

PRE-BURN SURVEY

March 15, 1986

BODIE ISLAND MARSH UNIT

It is too early for black ducks to be nesting. They will probably begin in about a month. Twenty-two black ducks and eight gadwalls were seen in general burn area. Both species may nest here; however, I don't feel that the small area to be burned will effect their nesting. The western edge of the pond in the first burn site has dense patches of S. patens which may be utilized by ducks for nesting. The small islands in the marsh also may be used by nesting ducks. If there is a great concern about nesting habitat being destroyed, avoid burning portions of these areas with dense S. patens adjacent to open water. There is a tremendous amount of marsh out there which can be used by blacks and gadwalls for nesting.

Black ducks and gadwalls do not normally nest over water. They will probably choose the small islands as elevated sites, with dense S. patens, near open water (within 150 m).

The thickets are alive with Yellow-rumped Warblers which are winter residents in the area. A Barn Owl was seen resting in a tree at the eastern edge of the pond. I didn't see or hear any rails in the area. I see no problems in burning the thickets.

Overall, burning should only improve the marsh and thickets.

- Walker Golder

15 March 1986

Sunny in the morning, turning partly cloudy by mid-morning. Winds West 10 - 15, 55 - 60°.

Species List:

Yellow-rumped Warbler	100+	entire area
Boat-tailed Grackle	5	marsh and thicket
Red-winged Blackbird	6	marsh and thicket
Black Duck	22	marsh and pond
Green-winged Teal	40	marsh and pond
Black-billed Plover	7	marsh
Lesser Yellowlegs	9	marsh
American Bittern	2	over marsh
Snowy Egret	1	marsh
Mallard	5	pond
Belted Kingfisher	1	pond
Swamp Sparrow	2	thicket
Carolina Wren	3	thicket
House Wren	1	thicket
Barn Owl	1	thicket
Catbird	1	thicket
Fish Crow	8	over marsh
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1	thicket
Mourning Dove	2	thicket
Tri-colored Heron	1	pond
American Widgeon	2	pond
Hooded Merganser	8	pond
Common Snipe	1	marsh
Rufous Sided Towhee	4	thicket
Gadwall	8	pond
Pied-billed Grebe	1	pond
Glossy Ibis	2	over marsh
Meadowlark	1	marsh
No. Harrier	1	over thicket

Mammals:

Raccoon	1	marsh
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-- Walker Golder