

Noxubee Annual Report Page 7
June 30, 1940

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Glenn Building
Atlanta, Georgia

July 19, 1940

Director,
Fish and Wildlife Service
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

We are forwarding herewith the original copy of Annual Reports covering the fiscal year ending June 30, 1940, for the South Carolina Sandhills Wildlife Refuge, Noxubee Wildlife Refuge, and Pea Island Refuge, as prepared by Refuge Managers Hopkins, Lamb and Walker, respectively.

Due to the volume of work and the confusion of office changes, we have not had an opportunity to study the reports other than reading through them. At the first opportunity, we shall go over the duplicate copies retained in this office and forward any comments which we find necessary or desirable at that time.

Very truly yours

Arthur F. Miller
Refuge Inspector

AFM: PMS
Enclosures

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

BUREAU OF BIOLOGICAL SURVEY

Noxubee Wildlife Refuge
Route 1, Starkville, Mississippi

July 10, 1940

IN REPLY REFER TO

Noxubee
Reports, Annual

The Regional Director
Glenn Building,
Atlanta, Georgia

Dear Mr. Silver,

Reference is made to Mr. A.C. Elmer's
Circular Letter of May 14, 1940 and your telegram of
July 8, 1940 regarding the submission of an annual
report.

Please find our report enclosed herewith.
In preparing our bird list we have not attempted to
do more than give a list of all birds recorded for
this refuge. We will eventually prepare a much more
comprehensive list as Mr. Thomas Burleigh completes his
project of observations on this area.

The balance of the material is a condensation of
our quarterly reports, brought up to date.

Yours very truly,

Samuel H. Lamb
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Refuge Manager

THE INTERIOR

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF ██████████
BUREAU OF BIOLOGICAL SURVEY

Noxubee Wildlife Refuge
Route 1, Starkville, Mississippi

July 10, 1940

Noxubee
Reports, Annual

The Regional Director
Glenn Building,
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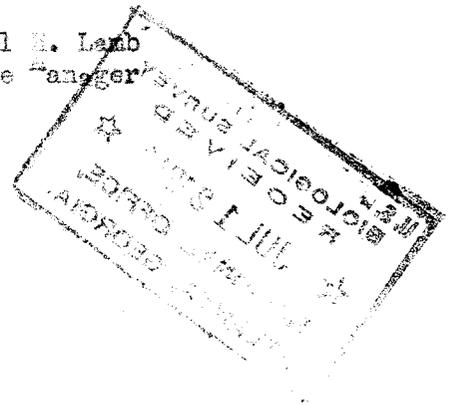
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Samuel E. Lamb
Refuge Manager



THE INTERIOR

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF ██████████
BUREAU OF BIOLOGICAL SURVEY

Noxubee Wildlife Refuge
Route 1, Starkville, Mississippi
July 8, 1940

ANNUAL REPORT
1940
NOXUBEE WILDLIFE REFUGE

I. WILDLIFE

(a) List of Birds and Animals

There follows a list of the recorded observations of birds and mammals for the Noxubee Wildlife Refuge. Major credit for the bird list should go to Mr. Thomas D. Burleigh who listed 70 species of breeding birds on the refuge in June 1940. Other contributors include Fred Zimmerman, Ralph Schmidt, Dr. Clarence Cottam, Thomas Z. Atkeson, and Samuel H. Lamb.

Pied-billed Grebe	<i>Dodilyabus P. podiceps</i>
Double-crested Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax a. auritus</i>
Water turkey	<i>Anhinga anhinga</i>
Great Blue Heron	<i>Ardea h. herodias</i>
American Egret	<i>Casmerodius albus egretta</i>
Little Blue Heron	<i>Florida c. caerulea</i>
E. Green Heron	<i>Butorides virescens virescens</i>
Yellow-Crowned Night Heron	<i>Myctanassa v. violacea</i>
American Bittern	<i>Botaurus lentiginosus</i>
E. Least Bittern	<i>Ixobrychus e. exilis</i>

