

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
BUREAU OF BIOLOGICAL SURVEY

DIVISION OF GAME MANAGEMENT
PREDATORY ANIMAL AND RODENT CONTROL

IN COOPERATION WITH THE
OREGON STATE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
OREGON STATE AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE EXTENSION SERVICE

IN REPLY REFER TO

401 UNITED STATES COURTHOUSE
PORTLAND, OREGON

Frenchglen, Ore.
Aug 16, 1935

Dear Bill:-

Inclosed rough draft of proposed raids
talk for friend Kaddick, Please copy
and send me one copy to Burns when you
get time.

Its up to you to give this as I'll be
here in the swamp I feel sure.

Sincerely

Genett.



The Great Malheur Lake-Blitzen Valley Migratory Waterfowl Refuge.

Part of national program for restoring waterfowl

The romance of the old west is still much in evidence on one of the nation's greatest wild life refuges located at an elevation of about 4000 feet at the west base of the Steens Mts. in eastern Oregon. Some sixty years ago a far sighted young Californian, Pete French by name, in search of good cattle range wandered into what is now known as the Blitzen Valley, a wide flat plain, watered by a fine stream, green with wide meadows of luxuriant grasses, interspersed with thickets of willows, and with great areas of swampy ground and shallow ponds. Mr. French was truly a pioneer builder, his cattle business prospered, he built long fence lines, barns and corrals of juniper wood, which still stand in a state of perfect preservation, his cattle numbered thousands and his ranch, well managed, contained some 132 ⁰⁰⁰ thousands of acres.

About half of this area is now included in the ~~great~~ Malheur Migratory Waterfowl Refuge, administered by the Biological Survey of the United States Department of Agriculture. This ~~area~~, together with Malheur and Harney Lakes, comprise an extensive area, almost an empire in itself, of some 164 ⁰⁰⁰ thousands of acres of what is conceded by naturalists, sportsmen and conservationists as the greatest single remaining wild life area in the nation.

Within the boundaries of this refuge such favorite waterfowl as Canada Geese, Mallards, Pintails, Gadwall^s, Redhead^s, Ruddy Ducks and Cinnamon Teal nest and rear their young by the thousands, while during the fall and spring migrations ~~tens of thousands~~ ^{myriads} of northern bred ducks and geese find a haven of refuge on Malheur Lake and in the swamps of the Blitzen Valley, where ~~they find an abundance of natural food and a safe retreat.~~ ^{is abundant.}

Not only are ducks and geese found here but the great American Egret, the White-faced Glossy Ibis and the Black-necked Stilt, common in subtropical regions, nest in colonies on this refuge. The Sandhill Crane, formerly common over most of the nation, but now greatly reduced in numbers, still come to ~~rear their young~~ ^{breed} in large numbers on this refuge. Herons, bitterns, coots,

grebes, and great colonies of the California and Ring-billed Gulls, Forster's Terns, Black Terns and other interesting marsh loving birds hold the interest of the visitor.

These are not all, a great variety of the snipe and plover family live along the lake shores and in the swamps. The stately Avocet, with its turned-up bill, stalks about the shallows; ^{beetles and} the Long-billed Curlew combs the salt grass flats for its diet of grasshoppers; the Western Willett, screaming her protests against the intruder, or solemnly perches on a fence post to watch the passerby, the plaintive cry of the Killdeer, the cooing call of the Wilson Phalarope, and the flight song of the Jack Snipe as the sun sinks in the west, all these delight the lover of nature. The crackling song of the Tule Wrens, the witchely-witchely song of the Yellow-throats, the innumerable multitude of ~~beautiful~~ ^{chorus} Yellow-headed and Red-winged Blackbirds all add to the din of bird voices

Of upland game and song birds there is an unusual population. Sage Hens stalk about the sage brush covered slopes, the introduced Hungarian, or European Partridge, and the ~~Red~~ Ring-necked Pheasant find the climatic conditions here to their liking.

During a ten day study of bird life on ~~the~~ this refuge during May of 1934 a total of 120 species of birds were recorded, and during the fall and winter months many more may be added to this number

Although birds, both in number of species and number of individuals, form the greatest of the wild life population, the visitor can find a large number of beaver along the Blitzen River. Mule Deer in bands frequent the willow thickets and meadows, and the Prong-horned Antelope roam the sage brush flats.

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The Biological Survey now has a large force of men at work developing this wildlife refuge. Dikes will be built to better conserve the water of both Malheur Lake and the Blitzen Valley, roads to better patrol the area against unnecessary disturbances of the nesting and feeding birds and game, canals to carry water to favored feeding grounds, and to combat fire during late summer, telephone lines for better communication, and lookout towers to assist the refuge protectors to better guard the ^{wild life.} ~~wild wards~~ of Uncle Sam. These are a few of the improvements now being carried on by the United States Biological Survey.

*to make this area a super refuge
one of the greatest in the U.S.*

Stanley G. Jewett.

August 15, 1935

*Believe mention should be made that Refuge is
in charge of Jewett, 16 years experience in survey and
a well known ornithologist.*