after sunset for eastern Washington only, and a bag limit of seven. The opening week saw some 374 hunters average .13 ducks/hour and .37 ducks/hunt, as compared to last years figures of 1.7 ducks/hour and 3.9 ducks/hunt, however, this years opening duck population of 12,000 was about half of last years at the same time. Part of the problem on the refuge hunting area was that despite ample water and a dense stand of American Threesquare, neither ducks nor hunters could utilize the area because it was virtually impenetrable.

Livestock are usually turned into this area in mid-September to open it up and shatter seed but the permittee had stock management problems and didn't get the cattle in until late October. The turn on of cattle was met by comments from hunters realizing the benefits while others complained that the presence of cattle was the cause of the lack of ducks. The area was too green to burn and too wet to operate tractor choppers.

Waterfowl populations increased to 75,000 by the end of November and reached 93,000 by years end but hunting remained poor, except for a few short periods of "duck weather", in an otherwise balmy season.

Regretfully, our pre-season prediction of a poor hunting season was correct. This was based on conditions of the Tribes Satus Unit, eleven miles east and already discussed, as well as that of the Upper Unit, eleven miles west, managed by the Tribe and State F & G. The Upper Unit, originally consisted of 3,400 acres scheduled to hold 100,000 birds but various problems, including heavy poaching, and its present size of about 500 acres has reduced its capacity to 20-30,000 birds. The product of all this is that instead of the Satus, Upper and Lower (refuge) units each holding 100,000 birds as planned, there are 200-300,000 birds on the Lower Unit resulting in poor dispersion and poor hunting.

Hunting picked up in early January when flooding began creating more habitat which was much utilized by birds that had been restricted to loafing grounds and making long night feeding flights. Hunter numbers had also declined by this time, since new licenses and Reservation permits were needed, only more dedicated hunters remained.

Toppenish Creek reached full flood during the last week of the season and truly became a waterfowlers dream. With fewer and better hunters on an area crowded only by ducks (there were 210,000 mostly mallards on the area), hunters limited out with drake mallards, were commonplace. The area is a late season favorite of State Game Department personnel and many who were in nearby Yakima for their annual meeting made several hunts during the week.

Pheasant season extended from October 16 through December 19, with a bag limit of 3. Pheasants were generally hunted incidental to waterfowl and considered a fine bonus. Hunters primarily hunting pheasant and using dogs did quite well. With lands surrounding the refuge either clean-farmed or heavily grazed, birds from the states regular releases nearby, quickly found their way onto the refuge and supported hunting throughout the season. Bag check data information placed the take at 396 birds as compared to 195 last year.

Quail season coincided with pheasant season with a bag limit of ten, they were generally hunted incidental to waterfowl or pheasant. Our regular party of three Wednesday hunters with Brittanies again used the area this year with good success.

Hunters contacted were universally pleased with our having fenced in parking lots to prevent hunters from driving throughout the area.

Many were happy just to have a place of their own to go to where they could roam about with son, dog and gun and see some wildlife - success being secondary.

E. Violations. Law enforcement on the Lower Unit was conducted entirely by the refuge staff while GMA Halstead and State agents did the bulk of the work on the Upper Unit. Several intensive patrols involving 10-12 agents were made in the area to curb shooting as much as three hours late.

Thirty-six citations were issued by refuge personnel as described below. Nine "informations", were taken on juveniles and referred to the U.S. Magistrate who sent letters of reprimand to their parents. The action on juveniles began this year through cooperation of the U.S. Attorney and U.S. Magistrate, both of whom are extremely cooperative.

Although Yakima Indian Reservation Hunting Permits have been required for hunting on the refuge since the refuge began, it has never been enforced by the refuge personnel. This year, after friendly barbs from the Tribal Police on this subject, it was realized that the Tribe viewed this as our indifference to their interests. Since enforcing permits meant little extra effort on our part but seemed an important demonstration of genuine interest to the Tribe, we began enforcing them. We simply wrote up Field Violation Reports and turned them over to the tribe who then processed them before the U.S. Magistrate. Ten such Reports were processed and the violators fined \$50.00.

#### Refuge Violations

<u>Number</u>	<u>Violation</u>	<u>Fine</u>
1	Unplugged gun	\$ 25.00
1	Closed Area	25.00
2	Early Shooting	25.00
9	Juvenile	Letter of reprimand
10	No Reservation Permit	50.00
13	Late Shooting	25.00

F. Safety. Regularly scheduled monthly Staff and Safety meetings were held - several jointly with Conboy Lake Personnel. Appropriate films were shown at several. One special fire safety meeting was conducted at the refuge office by the Yakima City Fire Department and featured structural fires.

No lost, time nor vehicle accidents occurred during the year and we received the Bureaus Safety Management Citation. The station Safety record stands at 1,568 days.

## VII. Other Items

### A. Items of Interest

This had to be "The Year of the Clerk" - we've had three of them!

Mrs. Vickie Hamilton who had been a most capable clerk for nearly two years gave up her duties early in the year to devote herself to raising her family. Before leaving, Vickie completed the narrative and spent two weeks training her replacement.

Mrs. Sally Conley then took over and was doing very well but fell victim to a heart condition and had to vacate her position late in November. She too helped train her replacement for two weeks before leaving.

Mrs. Pat Gadley then took up the gauntlet in fine fashion. Pat is a graduate of the Professional Secretary's Institute, an excellent typist and a most capable office manager. We pray that hers will be a long and rewarding assignment.

Land Acquisition. Extrememy low key efforts by the refuge manager, aimed at humanizing ourselves to the Yakima Indian Tribe succeeded not only to the point that discourse was resumed after a lapse of several years, but the Tribe actually asked for a resubmittal of our objectives and specifics of our needs for land and water to acheive them.

The Yakimas are in the enviabile position of having treaty rights to all resources including land, water and hunting on their 1 1/4 million acre reservation, on which we are located.

= A large amount of revenue is realized from duck club leases supported by some 40,000 acres of aquatic waterfowl habitat and 250,000 acres of feeding habitat.

Duck hunting, which has been steadily declining for several years took a sharp drop this year with several leases being canceled and a seriously diminished outlook for next year. Some of the reasons for this have been discussed under hunting. Alarmed by this, the Yakimas enlisted the aid of the refuge manager in setting up a management program for their newly-available 4,000 acre Satus Unit. The need for an integrated management program for the rest of the waterfowl habitat, is now quite clear to them.

