

CELEBRATE CCC
ANNIVERSARY AT
WILDLIFE REFUGE

U. S. Biological Survey
Congratulates Boys
On "Good Job"

C.C.C. boys, developing the Des Laes Migratory Waterfowl Refuge in Burke and Ward Counties, North Dakota, are making an invaluable contribution to the national wildlife restoration program, says Dr. Ira N. Gabrielson, Chief of the U.S. Biological Survey. His congratulations to the camp personnel came on the fifth anniversary of the C.C.C.

The Des Laes camp is joining other camps throughout the nation this week (March 31 to April 5) in celebrating the anniversary and invites the public to visit the camp during an "open house" celebration on (insert date) to see the progress being made at this North Dakota wildlife refuge. Here the C.C.C. boys, under direction of the Biological Survey, are working to improve the refuge as they are in 31 other camps on refuges over the United States. They are making the refuges easier to administer and more attractive to wildlife.

"C.C.C. boys," says Dr. Gabrielson, "are familiar figures in many localities. The public is becoming acquainted with them and their work. It can see the beneficial effect camp training has in preparing them for good citizenship. It also learns of their contribution to the wildlife program."

The Des Laes Refuge, extending from the Canadian border southeast in North Dakota, is one of the selected areas which the Biological Survey is improving with C.C.C. help so that it will attract and support larger numbers of waterfowl and other wildlife.

Des Laes will eventually contain 14,655 acres. The camp workers, who started July 15, 1935, have built 42 miles of truck trail, 3 lookout towers, 11 combination buildings and 11 diversion dams. They have marked 290 miles of boundary and riprapped and terraced to control flood waters. Undesirable buildings on the area have been razed, wildlife shelters constructed and lake and pond development, including construction of nesting islands, furthered.

In this region, previously suffering from unwise drainage and devastated of late years by extreme drouth, the work of the C.C.C. boys is particularly important.

The principal ducks nesting here are gadwalls and shovelers, but Mallards, widgeon, green and blue winged teal, pintails, redheads, canvasback, scaup and ruddy duck also nest at Des Laes. With water conserved the sanctuary will be of increasing importance in this great duck breeding area.

Here the boys have moved and planted 8660 trees, collected 94,126 pounds of flower, grass and shrub seed and planted 964 acres, to food and cover for wildlife.

Western willett, avocet, western horned grebe, eared grebe, coots, Franklin Gulls and Wilson's snipes come in to the sanctuary which is a welcome spot in a drouth ravaged area.

"The accomplishments of the boys," says Dr. Gabrielsen, "help to make the waterfowl and other wildlife at Des Laes feel at home. Their work will serve as a lasting monument to the C.C.C."

"Five years ago, when our wildlife resources, especially waterfowl, were in serious danger, the Biological Survey had a restoration program. It lacked the means and man power to carry it out. Then emergency funds for buying refuge area became available. About the same time C.C.C. help for development was obtained. This was indeed a happy coincidence as the accomplishments on record today were only dreamed of five years ago."