

**NARRATIVE REPORT**

**SALTON SEA NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE**

**BRAWLEY, CALIFORNIA**

**February, March, and April, 1941**

**Submitted by**

**LUTHER C. GOLDMAN  
Jr. Refuge Manager**

**Please note:**

The refuge manager was present on the Refuge only 13 days in February and 5 days in April. The rest of the quarter was spent as follows:

February 1-4, Field trip to Havasu Lake with Mr. A. C. Elmer and other officials.

February 17-April 16, In-Service Training School, Bowie, Maryland.

April 17-28, Refuge Managers' Conference, Portland, Oregon.

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I. GENERAL

## A. Weather Conditions

	<u>Cloudy days</u>	<u>Precipitation</u>	<u>Max. Temp.</u>	<u>Min. temp.</u>
<u>February</u>	8	.33	80°	42°
<u>March</u>	11	1.73	88°	44°
<u>April</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>.16</u>	96°	56°
Total	28	2.22	Extremes 96°	42°

Records for seasonal rainfall for last year totalled 6.30 inches; for this year, 7.03 inches. There were only 2 cloudy days during the February-April quarter of last year as compared with 28 this quarter. The precipitation record shows only .04 inches for the three months period in 1940 as compared with 2.22 inches for this period in 1941.

Information for the above report was obtained from the U. S. Weather Bureau station at El Centro, California (14 miles distant).

## B. Water Conditions

The Imperial Irrigation District has completed a new channel, approximately 4 miles long, on the lower part of the Alamo River, so that the Alamo River now empties into the Salton Sea over Section #8 T. 11S., R. 13 E. (Last year the River emptied over a large part of Section #21, T. 11 S., R. 13 E. on its way to the Sea). It is necessary to shift frequently the lower course of flow of both the New and Alamo Rivers to cope successfully with the heavy silt discharges that occur at their mouths. The New River still flows over Sections #1, 2, and 11 R. 12 E., T. 12 S.

## II. WILDLIFE

Although a few pintails and baldpates had already begun moving out in northward migration, approximately 75,000 ducks and about 3,000 geese still remained in the area on February 17, when the refuge manager left for the In-Service Training School at Bowie, Maryland. There was only enough time for one afternoon's field work between his return from Washington, D. C. and his departure for the Refuge Managers' Conference in Portland, Oregon. This afternoon (April 16) was spent on the west side of the Refuge. Only a few small flocks of diving ducks (scaups, redheads, and ruddy ducks) were observed. It was noticed that the nesting islands were occupied by about 300 white pelicans that had chosen four nesting sites. Six Forster terns and 15 gull-billed terns were seen also. A strong wind roughened the Sea and prevented a landing on the islands, so that it was not determined how far nesting activities had progressed. Nesting notes will be included in the narrative report for May-July.

Black terns were observed for the first time this spring on April 27, when 73 of these birds were noticed feeding over a field  $3\frac{1}{2}$  miles from Brawley.

As many as 400 long-billed dowitchers were counted in one flock on February 8. Other large flocks of these long-billed birds were noticed feeding on the shallow water silt and mud flats during the early part of the quarter.

### III. PUBLIC RELATIONS

#### A. Visitors to Refuge

<u>NAME</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Date</u>
<u>A. C. Elmer</u>	Asst. Chief Div. Wildlife Refuges	Washington, D. C.	2-4-41
<u>L. M. Winsor</u>	District Engineer	Salt Lake City, Utah	2-4-41
<u>A. E. Hutchinson and Wife</u>	Audubon Society	Chester Springs, Pa.	2-6-41
<u>John P. Sumner, Jr.</u>	"	La Jolla, Calif.	2-6-41
<u>Lambert Marks</u>	Professor	Brawley, Calif.	2-9-41
<u>Bud Elder</u>	Game Mgt. Agent	Los Angeles, Calif.	2-9-41
<u>Ralph Smeltzer</u>	Biology Teacher	Calipatria, Calif.	2-11-41
<u>Robert Hart</u>	Imperial State Game Refuge	Calipatria, Calif.	2-10-41
<u>Leo Rossier</u>	State Game Warden	El Centro, Calif.	4-16-41
<u>M. A. Mackey</u>	Co. Game Warden	Brawley, Calif.	4-16-41
<u>L. J. Goldman</u>	Associate Biologist	Berkeley, Calif.	4-16-41

#### B. Law Enforcement

The refuge manager assisted Game Management Agent, A. W. Elder in law enforcement activities.

While the refuge manager was attending the In-Service Training School at Bowie, Maryland, six commercial fishermen began netting operations on the Salton Sea, working out of the Alamo Duck Club on Section #20 R. 13 E., T. 11 S. They were using a gill net 400 feet long and 12 feet deep. These men were arrested by Co. Game Warden M. C. Mackey and State Game Warden Leo Rossier, and were fined \$100.00 each by Judge Jack Miller. Their net, surf dory, and Johnson outboard motor were confiscated.