The Tribe too is faced with a dilemma. They want the revenue from duck club leases and recognize that something must be done quickly to improve hunting. The troubles and failures they experienced in their first attempts at waterfowl management on the Satus Unit this year left them with serious doubts as to whether they had the finances or know-how to continue the 4,000 acre Satus Unit, much less the balance of the habitat. They realize that we are willing and capable of managing the resource but the majority of the Tribal Council has categorically refused to sell land and none has been sold since 1955 - even when it promised great benefits. Long term (99 years), leases are one alternative though extremely expensive, complicated, and promise no future beyond the terms of the leases which seem such a short time in the face of the Bureau Objectives.

Hopefully they will allow our 5,300 acre consolidation proposed (originally set at 12,810 acres) to become a reality if it fits with their plans. We now hold title to 1,762 acres scattered over 33 miles along Toppenish Creek.

2. Credits:

Text - Laroche  
Photos - Laroche  
Typing - Gadley

Respectfully submitted: *Leroy Larochelle*

O.E. Larochelle  
Refuge Manager

March 15, 1972

Approved: *Robert J. Russell* *6/22/72*

MONTHLY RECREATION USE REPORT

State of Washington

Refuge- Toppenish NWR

Region 1

Cong. Dist. 04

Year 1971

Visits by Month

Activity Name	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct.	Nov	Dec	Total
Upland Game	600									170	650	600	2,020
Waterfowl	1,800									480	1,100	1,265	4,645
Other Mig.	75										30		105
Fishing Warm Water					30	30	40			75			175
Environ. Ed.				61	120							11	192
Wild. Photo,	40	65	26	15	4	5	9	25	40	50	75	18	372
Wild. Obs.	400	350	375	320	250	200	225	95	200	350	500	600	3,865
Field Trials									440				440
Camping									150				150
Off-site Prog.	216	2	51	31									300
On-site Prog.			47									64	111
Misc. Wild.	75	15	10	17	15	17	12	26	30	75	140	90	522
Misc. Non-Wild.			10	13	10							26	59
Peak Load	140	55	19	8	6	6	8	27	175	160	180	170	954
Actual Visits	2,400	400	468	426	420	252	286	125	760	975	1,500	2,100	10,112
Total Activity	5,746	887	1,006	891	855	510	580	298	1,795	2,335	4,175	4,944	24,022

Some 60,000 mallards of our wintering population of 200,000 regularly fed on gleanings in this livestock feedlot next to the main loafing ground whenever the ground was snow covered.

Flooding followed by freezing put the finishing touch on one mile of fence along U.S. 97.

The sudden freeze also caused problems for post season banding though some 590 mallards were banded. This is a joint effort with the refuge furnishing traps, bait, and sites, while state biologists (shown here) and M & E, take care of operations and reporting.

This large hay barn blew down during heavy winds and saved the buyer from having to pull it down which had him somewhat puzzled. Eleven such buildings, excess to our needs, were sold this year and only one more remains to be disposed of - unless we can complete acquisition.





Before - land left of fence is refuge, right is private; all of it seasonally flooded naturally from nearby creek during winter and spring, much fence damage each year. Problem was that the land owner didn't want his land flooded at all and we couldn't divert for fall hunting because it would flood his land.

After - landowner built 1/2 mile of dike and fence, we furnished fence materials, HIA did engineering. Fence now out of water and we can fall flood.

The Second Annual Pointing Dog Field Trial attracted 135 entries and 440 spectators for the two day event during early September. There were 147 pheasant, 31 California quail and 17 Chukars released during the trial.

Part of one of several groups that came out for a Conservation Education program. Some 610 Junior High students from Kennewick schools, in groups of 60 each, comprised the largest group reached.

This simple set-up of mounted birds serves as the focus for discussion followed by a walking tour.

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The Second Annual Pointing Dog Field Trial attracted 135 entries and 440 spectators for the two day event during early September. There were 147 pheasants, 21 California quail and 17 Chukars released during the trial.

Part of one of several groups that came out for a Conservation Education program. Some 610 Junior High students from Kennewick schools, in groups of 60 each, comprised the largest group reached.

This simple set-up of mounted birds serves as the focus for discussion followed by a walking tour.





Jim Gosney

## Only one (1) George Fenn

It'll come as a surprise to the hundreds of duck hunters who visit the Toppenish area but it's a bald fact: There is only one (1) George Fenn.

Many hunters won't believe this, especially those who have seen Fenn's familiar green government pickup bouncing along the roads near the Toppenish Game Refuge day after day heading straight for them.

"Howdy, boys," he'll say. "How's hunting?"

"Oh, you got some, huh? How many? Mind if I have a look?"

Then he'll count noses, count ducks, and smilingly ask, "Course all you boys got licenses and duck stamps, don't you? Mind if I have a look?"

Veteran duck hunters swear that not only can Fenn spot you all hunched down in a blind, but he'd also ticket his own son for a violation.

"Well, yeah," George grins, scratching his head. "I'd have to. I can't draw any lines in this business. But you know something? Not one person I've had to ticket fails to speak to me. At the time I'm doing it, some people are a little hostile — but they seem friendly enough the next time I see them."

My own experience with George Fenn's mobility makes me a believer. The first day I hunted the area near the refuge, George showed up, commiserated on my empty bag—and checked my license and stamp.

Two days later, six miles away, George again dropped by to visit, listened sympathetically to my complaints of bluebird weather — and checked my license and stamp.

Two other days I visited the area, hunted in different spots, saw Fenn's pickup bumping over the marsh, and got my billfold ready. The only other time I was there I didn't see George and left feeling that something was missing.



**GEORGE FENN**  
Ever-watchful

## Only two agents

As one of the two game agents on the refuge, Fenn takes his job seriously. Along with Larry Larochelle, the refuge manager, Fenn patrols the 1,800 acres of the Toppenish Game Refuge like a jealous husband.

Fenn and Larochelle are 'feds', employed by the Department of the Interior's Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife.

In the summertime, the refuge is quiet. Fenn estimates that only 2,000 to 3,000 mallards and perhaps 300 teal make Toppenish Creek a permanent home.

But in the fall, when the crisp weather drives ducks south, the refuge will swell with migratory waterfowl. A census taken during the first days of January, placed the figure at nearly 200,000 ducks.