Blue Goose	<i>Chen caerulescens</i>
Mallard	<i>Anas p. platyrhynchos</i>
American Pintail	<i>Dafla acuta tzitzihca</i>
Green-winged Teal	<i>Nettion carolinense</i>
Blue-winged Teal	<i>Querquedula discors</i>
Shoveller	<i>Spatula clypeata</i>
Wood duck	<i>Aix sponsa</i>
Ring-necked Duck	<i>Nyroca collaris</i>
Lesser Scaup Duck	<i>Nyroca affinis</i>
American Golden-eye	<i>Glaucionetta clangula americana</i>
Bufflehead	<i>Charitonetta albeola</i>
Ruddy Duck	<i>Erismatura jamaicensis rubida</i>
Hooded Merganser	<i>Lophodytes cucullatus</i>
Turkey Vulture	<i>Cathartes aura septentrionalis</i>
Black Vulture	<i>Coragyps atratus atratus</i>
Red-tailed Hawk	<i>Buteo b. borealis</i>
Red-shouldered Hawk	<i>Buteo l. lineatus</i>
Fla. Red-shouldered Hawk	<i>Buteo lineatus alleni</i>
Broad-winged Hawk	<i>Buteo p. platyperus</i>
Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus carolinensis</i>
Bob-white	<i>Colinus v. virginianus</i>
E. Wild Turkey	<i>Meleagris gallopavo silvestris</i>
American Coot	<i>Fulica a. americana</i>
Spotted Sandpiper	<i>Arctitis macularia</i>
Mourning Dove	<i>Zenaidura macroura carolinensis</i>
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	<i>Coccyzus a. americanus</i>

Northern Barred Owl	<i>Strix varia varia</i>
Florida Barred Owl	<i>Strix varia alleni</i>
Chuck-will's-widow	<i>Antrostomus carolinensis</i>
E. Nighthawk	<i>Chordeiles minor</i>
Chimney Swift	<i>Chaetura pelagica</i>
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	<i>Archilochus colubris</i>
Belted Kingfisher	<i>Megasceryle a. alcyon</i>
Flicker	<i>Colaptes auratus</i>
Pileated Woodpecker	<i>Ceophloeus p. pileatus</i>
Red-bellied Woodpecker	<i>Centurus carolinus</i>
Red-headed Woodpecker	<i>Melanerpes erythrocephalus</i>
S. Hairy Woodpecker	<i>Dryobates villosus auduboni</i>
S. Downy Woodpecker	<i>Dryobates p. pubescens</i>
Red-cockaded Woodpecker	<i>Dryobates borealis</i>
Kingbird	<i>Tyrannus tyrannus</i>
Crested Flycatcher	<i>Myiarchus crinitus boreus</i>
Phoebe	<i>Sayornis phoebe</i>
Acadian Flycatcher	<i>Empidonax virens</i>
Wood Pewee	<i>Myiochanes virens</i>
Tree Swallow	<i>Iridoprocne bicolor</i>
Bank Swallow	<i>Riparia r. riparia</i>
Rough-winged Swallow	<i>Stelgidopteryx ruficollis serripenni</i>
Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo erythrogaster</i>
Purple Martin	<i>Progne s. subis</i>
Blue Jay	<i>Cyanocitta cristata florincola</i>

Southern Crow	<i>Corvus brachyrhynchos paulus</i>
Carolina Chickadee	<i>Penthestes c. carolinensis</i>
Tufted Titmouse	<i>Baeolophus bicolor</i>
White-breasted Nuthatch	<i>Sitta carolinensis</i>
Brown-headed Nuthatch	<i>Sitta pusilla pusilla</i>
Brown Creeper	<i>Certhia familiaris</i>
Bewick's Wren	<i>Thryomanes b. bewicki</i>
Carolina Wren	<i>Thryothorus ludovicianus</i>
Mockingbird	<i>Mimus polyglottos polyglottos</i>
Brown Thrasher	<i>Toxostoma r. rufum</i>
Wood Thrush	<i>Hylocichla ustelina</i>
Bluebird	<i>Sialia sialis sialis</i>
Blue-grey Gnatcatcher	<i>Polioptila a. caerulea</i>
Loggerhead Shrike	<i>Lanius ludovicianus</i>
White-eyed Vireo	<i>Vireo griseus</i>
Yellow-throated Vireo	<i>Vireo flavifrons</i>
Red-eyed Vireo	<i>Vireo olivaceus</i>
Black and White Warbler	<i>Mniotilta varia</i>
Prothonotary Warbler	<i>Protonotaria citrea</i>
Swainson's Warbler	<i>Limnethlypis swainsoni</i>
Parula Warbler	<i>Compothlypis americana</i>
Myrtle Warbler	<i>Dendroica striata</i>
Cerulean Warbler	<i>Dendroica cerulea</i>
Yellow throated Warbler	<i>Dendroica dominica</i>
Black -poll Warbler	<i>Dendroica striata</i>
Pine Warbler	<i>Dendroica p. pinus</i>
Prairie Warbler	<i>Dendroica d. discolor</i>

