

Original: Fish Division

cc: Education-Game

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REPORT NO. 1059

SHIPMENT OF "BLUEGILLS" TRANSFERRED FROM

WEST BRANCH TO THE WOLF LAKE HATCHERY

by

W. F. Carbine

The following report was requested by Dr. Hazzard in order to place on record the production of the West Branch pond.

In late April I was informed that a number of yearling bluegills were being held in the West Branch Rearing Pond and that these fish would be available for experimental purposes. These fish were delivered at the Wolf Lake Hatchery on May 14, 1946 by William Waters of the Harrietta Hatchery. Mr. Jay Marks called me at Hillsdale on May 15 and told me that the bluegills were being held in tanks awaiting my arrival to determine which ponds they should be placed in. Mr. Marks told me over the telephone that many of the fish were green sunfish and that some sorting would be necessary.

I arrived at Wolf Lake on the night of May 15 and examined the fish in question on May 16. After sorting over about a dozen scap fulls of fish I came to the conclusion that it would not be worthwhile sorting over these 1 1/2 inch pumpkinseed sunfish for the few bluegills that were present. Mr. Henry Hatt and I preserved a random sample consisting of one quart of fish.

(W)

On July 22, Dr. Reeve M. Bailey, Curator of Fishes at the University of Michigan and I sorted over the sample of fish. A total of 341 fish had been preserved and of this number 340 were pumpkinseed sunfish and 1 was a bluegill. A total of 175,000 fish was taken from the West Branch pond and of this number only 513 could be assumed to be bluegills (ratio of 340:1) and the rest were pumpkinseed sunfish.

Evidently an error was made in collecting the fry or breeders for stocking this pond.

The fish were planted in the Kalamazoo River where it was felt they would do little harm.

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Report approved by A. S. Hazzard

Report typed by M. A. Klaphaak