Fenn and Larochelle try to make the ducks feel at home inside the refuge. Off nearby Toppenish Creek, 170 acres of wheat have been planted and left unsprayed for the waterfowl, and quail and pheasants roam throughout the fields.

## Homes for Woodys

The agents are also going about trying to induce wood ducks, those brilliantly-plumed birds, to stick around. They constructed 40 elevated boxes and placed them along the creek to facilitate nesting for the tree dwellers. Presently, 40 more boxes are being distributed along the creek.

Although the boxes have attracted other birds like screech owls and sparrow hawks, wood ducks have taken to them too. George is hopeful that 20 to 30 wood duck families will take up housekeeping in the boxes this year.

"Guess what else we've got out here this year?" George inquires with his usual enthusiasm. "Got a bittern family — ever seen one of them? I finally found the nest and counted some eggs. Checked the other day and the eggs are gone, so they probably hatched and now we've got bitterns here."

Fenn is a non-hunting game agent, and says he quit the sport seven years ago. "Doesn't seem quite right now," he says. "I've been here for five years and I'm happy enough just doing my job."

## Busy time coming

Fenn's summertime duties of maintenance, fence-building and usual repairs will come to an end in two months. That's when those long, black strings of migrating ducks and geese start heading south.

Toppenish Creek will be filled to capacity then as thousands and thousands of mallards, pintails, widgeon and lesser honkers wing in to the annual stopping-ground.

The hunters will be there, too, clustered around the fenced perimeters, squatting in blinds, waiting for the low-flyers, and calling alluringly.

And, just like always, cruising through the marshes in his pickup, will be George Fenn, doing his job.

CONBOY LAKE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

NARRATIVE REPORT

1971

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

BUREAU OF SPORT FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE

GLENWOOD, WASHINGTON

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CONBOY LAKE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

NARRATIVE REPORT

1971

I. General

A. Weather Conditions. Weather information is obtained from the official weather station at Glenwood, Washington, located two miles north of the refuge.

Precipitation

	<u>Snowfall (in.)</u>	<u>This Month</u>	<u>Normal</u>	<u>Max. Temp</u>	<u>Min. Temp.</u>
January	37.5	7.17	7.01	53	-6
February	8	2.63	3.08	62	2
March	23.25	6.83	3.44	54	-3
April	4	1.38	.96	70	21
May		.49	.38	83	26
June		1.11	.40	86	30
July		.03	.13	99	29
August		.08	.57	101	32
September		1.55	.78	81	23
October	2.5	2.40	2.81	83	11
November	3.5	4.52	4.02	60	12
December	39.4	5.89	5.89	50	9
Total	118.5	34.08	29.47	EXT. 101	-6

The 1970-71 winter brought heavy snows with 136.25 inches falling from November to April. This was more than twice the snowfall of the previous winter.

B. Habitat Conditions.

1. Water. Moderate temperatures and heavy rains the last week in January cleared the lake of ice. Open water prevailed through February followed by another two week period of total freeze-up, starting the second week of March.

Heavy snows produced a good snow pack on Mount Adams which supported heavy run-off and flows from springs late into the summer. Some hay meadows remained flooded into mid-August. Fall flooding however was not appreciable until early December. Low temperatures kept what water was present frozen, resulting in little fall migrant use.

2. Food and Cover. Flooded reed canarygrass pasturelands were available for spring migrant ducks. Canada geese found an abundant supply of emerging grasses on the uplands for spring use. No depre-  
dation complaints were received this year.

Fall migrants fared much poorer. The lake remained dry until mid-  
November and contained very little water when freeze-up came early  
in December. Poor fall conditions made for very light use by migrants.

Aquatics and emergents were abundant in all drains and ditches.  
Waterfowl are totally dependent on these ditches and banks for nest-  
ing and brood habitat. Though there is very good feed and brood cover  
along these ditches, nests are quite vulnerable to predation.  
Permanent marsh with nesting islands is essential to increasing the  
nesting population in the area. We hope to start building managed  
impoundments as soon as land acquisition is completed.

## II. Wildlife

### A. Migratory Birds.

#### 1. Waterfowl

Whistling swans were present throughout February and  
March with a peak population of about 80 present during the last  
two weeks of February. Approximately 20 swans were present for two  
weeks in mid-December. The swans do not seem to be bothered by cold  
weather and are often observed standing on the ice around whatever  
small patches of open water are available.

Lesser Canada geese, returned the last week of January. Warm  
rainy weather prevailed through February and the geese numbered from  
1,500 to 2,000 throughout this period. Freezing temperatures during  
the first three weeks of March resulted in low goose use. April  
populations averaged about 3,000 with most birds leaving the first  
week of May.

The variations in waterfowl use over the past five years as shown on  
the following graphs are due to variations in the availability of  
open water during the spring and fall.

We received one-third-party report of a brood of wild geese but we  
were unable to find trace of it or to contact the person who claimed  
to have seen it. Wild geese have apparently not nested here since the  
1930's.

Captive Goose Flock. The flock of 15 pinioned Great Basin Canada  
Geese was returned to its outdoor enclosure on February 16. The geese  
had spent the winter in the headquarters barn to protect them from  
predators. Four geese in the outdoor pens were lost to predators in  
the fall of 1970. To prevent further predation, a strand of electric  
fencing was added to the top of the pen.

No birds were lost to predators this year but one died from the rupture of an aneurism of an artery near the heart.

Two pairs made attempts at nesting this year: One abandoned the nest after laying only one egg. Another goose incubated three eggs for 29 days before leaving the nest. When the eggs were later examined, two were found to be infertile but the third was developed nearly to the hatching stage.

Much effort was spent during the summer building new goose pens. The new structure consists of five separate breeding pens and one large pen for non-breeders. All pens were built astride a portion of spring-fed ditch that remains open throughout the winter. It is hoped that separating pairs into individual pens will encourage them to stick to business. As this report was being prepared, (April 16, 1972), a captive pair hatched a brood of six in one pen, and a brood of six wild geese hatched near headquarters.

