

CELEBRATE CCC
ANNIVERSARY AT
WILDLIFE REFUGE

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

C.C.C. boys, developing the Lacreek Migratory Waterfowl Refuge in Bennett County, South Dakota, are making an invaluable contribution to the national wildlife restoration program, says Dr. Ira N. Gabrielsen, Chief of the U. S. Biological Survey. His congratulations to the camp personnel came on the fifth anniversary of the C.C.C.

The Lacreek 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 "open house" celebration on (insert date) to see the progress being made at this South Dakota wildlife refuge. Here the C.C.C. boys, under the 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. Gabrielsen, "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 Lacreek Refuge, in southern South Dakota between Tuthill and Martin, 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. Camp work started May 9, 1937 and the boys have been busy constructing necessary buildings, building truck trails and 23 miles of fire break.

Levee, dike and jetty work as well as check-dams have improved water control measures so important to this particular area.

The Lacreek refuge lies at the junction of the great Mississippi and Central flyways. It is one of the few spots in South Dakota having a stream carrying sufficient water during drouths. To augment lake and marsh areas and stabilize water levels, dams with spillways, dikes and control gates have been built. Every possible facility for duck propagation has been improved upon.

Canada geese, snow geese and many ducks use the refuge and shore birds and herons nest here. The green winged and blue winged teal, mallard, pintail, gadwall, shoveler, widgeon, redhead, ring-necked and ruddy ducks are familiar sights at Lacreek and the American merganser makes it a home.

To improve food and cover sources the boys spent 591 man-days at nursery work and planted 26 acres in the area to desirable wildlife forage. Equipment construction and repair and surveys of the sanctuary have occupied additional time as has laying 3,135 feet of pipe and tile line.

"All of these accomplishments," says Dr. Gabrielson, "help make the waterfowl and other wildlife at Lacreek feel at home. The 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 both the means and man-power to carry it out. Then emergency funds for buying refuges were made available. About the same time C.C.C. help for development work was obtained. This was indeed a happy coincidence as the accomplishments on record today were only dreamed of five years ago."