

WERTHEIM NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

Shirley, New York

ANNUAL NARRATIVE REPORT

Calendar Year 1979

NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE SYSTEM
Fishing & Wildlife Service
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

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NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE SYSTEM
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Personnel

Roger M. Steelman, Jr., Refuge Manager-in-Charge, GS-12, PFT.

Robert J. Secatore, Assistant Refuge Manager, Wertheim
GS-7, PFT

Patrick Bosco, Laborer, WG-3, temporary, terminated 02-24-79

Review and Approvals

Roger M. Steelman, Jr.
WERTHEIM

Refuge

Roger M. Steelman, Jr. 11/14/82 RAL 6/10/83
TARGET ROCK

Complex Office

John J. Secatore J. REF. SUP 4-13-84

Suzanne Meyer 4-27-84

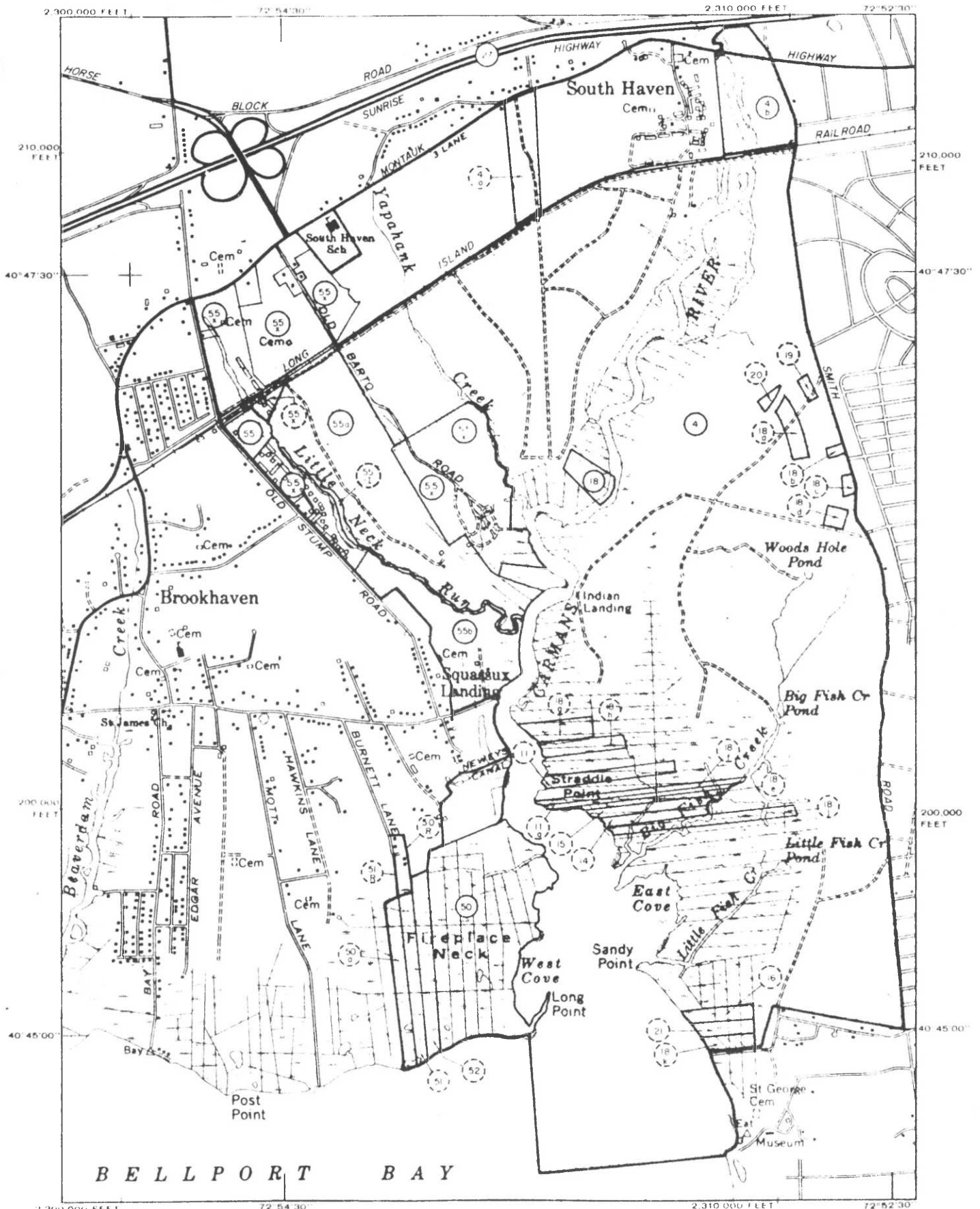
Regional Office

WERTHEIM NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

SUFFOLK COUNTY, NEW YORK

UNITED STATES
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE



COMPILED IN THE OFFICE OF REALTY
FROM SURVEYS BY U.S.G. AND U.S.F. & W.S.

SCALE 0 1000 2000 3000 4000 FEET

0 1/4 1/2 1 KILOMETERS

MN 12° GN 1° 21' MEAN DECLINATION 1967

BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS DECEMBER 1977

POSTED 12/80

5R NY 413 407

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I. GENERAL

A. Introduction

The Wertheim National Wildlife Refuge was established on June 7, 1947, when Maurice and Cecile Wertheim donated to the United States Government land to be maintained as a wildlife refuge. This gift consisted of 1,788 acres of both wetland and upland bordering the Carmans River on the south shore of eastern Long Island. However, the refuge was subject to the life use of the owners and did not come under full federal control until the death of Mrs. Wertheim on December 3, 1974.