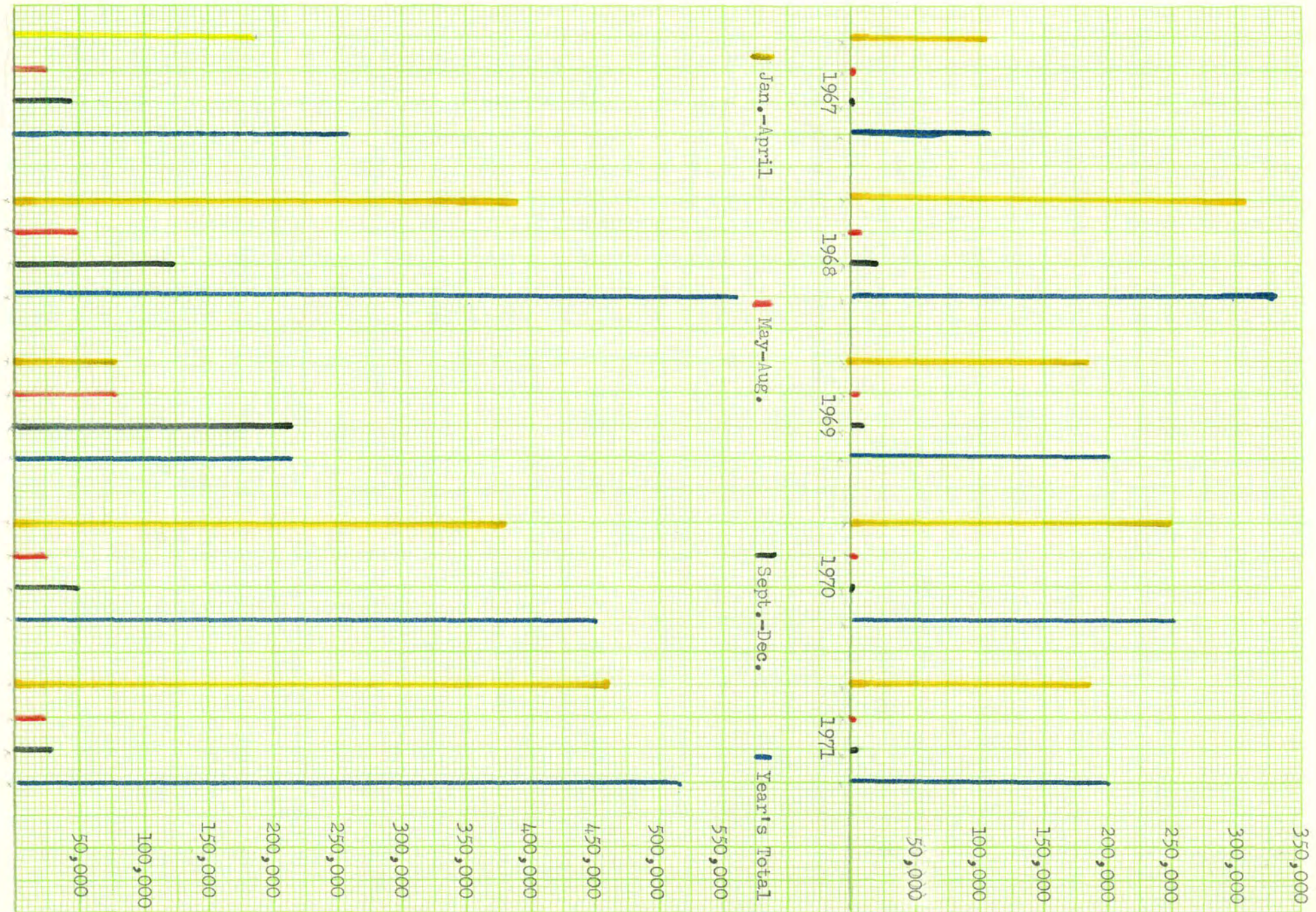
Five groups of Snow geese were observed on one occasion and one white fronted goose was seen. There will probably be some early fall use by these birds when permanent impoundments are established.

Ducks - Spring Migration. Ducks increased overnight with the warm weather during the last week of January and rapidly built to a peak over 13,000 birds in mid-February. Return of freezing conditions in March caused a great drop in population. There was some increase again during April but numbers never went above 3,000 birds.

Production. The only nesting and brood habitat is found along irrigation and drainage ditches. In most cases these ditches afford poor nesting cover but do have a plentiful supply of food and brood cover.

Broods were counted during the first two weeks of July. The count was made by walking all water courses on the refuge. Thirty broods with a total of 91 young were observed. Taking into account the birds that reached flight stage before being censused and the broods on uncensused private land within the approved boundary, we estimate that the area produced 55 broods with at least 175 young maturing to flight stage.

Time and personnel limitations prohibited thorough checking of wood-duck boxes this year. Of five of the 20 boxes checked, two showed signs of successful woodduck use, two had unhatched eggs at the end of the season and one had been used by starlings.



NUMBER OF GOOSE USE DAYS

NUMBER OF DUCK USE DAYS

Fall Migration. The lake remained entirely dry until the end of October and had filled only slightly by the time freeze-up came the first of December. Due to these poor conditions, the fall population never exceeded 1,000 ducks.

Coot. The advent of active management with staffing was heralded by the first brood of coot to be recorded for this area.

2. Other Water and Marsh Birds. Lack of regular water and marsh habitat continues to limit the population of marsh birds. The great blue heron is the only member of this group regularly observed. Pied-billed grebes and Virginia rails are observed occasionally and are known to nest here. Soras and American bitterns are observed on occasion during the summer.

3. Shorebirds, Gulls and Terns. Killdeer and snipe were quite common and nested throughout the refuge. Long-billed dowitchers, Wilson's phalarope, greater yellowlegs, and sandpipers (western and spotted), were observed but never in large numbers. Small groups of black terns, California gulls, and Forster's terns are observed on rare occasions.

4. Doves and Pigeons. Mourning doves were present throughout the spring and summer. They maintained a population of about 500 all summer. The population dropped to a few individuals early in September. They seem to leave the refuge each year just a few days before the opening of dove season. One mixed up dove remained on the refuge well into the winter and often sought shelter in and around the headquarters buildings and made use of the bird feeder at the manager's residence. It was last seen shortly after Christmas.

No band-tailed pigeons were observed on the refuge this year.

B. Upland Game Birds. Ruffed grouse are quite common on the forested parts of the refuge, particularly in the small aspen groves that dot the lake bed. Blue grouse are also seen on occasion. California quail are seen in coveys of 5 to 10. The refuge population is estimated at about 20 birds.

Bands of up to 12 turkeys were observed on the refuge. This use is rather intermittent with the turkeys spending most of their time in the hills surrounding the valley.

