

# INFORMATION FOR THE PRESS



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### CRESCENT LAKE SAVED AS REFUGE FOR BIRDS

#### Preservation of the Crescent Lake Migratory Bird

Refuge is assured as a result of a decision rendered by the Nebraska Department of Public Works, which has dismissed an application for use of the water in irrigation. This area in the sand-hill region of western Nebraska is a great nesting, feeding, and resting ground for migratory birds, including many kinds of wild ducks, Canada and snow geese, and sandpipers and other shorebirds. Under the provisions of the migratory-bird conservation act, the Federal Government had acquired some 35,000 acres of rolling, sandy hills, interspersed with beautiful fresh-water lakes that are ideal places for myriads of migratory birds to nest and raise their young. According to the Biological Survey of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, it is one of the few remaining unspoiled places in the United States of the many which formerly were attractive to birds as breeding grounds.

Soon after the lands had been acquired, application was made by an irrigation district for permission to drain the lakes and use the water on a reclamation project some distance away. Vigorous protest was made by the Biological Survey, with the cooperation of the Game, Forestation, and Parks Commission of the State of Nebraska. After weighing all the evidence, the Department of Public Works of the State has handed down a decision dismissing the application, on the ground that "an appropriation of water from Crescent and Blue Lakes would result in injury or damage to the objectors and would be detrimental to the public welfare."

This action, say officials of the Biological Survey, should have a profound influence in preserving the few similar places that remain throughout the northern reaches of the Nation, and the effect of this victory should be encouraging to those who look to the preservation of such places. Ill-advised drainage in the past, they state, has destroyed other sanctuary areas and has done irreparable injury to their former wild-life resources, and frequently to the best interests of agriculture.

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