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EMERGENCY FUNDS AID
WILDLIFE OF NATION

Chief Darling of the Biological Survey
Reports Year's Accomplishments
in Conservation

How emergency funds are being put to work for long-time benefits in connection with the administration of the Nation's wildlife resources is told in J. N. ("Ding") Darling's first annual report as Chief of the Bureau of Biological Survey. The report, for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1934, was made public today by Secretary of Agriculture Wallace.

In addition to the regular annual appropriation, says Mr. Darling, sums totalling \$8,500,000 have been made available to the Bureau for a program of waterfowl restoration. With these funds breeding grounds are being restored for the ducks and geese, refuges are being established along the principal flight lanes, and improvements are being made in the areas acquired.

Pointing out that the restoration projects have fitted in well with other aspects of the national land-utilization program, Mr. Darling reports that \$1,500,000 of the Bureau's emergency allotments is from funds for the withdrawal of submarginal lands; \$3,500,000 is in drought-relief funds, to be used to purchase lands suitable for wildlife sanctuaries within drought-stricken regions; and \$1,000,000 is from emergency conservation funds. The engineering operations to improve the areas for waterfowl purposes are being financed by a public works allotment of \$2,500,000.

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"The conditions most favorable to wildlife," Mr. Darling comments, "are identical with those that reduce erosion and promote flood control and soil restoration by the conservation of water resources and the production of luxuriant growths of vegetation for food and cover." The restoration program, he points out, is designed to stop the rapid decrease of wildlife that during the past half century has been hastened by the unwise appropriation of millions of acres that originally produced an abundance of game, fur bearers, and fish.

Other Emergency Work Beneficial

Many of the wildlife refuges already maintained by the Bureau, the chief reports, have received long-needed improvements through PWA, CWA, and ECW activities.

Among the emergency benefits in other aspects of the Bureau's work, Mr. Darling includes the definite control of endemic typhus fever, through a rat-killing campaign carried out under direction of the Bureau with CWA funds, in cooperation with the U. S. Public Health Service, and employing approximately 10,000 CWA workers in three States - Alabama, Georgia, and Texas. Endemic typhus fever cases, which had increased 300 percent annually during the preceding three years in these States, if allowed to continue at their current ratio of increase would have numbered 630 in 1934, he said. Instead, the number dropped to 47 cases following the drive.

Outstanding Events Summarized

Among the outstanding events of the year, Mr. Darling reports that the Biological Survey completed the most exhaustive survey of waterfowl conditions ever attempted in any country. This survey was carried on throughout the United States and on important Canadian breeding grounds, and included an analysis of the abundance, movements, and food resources of the birds, and the collection of facts on baiting and other hunting practices, as a basis for hunting regulations.

Conservationists were encouraged during the year by the passage by Congress of legislation benefiting wildlife. The Seventy-third Congress authorized the establishment of fish and game sanctuaries on national forests; provided for co-ordination of interdepartmental work to insure that engineering projects that might adversely affect wildlife resources are instituted only after advice has been sought from the Bureau of Biological Survey or the Bureau of Fisheries; and required that a \$1 migratory-bird hunting stamp be affixed to licenses of waterfowl hunters over the age of 16. Mr. Darling also mentions the creation of a Special Committee on Wildlife Conservation in the House of Representatives and the appointment of the President's Committee on Wildlife Restoration and the publication of its recommendations.

The year saw the departure of one chief and the appointment of another. Paul G. Redington resigned to return to the Forest Service, where he had served 23 years before coming to the Bureau 7 years ago, and Mr. Darling was appointed to fill the vacancy. Thus the report covers parts of two administrations in the Bureau.

Close cooperation with the Civilian Conservation Corps in the work in the forests was brought about through an investigation of wildlife conditions in eastern forests, the report states. It was agreed that the forest workers should leave certain food and cover plants for wildlife without detriment to the forest-improvement operations.

Wildlife has suffered severe losses from the severe drought, from shooting by increased numbers of hunters, and through drainage schemes that have turned favored breeding grounds into dry land. Throughout the report, Mr. Darling calls attention to the ever-decreasing numbers of many species of wildlife, but emphasizes in particular the losses in waterfowl.

Additional funds will be made available for the purchase of refuge areas through the sale of the waterfowl-hunting stamp, the report states. It is expected that from 600,000 to 1,000,000 of these stamps will be sold each hunting season. This will mean that the Bureau will have approximately as many dollars as there are stamps sold for acquisition of refuges, since 90 percent of the money is to be used for that purpose, while 10 percent goes for administration, printing, and other incidentals.

During the year, the Bureau experimented on concentrating a mobile force of law-enforcement officers in an area where violations of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act were especially flagrant and succeeded in arresting 78 poachers, effectively putting a stop to violations in that section, the report says.

The Civilian Conservation Corps did rodent-control work on 5,000,000 acres of Indian-reservation and national-forest land.

Good progress is reported in the re-establishment of musk oxen in Alaska, the year's events including first births in this species in that territory in more than a century. Seven calves were born, five of which are still living.

Although prices for furs had increased, the take of fur-bearing animals during the year showed a decided decrease from previous years. The Bureau foresees an actual lack of fur unless adequate methods are adopted for conservation of fur animals.

Improvements in methods of controlling predatory animals and rodents were made at the Bureau's Control Methods Research Laboratory at Denver, Colo. The Bureau is completing a series of feed-cost experiments at the United States Rabbit Experiment Station at Fontana, Calif. The work of the Bureau also

included several field studies of birds and mammals, outstanding studies being made of food habits, migration, and the relationships of birds and mammals to agriculture, horticulture, forestry, and the domestic animals of man.

"Within the Bureau of Biological Survey are the potential agencies for promoting a national movement for wildlife restoration", says Mr. Darling. "The knowledge and approved methods for such public activities must be provided and services extended to all State educational institutions and conservation organizations in position to cooperate."

The Bureau of Biological Survey was reorganized during the year to bring about a more complete co-ordination of the functions and the objectives, the Chief reported. The Division of Game and Bird Conservation and the Division of Predatory Animal and Rodent Control were consolidated into a new Division of Game Management. A new Division of Public Relations was created by the consolidation of two sections formerly responsible directly to the Chief. A new Division of Migratory Waterfowl was created, and the functions of the Division of Administration were extended. By an additional reorganization effective September 22 the former research divisions were consolidated as sections of one Division of Wildlife Research.