C. Big Game Animals. Black-tailed deer were common except during deep snow conditions. Disease is not evident. All does observed with fawns had twins.

On August 7th the tracks of a large black bear were found on the edge of the headquarters area. Bear sign are observed occasionally throughout the wooded parts of the refuge.

Three elk, two cows and one young bull, were observed on several occasions during May and June.

We received two reliable reports of mountain lions seen a few miles east of the refuge. It is likely some of these animals pass through the refuge, but no sign was noted this year.

D. Fur Animals, Predators, Rodents and Other Mammals. The beaver population has increased to the point where their cutting activities are a threat to some of the aspen groves. To assure that the beaver do not overuse their food supply it has become necessary to reduce their numbers. A trapping permit for ten beaver issued in the fall of 1970 continued in effect until March 1971 with five beaver being taken. Two more nuisance beaver were also removed this fall.

Coyotes are frequently seen on the refuge, especially after hay meadows are cut. Local ranchers feel there are too many coyotes but there has been little pressure to control their number. Very little livestock damage is attributed to coyotes in this area.

The refuge has thriving populations of California and golden-mantled ground squirrels, chipmunks and chickarees. Yellow-bellied marmots are present but not numerous. They have now been given game animal status which may help them increase on areas surrounding the refuge. Rabbits are rare on the refuge.

Porcupines are common on the refuge and cause some light damage to timber.

E. Hawks, Eagles, Owls, Crows, Ravens, Magpies and Vultures. Bald eagles are common during the periods when waterfowl concentrations are present. Sparrow hawks are probably our most numerous raptors.

F. Other Birds. We increased the refuge bird list to 103 species by adding two ducks we were sure we had but had never actually observed; the canvas back and the ringneck duck. No pileated woodpeckers were observed this year.

G. Fish. Brook and rainbow trout as well as bullheads are present in irrigation ditches and drains. The main drainage canal turns into a somewhat meandering stream as it leaves the refuge and produces good catches of brook trout. The headquarters ditch also supports a thriving population of brook trout.

H. Reptiles and Amphibians. Populations of bullfrogs (Rana catesbeiana) are building in the area. This is an introduced species though no one is sure of how or when they were introduced. Native redlegged frogs and Pacific tree frogs are common. Garter snakes are numerous and we recorded our first observation of a rubber boa this year. Rattlesnakes have not been recorded in the valley though they are found in surrounding areas.

I. Disease. Nothing to report.

### III. Refuge Development and Maintenance.

#### A. Physical Development

1. Water Facilities. We have not yet developed water control facilities and are entirely dependent on natural flooding to provide habitat. When private land within the proposed refuge boundary is acquired, we will be able to exert control over the water.

The pump for Quarters 11 became non-functional in January and was replaced with the pump that had served Quarters 22 before installation of public water service. Despite the fact that a plumber was contracted to move and install the pump, it promptly burned out due to inadequate wiring. The tenant in Quarters 11 then repaired and re-installed the original pump himself.

Drainage Improvement District Number One (D.I.D.) continued to express interest in relocating the Bird Creek ditch through Tract 35. We were allocated \$4,000.00 of Soil and Moisture Conservation money to aid with the \$18,000.00 project. While we were still in the process of determining who would do what, condemnation procedures were started against several members of the D.I.D.. They promptly lost interest in cooperating with us and cleaned the existing ditch themselves. Plans are now being made for the Bureau of construct the entire ditch.

When refuge acquisition is completed, most of the land affected by the D.I.D. will be Bureau controlled.

2. Roads and Trails. There was insufficient time and manpower to complete construction of the Willard Springs trail but most of the trail was cleared and approximately one quarter of it marked. The trail has a variety of habitat types and Willard Springs exhibits the workings of an active beaver colony. The trail follows well defined cattle trails and an abandoned road. The trail will take very little time and expense to construct but is currently near the bottom of our priority list.

A wider cattle guard was installed at the refuge boundary on the headquarters entrance road. A local resident has been contracted to perform snow removal and grading of the headquarters entrance road using a refuge grader.

A foot bridge was constructed across headquarters ditch near the pumphouse.

3. Fencing and Posting. For added security against predators, one strand of electric fencing was run around the top of the goose enclosure. Additional goose pens were constructed astride headquarters ditch. These provide five small pens for individual breeding pairs and one larger pen for non-breeders. Headquarters ditch provides an ice-free water source throughout the winter.

Permittees and refuge staff rebuilt  $3/4$  mile of washed out fence on the lake road and  $1/2$  mile of boundary fence on Tract 23. Refuge staff also rebuilt  $1/4$  mile of boundary fence on a portion of Tract 14, that is not under permit. All other fence maintenance was performed by grazing and haying permittees.

Land exchanges and acquisition eliminated some private in-holdings and allowed removal of  $3/4$  miles of boundary posting and addition of  $3/4$  mile of boundary posting. The public hunting area was posted as required.

4. Buildings and Structures. Three goose nesting platforms were constructed in the goose enclosure and three more along Headquarters Ditch. Two platforms in the enclosure were used but none of those along the ditch.

Aluminum combination screen and storm windows were purchased and installed on most of the windows in Quarters 4 (headquarters). A total of 20 windows were purchased, three of them large picture windows. Needless to say, the windows greatly reduced heat loss.

The kitchen and master bedroom of Quarters 4 were painted, but while Asst. Manager and Mrs. Benvenuti were gone for the law enforcement workshop, the basement sump-pump stuck, causing the basement to fill with about one foot of water. The furnace picked up this water and pumped saturated air throughout the house. A heavy amount of condensation on the bedroom ceiling caused the nail heads to rust and bleed through the paint. The walls were also stained by condensation.

In December the Quarters 4 water heater stopped functioning. Investigation revealed that the 20 amp fuse used had blown but not before the wiring between the thermostats and heating elements burned up. The service man who replaced one heating element and rewired the thermostats advised us that the house wiring is inadequate. Total rewiring of Quarters 4 is scheduled for FY 74.

Demolition of surplus buildings sold in the fall of 1970 continued into this year. No building sales were made this year but 20 buildings are planned to be put up for sale and bids early in 1972.

Several loads of assorted trash and junk were hauled to the Glenwood dump before it was closed by the Washington State Public Health Department. It is now nearly 30 miles to the nearest sanitary land fill. We have contracted collection which picks up 3 cans twice a month for \$5.00 per month. This is much cheaper than hauling it ourselves.

