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FOURTH ANNIVERSARY
OF CCC CELEBRATED
AT L. SOURIS REFUGE

U. S. Biological Survey
Congratulates Boys
on "Good Work."

Civilian Conservation Corps boys doing development work on the Lower Souris Migratory Waterfowl Refuge, in Bottineau and McHenry Counties of North Dakota, have done a good job, says Ira N. Gabrielson, Chief of the U. S. Biological Survey, in congratulating them on the fourth anniversary of the C. C. C.

The Lower Souris camp is celebrating today (April 4) with an old-fashioned open house to which the public is invited, as part of their program to show neighbors from nearby Cargile and Minot how the boys live in the camp. The entire layout of the camp, in a plaster-of-paris model contour map, has been prepared, showing the refuge buildings, dykes, park area, etc. This, together with camp trophies and other educational works will be exhibited. Coffee and doughnuts may follow or precede the tour of camp buildings and project areas for guests, under the guidance of the enrollees.

C. C. C. boys on 17 wildlife refuges are contributing man-power for the Biological Survey's nation-wide refuge program, says Gabrielson. They are, in general, doing two important things: making the areas more attractive to the birds and making the refuges easier to administer.

One of these areas, that of the Lower Souris Refuge, a long, narrow area extending along the Mouse River (called Souris in Canada) for about 40 miles, was set aside as a refuge and breeding ground for migratory birds and other wildlife by Executive order September 4, 1935. At present it includes some 36,328 acres, providing a nesting haven for blue-winged teal, shoveler, gadwall, pintail, mallard, widgeon, redhead, green-winged teal, canvasback, lesser scaup, hooded merganser, ruddy duck, and some goldeneyes. It is estimated that more than 30,000 young ducks were produced on the Refuge in 1936 alone.

The refuge also winters thousands of sharp-tailed grouse that migrate from Canada with the onset of the north ern blizzards. The food supply is abundant; and a large population of pheasants, Hungarian partridges, prairie chicken, and pinnated grouse, as well as three species of rabbits, some lynx, a number of beaver, and an occasional deer remain on the area all year.

The C. C. C. boys' accomplishments make these wild creatures feel at home on the Lower Souris Refuge, says the Survey Chief. The boys worked from July 18, 1936 to March 1, 1937, and their efforts have resulted, among numerous other activities necessary in the proper development of the area, in the erection of the refuge manager's dwelling, four equipment and supply storage houses, two garages, a lookout tower, besides two other buildings.

In the construction of three diversion dams, they excavated 24,595 cubic yards of earth. For fills, they moved another 52,855 cubic yards of soil. They threw up 13,940 square yards of riprap along dams and water areas. They constructed 6,286 rods of fencing; moved still another 74,555 cubic yards of earth in excavation and formation of levees, dikes, and jetties; and fine graded 9,800 square yards of road slopes.

The camp also built four miles of telephone line. They moved and planted 75,074 trees and shrubs; collected 28,000 pounds of flower, grass

shrub, and tree seeds; planted 589 acres to food and cover for wild life; and marked 165 miles of boundary.

All together, these boys devoted 4,584 man days to lake and pond development; 2,079 man days to nurseries; and 2,800 man days to other wild life activities of every type of classification.

"This work", says Gabrielson, "is part of the restoration of our American wildlife, an invaluable resource of great benefit to all Americans. The next time that you see a thin line of pintail or canvasback winging their way across the sky silently, you can say to yourself, 'Well, it may be that those fellows are up there because the C. C. C. boys have been doing a good job down at the Lower Souris Refuge!'"