Louisiana Water Thrush	<i>Seiurus motacella</i>
Kentucky Warbler	<i>Oporornis formosus</i>
Yellowthroat	<i>Geothlypis trichas</i>
Yellow-breasted Chat	<i>Icteria v. virens</i>
Hooded Warbler	<i>Wilsonia citrina</i>
Redstart	<i>Setophaga r. ruticilla</i>
English Sparrow	<i>Passer d. domesticus</i>
Meadowlark	<i>Sturnella magna argutula</i>
Red-Wing Blackbird	<i>Agelaius phoeniceus</i>
Orchard Oriole	<i>Icterus spurius</i>
Rusty Blackbird	<i>Euphagus carolinus</i>
Grackle	<i>Quiscalus quiscula</i>
Scarlet Tanager	<i>Piranga erythromelas</i>
Summer Tanager	<i>Piranga rubra rubra</i>
Cardinal	<i>Richmondia c. cardinalis</i>
Blue Grosbeak	<i>Guiraca c. caerulea</i>
Indigo Bunting	<i>Passerina cyanea</i>
Goldfinch	<i>Spinus t. tristis</i>
Towhee	<i>Pipilo erythrophthalmus</i>
Bachman's Sparrow	<i>Aimophila aestivalis</i>
Slate colored Junco	<i>Junco hyemalis</i>
Chipping Sparrow	<i>Spizella p. passerina</i>
Field Sparrow	<i>Spizella p. pusilla</i>
Swamp Sparrow	<i>Melospiza georgiana</i>
Song Sparrow	<i>Melospiza melodia</i>

Total of 113 species of which 70 are breeding species.

Mammals

O'possum	Seen on roads at night
Raccoon	Tracks seen
Mink	Reported present
Skunk (Spotted)	Seen along abandoned road
Gray Fox	Seen crossing road
Bob cat	1 reported killed.
Fox Squirrel	Quite plentiful
Grey Squirrel	More plentiful than Fox Squirrel
Flying Squirrel	Seen adjacent to refuge
Beaver	1 pair planted. May not be on refuge proper
Muskrat	Seen on Bluff Lake levee July, 1940
Swamp Rabbit	Fairly common
Cottontail Rabbit	Fairly Common

No special study has been made of the rats, mice and moles although some species are quite common.

(b) Concentrations and other observations

A local observer reported a peak concentration of waterfowl on Bluff Lake October 23, 1940. There were perhaps 500 ducks on Bluff Lake again in January and again at the last of February. A flock of 500 cormorants stayed on Bluff Lake several days the last of April. Local observers believe that the use of Bluff Lake by waterfowl showed increase this year over last.

II Water Conditions

Bluff Lake, with an area of 900 acres, is the only large impoundment on the refuge area. Due to a comparatively dry autumn and winter season the water level has been low except for a period in late January and February when the water was high following the melting of 15 inches of snow that fell January 22 and 23, 1940.