B. Plantings. None

C. Collections and Receipts. None

D. Control of Vegetation. No chemical control was undertaken. Weeds and grasses around the headquarters area were mowed regularly.

E. Planned Burning. None

F. Fires. None

#### IV. Resource Management

A. Grazing. Grazing was permitted from May 11, to November 30, on approximately 4,000 acres. Grazing by 11 permittees utilized 3,866 AUM's at \$2.50 per AUM for a return of \$9,669.00.

B. Haying. Most hay meadows remained flooded well into August. This resulted not only in shorter hay but also in hay of reduced quality. The crop averaged 395 tons per acre compared to 1.1 tons per acre in 1970. Six permittees harvested 395 tons at \$5.00 per ton for a revenue of \$1,973.40

C. Fur Harvest. The trapping permit for 10 beaver issued in 1970 continued in force into 1971, with five beaver taken in addition to the one taken in 1970. The trapper is allowed to keep all of this catch. Two nuisance beaver were removed by game department personnel this fall.

D. Timber Removal. No logging operations were conducted this year. Two timber reservations expired this year leaving a mess of slash and butchered trees. The former owners are responsible for clean-up but no action has been taken so far. It is hoped that such timber reservations will not be allowed in future land negotiations.

E. Commercial Fishing. None

F. Other Uses. Two residences, intended for use by future personnel, were rented to private individuals and are listed in the summary below. The revenue for Q-35 is shown as a total year's rent even though 1971 ended with the tenant owing us \$400.75. The matter was turned over to the Justice Department in the fall.

### Summary of Revenue Collected

Grazing	<u>3,866</u>	AUM's @ \$2.50 per AUM	\$ 9,669.00
Haying	<u>395</u>	tons at \$5.00 per ton	\$ 1,973.40
Quarters Rental:			
Q-11	12 months @ \$50.00 per month		\$ 600.00
Q-35	12 months @ \$48.50 per month		\$ 572.00
TOTAL REVENUE			\$ 12,814.40

### V. Field Investigations or Applied Research

Three ecological monitoring programs were started this year.

1. The breeding bird survey, route 025, was run on June 17. 402 individuals of 43 species were observed.
2. The Western States Phenological Survey maintains records of lilac morphology. Our first bloom was recorded on May 21.
3. Instructions for the Cornell University Nest Survey arrived too late to be used this year. This is rather a time consuming project and our participation will be minimal until we have a larger staff.

### VI. Public Relations

A. Recreational Use. This year's 455 actual visits total is slightly more than 1970's 418 total visits, and indicates an increase in interest. In 1970, 289 of the visits were gained on the Klickitat County Schools' Conservation Day which conducted part of its activities on the refuge. In 1971 this Conservation Day was replaced by a week long encampment near Randle, Washington. The actual visits shown here represent only the visitors we actually see and do not include the casual sightseers that pass through the area.

Due to the time required to complete refuge objectives setting and program scheduling, no on or off refuge groups programs were scheduled after July 1.

Fishing. In mid-summer we received Regional Office approval to proceed with the experimental opening of a Childrens Fishing Area along Headquarters Ditch. The opening was publicized only by word of mouth. The area received 47 visits during the remainder of the summer. Headquarters Ditch is easy and relatively safe for youngsters to fish. It contains a thriving population of brook trout with good reproduction. The ditch has very good feed and the average size fish caught is about 10 inches.

This experimental opening presented no problems and the area will be officially established by the 1972 fishing plan. The juveniles had such success that a 4 fish limit will be established. Most youngsters can reach this number in under two hours.

B. Refuge Visitors. The following are some of the people who visited the refuge on official business.

Richard Thompson, Wildlife Agent, Washington State Department of Game, Goldendale, Washington, (frequent visits).

Michael Christian, Wildlife Agent, Washington State Department of Game, White Salmon, Washington, (frequent visits).

Myron Haekins, Wildlife Agent, Washington State Department of Game, White Salmon, Washington, (replaced Michael Christian in September, 1971, frequent visits).

Ellis Klett, Portland Regional Office, (orientation tour and inspection of grazing lands).

Donald Doughton, Realty Specialist, Portland Regional Office, (land acquisition).

Marshall C. Dillion, U.S. Game Management Agent, Vancouver, Washington, (enforcement patrol).

Gene Witham, Regional Wildlife Agent, Vancouver, Washington, (enforcement patrol).

Harold O. Lowe, Appraiser, Prosser, Washington, (appraisal of lands to be condemned).

Ed McKlarney, Skamania County Pioneer, Stevenson, Washington, (photograph wildlife for paper).

Chuck Downing, Surveying Technician, Portland Regional Office, (survey Ladiges trade).

Sargeant Richard Williams, Klickitat County Sheriff's Office, (frequent visits).

Allen Springer, District Conservationist, SCS, White Salmon, Washington, (proposed alteration of Bird Creek).

C. Refuge Participation, Unless otherwise noted, the programs listed below were conducted by Assistant Manager Benvenuti. No refuge tours or programs were scheduled after July 1.

April 8 - Assisted State Wildlife Agent Thompson with goose nest survey on Columbia River.

April 10 - Gave 4-mile guided walk to Willard Springs for ten members of the Oregon Trail Club.

April 23 - Guided 24 fifth graders over the Willard Springs Trail (assisted by State Wildlife Agent Thompson).

April 27 - Gave slide program on refuge goals and operations to White Salmon Lions Club.

May 2 - Gave refuge tour to Ed McKlarney, Skamania County Pioneer wildlife photographer.

May 11 - Assisted State Wildlife Agents with wildlife programs at Brooks Memorial Park for approximately 60 fifth graders.

May 11 - Assisted State Wildlife Agent Thompson with goose nest survey on Columbia River.

May 18 - Presented program on resident wildlife to 60 fifth graders at Brooks Memorial Park.

May 19 - Twenty Trout Lake first graders with 7 adults were given a guided tour of goose pen and the Willard Springs beaver colony.

June 10 - Assisted State and Federal Wildlife Agents in goose banding on Bonneville pool.

June 13 - Guided 20 members of Yakima Audubon Club along Willard Springs Trail.

June 14 - Gave tour of goose pen and the Willard Springs beaver colony to twenty Glenwood pre-schoolers and 4 adults from Vacation Bible School.

