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of Local CCG Anniversary
Celebration.

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**FOURTH ANNIVERSARY
OF CCG CELEBRATED
AT SENECA REFUGE**

Civilian Conservation Corps boys doing development work on the Seneca Migratory Waterfowl Refuge, in Schoecraft county, Michigan, have done a good job, says Ira N. Gabrielson, Chief of the U. S. Biological Survey, in congratulating the boys on the fourth anniversary of the C. C. C.

The Seneca camp is celebrating today (fill in date) with annual open house exercises and a demonstration of tree transplanting to which the public is invited. The tree, a large pine about ten inches across near the base, will be dug up and moved to the refuge administration site. It will be marked with a brass plate in commemoration of the event.

C. C. C. boys on 17 wildlife refuges are contributing man-power for the Biological Survey's nation-wide refuge program, says Chief 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, the Seneca, was declared an inviolate sanctuary by Executive Order on December 10, 1933. It is already an important sanctuary for wildlife. The use made by waterfowl of the refuge in 1936, when the water impoundment structures were only partially completed, indicates even greater success of the restoration program on this refuge. Numerous millions bred there, and a large population of pintails, blue-winged

teal, and ruddy ducks. The area is also well populated with beaver, deer, raccoon, and some bear. Ruffed grouse, prairie chickens, and sandhill cranes abound in the upland portions.

Steps have been taken to restore the vanishing Canada goose as a nesting bird to this region. Some 300 fine, pureblooded birds have been donated to the Refuge by a Michigan conservationist and, although they must necessarily be kept pinioned, their offspring will be free to come and go. These pinioned birds are expected to attract other birds to the Refuge.

The U. C. G. boys' accomplishments make it easier for us to see that these wild creatures feel at home on the Senny, says the Bureau's Chief. Since June 24, 1935, they have undertaken the completion of a stout vehicle bridge, for example, and are now completing four others. They have built two garages, four miscellaneous shelters, two lookout towers, and dismantled five undesirable structures on the area and salvaged the materials. They have constructed a diversion dam for help in the impoundment of water. They have erected 3,171 rods of fencing. They have excavated 116,376 cubic yards of earth for levees, dikes, and jetties; have drilled a well; and have moved 4,232 cubic yards of earth in channel clearing, the digging of canals and ditches. They have constructed six miles of fine truck trails, and have altogether devoted 5,062 man days to fire prevention work and fire fighting.

In addition, they have worked over 38,685 square yards in fine

grading and road sloping, and cleaned up 3,065 acres of refuge land in general. They have removed timber and debris on 60 acres of land for lake and pond sites for nesting. Not included in the work done in 5,440 man days spent on miscellaneous lake and pond development activities, was the time it took the boys to plant a large acreage of land to food and cover for the wildlife present.

Other varied activities included the making of topographic surveys, cutting of fence posts, building of portals, signs, and markers. There is still work to be done on the Refuge, however - the construction of additional dikes and dams for the impounding of water, for example. And, because wild animals and birds often cross over from the Refuge to adjoining lands, the State plans to acquire and set aside a strip of land about a mile wide around the Refuge for the further protection of wildlife. More will be further work. It is planned, too, to provide recreation facilities for the public here, and they must be constructed.

"All 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 you see a spindly-legged sandhill crane against the sky, or hear a wedge of Canada geese heading homeward, you may look up and say to yourself, 'Well, perhaps it may be I have seen and heard them because the G. C. G. boys have been doing a good job down at the Sancy Refuge'."