Since 1947, a number of inholdings and adjacent parcels have been acquired which increase the total acreage to 1,937 acres. When all planned acquisition is completed, the refuge will be slightly over 2,000 acres. This may not seem very large compared to other areas within the refuge system, but it is one of the largest pieces of undeveloped land on Long Island.

Wertheim is under the administration of Target Rock National Wildlife Refuge and is staffed by an assistant manager who lives on the premises.

B. Climatic and Habitat Conditions

Temperatures and precipitation were generally moderate for the year; however, weather during the months of November and December was exceptionally mild for the area.

C. Land Acquisition

An additional 164 acres of land was leased from the Nature Conservancy. This land is the former Leskowitz duck farm and contains many old barns and sheds in poor repair. The land is mostly uplands adjacent to wetlands.

D. Systems Status

No formal objectives have been established for the refuge.

II. CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE

A. Construction

Staff at Wertheim NWR cooperated with the local fire company to improve roads which permit better access to the buildings on the refuge.

Work was done to rehabilitate an existing dike on the small pond near the office. Crown Vetch was planted on the dike.

Pre-construction meetings were held with L and L Excavating Corporation, Brookhaven Town Corps of Engineering and FWS personnel on rehabilitation of the Fish Creek Impoundment.

A new water heater was installed in the managers residence.

Long Island Lighting and two representatives from N.Y. State Endangered Species Unit cooperated with refuge staff in erecting a 70 foot Osprey resting platform.

B. Maintenance

Pilings washed up at Target Rock NWR were used to repair a bulkhead adjacent to the office on the Carmans River at Wertheim NWR.

C. Wildlife

A small fire on May 17 was put under control by the Brookhaven Fire Department.

III. HABITAT MANAGEMENT

A. Croplands

Several fields have been cultivated, cleared, and seeded with buckwheat and corn crops which are useful for quail, deer and other wildlife. This will be an on-going program.

B. Wetlands

The repair of the dike on a small pond near the office added a small fresh water wetland to the refuge.

IV. WILDLIFE

A. Endangered and/or Threatened Species

Osprey, considered endangered by New York State, nest on the refuge. A pair was observed feeding in a nest so it appears likely the attempt to raise young has failed.

B. Migratory Birds

1. Waterfowl

No monthly waterfowl reports were submitted for 1/79 to 4/79. For the remainder of the year the highest average monthly waterfowl populations were recorded in November with 1,915 ducks counted. Most of these were mallards and black ducks. Few waterfowl nest on the refuge. Most use occurs in the fall and winter months.

2. Marsh and Waterbirds

Great blue and green herons were seen on the refuge. Pied-billed grebes are also seen.

3. Shorebirds, Gulls, Terns and Allied Species

Great black-backed and herring gulls are common on the refuge. They feed at a nearby landfill and nest on the refuge. Common terns are also seen on the refuge.

4. Raptors

The following raptors were reported in 1979; marsh hawk, red-tailed hawk, broad-winged hawk, rough-legged hawk, merlin, American kestrel, barn owl, and great horned owl.

5. Other Migratory Birds

Nothing to report.

C. Mammals and Non-Migratory Birds and Others

1. Game mammals

Opossum, eastern cottontail rabbits, gray squirrel, muskrat, red fox, raccoon, and whitetailed deer are found on the refuge. No hunting is allowed.

2. Other Mammals

Nothing to report.

3. Resident Birds

Nothing to report.

4. Other Animal Life

The Carman's River estuary and associated uplands support a great variety of reptiles and amphibians. Eastern box turtle, common water snake, racer, tree frog, and Fowler's toad were reported in 1979.

V. INTERPRETATION AND RECREATION

A. Information and Interpretation

1. On Refuge

Wertheim Refuge has not been opened to use by the public because of lack of adequate manpower and facilities to handle the large numbers of visitors which would be expected.

2. Off-Refuge

Nothing to report.

B. Recreation

Although no public access to refuge lands is allowed, the Carman's River remains open to boating and fishing. Canoeing is a very popular form of recreation in the summer. The fresh, brackish, and salt waters provide fishermen with a large range of sport fish.

C. Enforcement

Wertheim Refuge Manager Secatore completed 4 weeks law enforcement training at FLETC in Glynco, Georgia.

In March several incidents of vandalism and attempted theft occurred. Measures were taken to increase security.

Manager Secatore met with The Nature Conservancy in June concerning a squatter on refuge property that is leased from TNC. Legal action is pending further action by TNC to remove him amicably.

On July 19, Secatore, Paul Gladdys (ASAC Lawrence), and Bill Schenk (Park Service) met with Judge Fred Atwood relative to the problem of dealing with juveniles. This was followed up with a meeting at Target Rock NWR with Messrs. Steelman, Marto, and Gladdys for the purpose of specifically determining our policy with regard to juvenile offenders.

In September Chris Dowd of Law Enforcement and Secatore undertook evening clamming patrols at the mouth of the Carmans River to curb illegal clamming in that area.

During September severe vandalism of boundary signs were experienced.

In October Secatore attended a police shoot at Lloyd Harbor.

Law Enforcement personnel from District 12 were at the refuge for duck hunting patrol from 11/14 to 11/25.

VI. OTHER ITEMS

A. Field Investigations

Nothing to report.

B. Cooperative Programs

Cooperation with Brookhaven Fire Department is discussed under Construction.

C. Items of Interest

Long Island Lighting inspected poles and services into the refuge. They concluded that the existing poles were in a state of disrepair and that they were not responsible for same.

D. Safety

Nothing to report.

E. Note

This narrative was compiled by Mark Lindvall in June of 1982 from monthly activity reports and output reports.