July 20 - Assisted State Wildlife Agent with fish plants.

October 9 - Assisted in local Hunter Safety Course for approximately 30 youngsters.

D. Hunting. This year 1,730 acres were open to waterfowl, upland game and big game hunting. Since there was very little flooding before freeze-up, there was very little waterfowl hunting. Seventeen waterfowl and five deer hunters were recorded. That is 21 more hunters than were recorded in 1970. Success was generally poor in 1971. The 1971-72 waterfowl season ended with one week of warm weather that brought large concentrations of Canada geese. Several limits and near limits were checked.

E. Violations. One violation for hunting without a Duck Stamp was processed and a \$25.00 fine levied.

Reciprocal cooperation exists between the Klickitat County Sheriff's Department, State F&G Department, and the refuge on an informal basis.

The large number of unoccupied buildings scattered over a large area have received extensive attention from thieves and vandals despite the law enforcement cooperation mentioned above. The opportunity will be greatly reduced when some twenty buildings are disposed of through sale in early 1972.

F. Safety. All SAFETY meetings held at Toppenish NWR were attended by Asst. Manager Benvenuti.

This station's SAFETY record stands at 1,527 days without a lost time accident. There is no previous record.

#### VII. Items of Interest

A. Personnel. Theodore Jezeski was employed as a temporary laborer from June 1 to August 27.

Asst. Manager Benvenuti completed a law enforcement workshop presented by the Division of Management and Enforcement. He also completed a three credit course in environmental education presented by Central Washington State College and participated in two refuge system workshops.

B. Land Acquisitions. Negotiated sales of 159.94 acres since last year brought the total to 5,599.1 acres within an approved boundary encompassing 10,246 acres. Condemnation of 1,216.83 acres took place in August and though title is held by the United States, management responsibility has not been transferred to the Bureau pending payment negotiations attempting to effect an out of court settlement.

Several telephoned threats have been received against the Asst. Manager and may be related to the condemnation. The County Sheriff's Department, M&E and the FBI are investigating.

Credits:

Text and Photos - Benvenuti  
Typing - Gadley

The pen for the captive flock was improved by the addition  
of a strand of electric fencing and three over-the-water  
nest platforms.

#### PICTURES

One of the captive geese incubated three eggs for 29 days  
then abandoned. No other production took place.

The pen for the captive flock was improved by the addition of a strand of electric fencing and three over-the-water nest platforms.

REPORT

One of the captive geese incubated three eggs for 29 days then abandoned. No other production took place.





When the eggs were late opened they revealed one developed and two undeveloped eggs. Disposal of the eggs as this one contained during the year. Some 20-30 more will be disposed of next year.

mother sporulated vessel and two youngsters resided under the headwaters north for nearly a week. They may have been seen under there as a vessel had been seen on several occasions earlier in the year.

Spring migrating Canada geese utilizing grassy upland surrounding the lake bed. It was so well received that it will be included in the 1972 fishing plan. out one permit trapper. Beaver had not been trapped since establishment of the refuge and were rapidly depleting their food sources. Beaver work days a large part in our interpretive programs.

When the area were late opened they revealed  
Mother shorttailed weasel and two  
youngsters resided under the  
headquarters porch for nearly a  
week. They may have been born  
under there as a weasel had been  
seen on several occasions earlier  
in the year.

Disposal of surplus buildings such  
as this one continued during the  
year. Some 20-30 more will be dis-  
posed of next year.

Seven beaver were removed by  
our one permit trapper. Beaver  
had not been trapped since  
establishment of the refuge and  
were rapidly depleting their  
food sources. Beaver work plays  
a large part in our interpretive  
programs.

In August the headquarters ditch  
was opened for juvenile fishing.  
It was so well received that it  
will be included in the 1972  
fishing plan.



# FISHING and HUNTING NEWS

25¢

EASTERN WASHINGTON

March 11, 1972

## Wasted Money

DEAR EDITOR:

I read in the paper the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is going to raise duck stamps to \$5 so they can acquire more land in refuges.

Fish and Wildlife Service is establishing the Conboy Lake Refuge here in Glenwood Valley.

I have lived in the Glenwood Valley for 35 years. We used to have good duck and goose hunting. Since they started the refuge, hunting has decreased by the amount of land they bought. Now they are condemning land owned by people who don't want to sell.

Last year there wasn't one duck killed on the refuge portion open. The refuge is absolutely useless in this location. It is just a stopover in their migration.

This letter is to let sportsmen know how their money is wasted on this particular refuge.

Wilbur Yeackel  
Glenwood, Wash.



FISH  
HUNTING

## Conboy Refuge 'Lousy'

Dear Sir:

Some time ago I read an article in your paper, written by Wilbur Yeackel of Glenwood, Wa., in which he described to what extent the Conboy Wildlife Refuge, which is situated in what used to be known as Camas Prairie, has been the site of great deterioration of duck hunting in that part of the country.

I am convinced that Mr. Yeackel knows exactly what he is talking about in his article.

A few weeks later you printed in your paper an article written by someone who tried very much to belittle what Mr. Yeackel had written and justify what the refuge has done.

I happen to have been a resident of Glenwood for a good many years, owned property there, and operated a business there at one time, so kinda know what I am talking about. Luckily I was able to sell out my last interest in that place last summer, and am very glad to get out from under the exorbitant special levy taxes that the residents there must impose on themselves in order to keep their grade and high school in existence.

Robert I. Parrott  
North Bonneville, Wa.



## Wildlife Damage Control members shut out hunters

At a special meeting of the Klickitat County Farmers Wildlife Damage Control Association held September 25 in Goldendale final action was taken to close all Association members' lands to hunting and fishing.

"This action was brought about by the Bureau of Sports Fisheries and Wildlife's condemnation of private land for addition to the Conboy Lake Waterfowl Refuge, after the Bureau's representative previously declared they would not use condemnation to acquire land but that

landowners would have free choice whether or not they wished to sell," explained Francis J. Anderson, Association president.

"Material from B-114841 U. S. General Accounting Office was read at the meeting and the Association concluded from this report that property owners within the confines of the Conboy Refuge are losing land and homes simply because money is available for purchase of more land. Information printed shows this refuge as having the lowest priority of 86 refuge sites and of dubious importance for waterfowl," he added.

"The condemnation of homes and lands is a serious matter due to the hardships caused to the owners and the loss of these farms in the community.