III Development and Administration

(a) Summary of work done by the Soil Conservation Service

WPA work project on the refuge area includes:

1. Bluff Lake Spillway, damaged in the spring of 1939, was repaired.
2. The main highway system was repaired and maintained.
3. An additional circuit was added to the telephone line system to give the fire towers an independent circuit.
4. Construction of 25 miles of primary fire breaks was completed.
5. An entrance road to the refuge headquarters was completed as well as the construction of a cattle guard and entrance gate.
6. A project of landscaping, cleanup, and walk laying at the headquarters was completed.
7. A project of roadside cleanup and removal of construction debris over the area was consummated.
8. A watersystem was installed at the refuge headquarters.

9. One hundred buildings, declared worthless, were demolished, any usable material salvaged, and the scrap burned.
10. Subsistence farm units were established at the fire towers. This work included construction of hog house, chicken house, and smoke house and the fencing of chicken yard, garden and pasture and field areas.
11. A total of 71 forest fires that burned a gross total of 3724.75 acres of land within the refuge boundaries were suppressed. A total of 7.76 % of the gross area of the refuge was burned over.
12. A project of planting 380.5 acres to forest trees and 33,300 game food plants was completed as enumerated under (b) below.

(b) Quantities of trees, shrubs and aquatic planting.

1. Forest trees

380.5 acres of abandoned fields were planted to forest trees. Planting was done with planting iron on 6' by 6' spacing. A total of 269,030 Loblolly Pine 1 year old seedlings and 128,980 1 year old White Ash seedlings were used, with a compliment of wildlife food shrubs intermixed where available.

2. Wildlife Food Planting

A total of 28 acres of 3 and 6 row strips were planted on an area of approximately 250 acres of open abandoned fields. Species used and quantities were as follows:

Beauty berry, <u>Callicarpa americana</u>	4,500
Elderberry, <u>Sambucus canadensis</u>	4,000
Bush Hackberry, <u>Celtis georgiana</u>	2,000
Tree Hackberry, <u>Celtis mississippiensis</u>	1,000
Black Locust, <u>Robinia pseudoacacia</u>	7,000
Privet, <u>Ligustrum vulgare</u>	2,200
<u>Lespedeza bicolor</u>	9,000
Osage orange, <u>Toxylon pomifera</u>	1,100
Dogwood, <u>Cornus florida</u>	5,000

3. Lake shore and Aquatic Planting

(a) Pennsylvania Smartweed

300 pounds of seed were broadcast on 11.83 acres along the margins of Bluff Lake.

(b) Sago Pond Weed

Approximately 200 pounds of seed were broadcast in the more favorable water areas of Bluff Lake.

(c) Spike rush

An experimental plot 6' by 25' was planted on the shore of Bluff Lake.

(d) Waterlily, Castalia odorata

Approximately 130 roots of waterlily were planted in Bluff Lake and near by abandoned stock watering ponds.

(e) Brasenia shreberi , Watershield

Approximately 600 pounds of watershield was planted in Bluff Lake and nearby abandoned ponds.

(f) Potamogeton diversifolius

Approximately 300 pounds of P. diversifolius was gathered in Patterson Lake and planted in Bluff Lake.

(d) Law Enforcement

Pending the signing of the Executive Order establishing this refuge the area has been a state game refuge. Law enforcement work of the refuge personnel has been confined to cooperation with the state game wardens.

IV Public Relations

(a) Recreational Use

1. Fishing

Bluff Lake was opened to fishing on May 1, 1940 under the auspices of the Mississippi State College. Fishing has been very popular with an average of about 325 people per day from May 1-10

100 people per day from May 11-31, and 40 to 80 people per day during June. The catch has been good, largely Blue Gill Sun Fish, with other species of sun fish, Bass, Grinnel and Cat Fish in lesser numbers.

Picnicing has been popular in connection with the fishing. Boating has been confined largely to the needs of the fishermen.

(b) Economic Uses

No program of economic uses has been put in operation on this refuge. A program of subsistence farming is contemplated.

(c) Public Relations Activities

Due to the uncertain conditions surrounding final establishment of this refuge little public relations work has been done. Articles were published in 2 local newspapers during Wildlife Week and one speech has been made before the Starkville Rotary Club. Incidental contacts have been made with the fishermen and local farmers.

Noxubee Wildlife Refuge

July 8, 1940

Refuge Manager