

I recently discussed the Big Creek Grassland proposal with Agrologist, Cathy Mumford of Alexis Creek. The outline of this proposal has not reached her yet. When I next see Cathy I will ask about the district report on Punt Lake Island.

Cardiff Mountain

In answer to your query about additions to the vegetation list for this reserve, I am enclosing a list of a few species. I noticed that the wetland around the lower of the three lakes had been burned late last spring, probably to improve grazing conditions.

Westwick Lake

I checked this reserve four times between June and September. No grazing took place within the fenced area in 1981. In July the southeast corner of the fence was damaged with the corner post pulled from the ground. The damage is not sufficient to let cattle through, however, machinery will be needed to replace two posts.

Bird observations: June 2, 1981 - brood of six young Canada geese with two adults  
June 2, 1981 - 300 Eared Grebes counted!

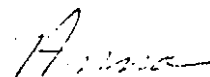
'Doc' English Bluff

This reserve was checked in April, May and September. Garbage was picked up. I met rock climbers and explained that the area was a reserve and why.

Bird observations: April 12, 1981 - one Golden Eagle soaring over Bluff  
April 12, 1981 - White-Throated Swifts had not yet arrived back  
May 24, 1981 - White-Throated Swifts flying in front of Bluff; also numerous Violet-Green Swallows  
Sept. 1, 1981 - one Golden Eagle soaring

Plant observations: April 12, 1981 - Arabis holboellii already in bloom;  
- Carex stenophylla and Carex rossii in flower;  
- Draba reptans in bud, only a few plants of this annual were observed in contrast to the spring of 1976 when the top of the cliff was completely covered with this species.

Sincerely,



Anna Roberts  
Range Section  
Cariboo Forest Region

Encls.

ER 35

BIRDS OBSERVED

On May 11/85 there was a high density of water birds on Westwick Lake, both within the reserve and without. Eared Grebes were the most numerous. 200 were counted (By May 22 there were over 400).

The most numerous waterfowl in order of abundance were: Lesser Scaup, Ruddy Ducks, and Redheads. Other birds present on the water were Mallard, Pintail, Green-Winged Teal, Cinnamon Teal, American Widgeon, Shoveler, Ring-necked Duck, Canvasback, Barrow's Goldeneye, Bufflehead, Loon, Pied-billed Grebe and Coot as well as a pair of nesting Canada Geese.

See warden report

ER 35

36.2

Anna Roberts  
Warden

May 29, 1985

Warden Report for 1982 on Ecological Reserve No. 35 - Westwick Lake

May - August

This reserve was checked several times throughout the spring and summer. There was no evidence of disturbance. With the paving of the road and the subsequent increased speed of the traffic, fewer cattle are crossing the road to use the watering access areas within the reserve.

Small Triangle of Reserve on North Side of Lake

Cattle were restricted from grazing all along the north side of the lake by the placement of a new drift fence, as had been promised by Agrologist Ross Fredell. This allowed the grassland within the reserve to recover somewhat from the severe over-grazing of the past years. The question of establishing fence line 'B' (see accompanying copy of air photo) was again studied. Fence 'A', the existing rail fence, is in very poor shape. If fence 'B' were built there would no longer be any need for the rancher to maintain fence 'A'. If cattle could be kept out of this small patch of grassland, it would provide good water-fowl nesting habitat. However, there is more involved than just the 100 metres of new fence.

October 24th Inspection

The fence around the reserve on the south side of the lake was found to be damaged in several places. Apparently hunters had climbed the wire, while duck hunting during the previous month, and pulled the wire from the posts. Also, a car had gone off the road knocking down several metres of fence. On November 13th, Naturalist Stephen Walker repaired the damaged fence to the extent that cattle cannot get in. Three posts will have to be replaced when the ground thaws in the spring.

Research and Educational Use

Canadian Wildlife Society has installed a number of new duck nesting boxes on trees within the reserve for a duck monitoring project.

A wetland classification field trip for resource managers stopped at Westwick Lake to study a good example of shallow open water with a Scirpus lacustris deep marsh surrounding it.

Birds Observed October 24th, 1982:

64 Canada Geese  
15 Whistling Swam (14 adults, 1 young)  
25 Mallard  
6 American Widgeon  
2 Pintail  
1 Shoveler  
6 Coets  
2 Ring-Necked Ducks

October 31st, 1982:

30 Whistling Swans resting on the ice of Westwick Lake.

June 1982:

Aquatic plant identified from shallow water within reserve - Zannichellia palustris L. (Horned Pondweed).

Anna Roberts