"The Association feels a deed to property should be more meaningful and should protect the owner, unless the need is unquestionable. The Association hopes that by its action in closing lands to all hunting and fishing its members representing the feelings of all property owners, particularly after their organization was assured that condemnation would not be used," Anderson concluded.

# Editorial/Opinion

## Letter to the editor

Dear Editor:

In your Nov. 13, 1971 issue, you have an article under MONEY-WASTED by Mr. Wilbur Yeachel of Glenwood, WA reference Conboy National Wildlife Refuge, which has been a thorn to Mr. Yeachel. We still need refuges.

On page 5 of your Feb. 27, 1965 issue, you will find my answers to his article under letters to the editor, as conditions today have changed very little since that time and we still are in need of waterfowl refuges in our state and especially in the western part.

Yours for MORE WATERFOWL,  
Ferd Nist, Chairman  
Migratory Waterfowl Committee  
Wash. State Sportsmen's Council

..Editor's Note: In 1965, Mr. Nist cited decline of waterfowl numbers and resulting decline in hunting seasons and bag limits in support of establishing more wildlife refuges. He further stated:

During the past years, millions of acres of resting, breeding and hunting grounds were destroyed, causing our waterfowl to decline very fast, due to reduction of their feeding and breeding grounds.

If this loss of wetlands is not stopped, and replaced, it will be only a few years before hunting will be lost.

As to the land being considered for the Cowboy National Wildlife Refuge, 35 years ago this was one of the best marshlands for resting and nesting of waterfowl and for bearing animals in our state. It is time that our government use the monies paid for waterfowl stamps to replace same for future generations.

# The Conboy Lake Refuge - Some People Fail To Like What Has Happened

By Herman Kuhnhausen

THE CONBOY LAKE NATIONAL WILD LIFE REFUGE  
 As Established by Washington State Department of Game February 3, 1964

To understand this project, we must know a little of the history of the Glenwood or Camas Prairie Territory. It was used in the late 1860's by some white men on a seasonal basis for use of grazing dairy and beef stock. The first permanent residence was established in 1871. From then on, the territory was quickly settled by our early pioneers who found this area well suited to make a living as there was grass and hay in abundance to feed their stock without having to clear an acre of ground. From that time on, this valley grew and prospered. In 1909 it became necessary to drain the body of water that the meadows surrounded so that more hay and pasture could provide for the large herds of livestock that were now produced here. It is very doubtful that there is any place in the state of Washington that can produce beef at as low a cost as the Conboy Meadows and beef is badly needed in this state as it only produces about 60% of its need.

Now I believe we should consider our Country grew to be the greatest nation of the world on the principle of individual property rights, private ownership, and enterprise. Private citizens having the right to buy or sell as long as both parties willing, buyer or seller.

Everything was quite well in our valley until 1963 when a real estate speculator experienced in dealing with the Washington Department of Game bought one of the larger livestock farms here. Through secret meetings with game officials and sport groups, they created the Conboy Refuge. This was approved by the game department February 3, 1964 without a notice to the land owners so they could defend their rights. This approval especially specified that the government only buy land from willing sellers and not use condemnation, they bought about half of the land in the refuge

boundary. How honest was it for the Government men to threat condemnation when the state approval was given on the condition of no condemnation. Such a thing might be expected in a communistic country but not here.

Now, after 8 years, what has the Conboy Refuge accomplished? It has robbed our school of many tax dollars so to keep a good school in Glenwood, it has burdened the remaining farms to an increase of taxes from \$200.00 to \$500.00 a year. They say that they pay in lieu of tax. They have been making a token payment as they please or feel like. There is no consideration of the personal property and livestock they have misplaced or the dollars that come into Glenwood from products produced in the meadows such as livestock and hay which helped our business and labor and used to pay sales and business tax here. They are not obligated to pay anything and probably stop as soon as they have full control. On taxes, we may consider the fact that the sale of duck stamps nets the government 5 million dollars and the cost of operating the refuge system is 30 million dollars. That leaves 25 million to be paid by the tax payers. So in reality, we are paying and receiving nothing.

Now with one tax angle explained, we will go to another phase of tax. The Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife don't only burden the tax payer but they directly go into competition with tax payers. This is done by them selling hay and leasing different plots for grazing. They have driven the original owners and tax payers off of the ground and now lease pasture to distant operators who do not pay any tax to support our school or other public service and taxes on this stock is paid in distant places. So now our community isn't only robbed of tax dollars but it has given the people who pay taxes a nonpaying tax competitor. Is it fair or honest for our government to go in direct competition to our remaining farmers?

In regard to producing ducks and geese all we can say is that the ducks and geese have great-

ly diminished since this land has been in government control. The reason is plain and simple. Formerly, most all of this ground was hayed and the few birds that nested here were not disturbed until their young were on their own now with stock grazing and disturbing the nesting area. They just don't nest here. So the Conboy Wildlife Refuge can only be considered a complete failure as reported by the Comptroller General in September 1968. Rating the Conboy Lake Refuge the lowest of 85, you wonder - Is it worth destroying even one livestock farm for? Also the Comptroller tells us that they have also purchased 41% more land than is required.

There was about 135 birds hatched here with eggs gathered from the John Day Dam area but for some mysterious reason many of these birds had defects so they could not fly and the coyotes and skunks were having duck and geese dinners with the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife furnishing the geese. Most all of these birds have disappeared as they had no way to fly and protect themselves.

The benefit to our community is plainly visible to the public as they drive the Glenwood-White Salmon road; a number of homes and barns have been totally destroyed and others go to ruin. A good example is on the C Dymond farms where on one side of the road was a good farm home and on the other a small apartment and a large barn. All are going to ruin and being made into a total waste. If such things are good for our country, we have been helped right out of the back door. This is only one example among many.

Through the threat of condemnation, they purchased about 60% of the ground they now have. By such unethical practices, they took advantage of older people and a crippled Indian woman by buying their land from 90 to 110 dollars an acre and paying others approximately as much as \$500.00 an acre. Is this honest or just?

The Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife accepted the approval of the Washington Ga-

condition that ground only be bought from willing sellers and no condemnation be used. Now they have threatened condemnation through their dealings and now are using it. How many contracts can this bureau break and ignore? Where has honesty gone?

Every place I have gone where Sport Fisheries and Wildlife operate, I have seen nothing but destruction - destroying what man has created for the good of man and making a waste of it.

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