

CELEBRATE CCC  
ANNIVERSARY AT  
WILDLIFE REFUGE

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

C.C.C. Boys, developing the Lower Souris Migratory Waterfowl Refuge in Bottineau and McHenry Counties of North 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 CCC.

The Lower Souris camp is joining others 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 North Dakota wildlife refuge. Here the CCC 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.

"CCC 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 and also learn about CCC contributions to the wildlife program."

The Lower Souris Refuge, in northcentral North Dakota, is a long, narrow area extending along the Souris or Mouse River, and was designated as a sanctuary and breeding ground for migratory birds by Executive Order of September 4, 1935. In recent years the river was of little value to waterfowl because

of its rapid run-off. Four dikes built across it have, however, created a vast marshland that covers nearly a third of the refuge's 59,000 acres. As a result of this and other improvements, the numbers of visiting and nesting waterfowl have increased greatly since 1935.

Ducks that nest there include the blue-winged teal, canvasback, lesser scaup, hooded merganser, ruddy duck, and goldeneye. The refuge also winters thousands of sharp-tailed grouse that migrate from Canada with the onset of northern blizzards. In addition, a large population of pheasants, European partridges, prairie chickens, and three species of rabbits, a number of beaver, many muskrats, and a growing herd of deer remain on the area all year.

Since July 18, 1935, when the CCC camp began work, the boys have completed 53 miles of truck trail and three miles of telephone line to improve communication facilities at Lower Souris. A dwelling, an overnight cabin and fifteen equipment and supply storage houses have been finished as well as two garages, two other necessary buildings, two lookout towers and seventy two miles of fire break.

Four large diversion dams have been completed on the refuge. More than sixty six tons of flower, grass and shrub seed have been collected. A total of 980 acres have been planted to food and cover for wildlife and 625,588 trees and shrubs have been moved and planted to improve areas within the boundary. Lakes and ponds have been developed by CCC labor. Boundaries have been marked and 13,316 rods of fence erected.

Water control has checked the inroads of botulism which formerly destroyed many waterfowl. A total of 8,200 acres of the refuge have been treated for rodent control and 8 wildlife shelters now stand at strategic spots.

Excavation, fine grading of road slopes, and construction of dikes, levees and jetties also have kept the CCC boys busy. As a result of the technical training received at the camp, seventeen of the boys obtained outside employment during the last six months of 1937.

"All of these accomplishments," says Dr. Gabrielson, "help make the waterfowl and wildlife on the Lower Souris feel at home. The work will serve as a lasting tribute to the CCC. Five years ago when our wildlife resources, especially waterfowl, were in serious danger, the Biological Survey had a restoration program. It lacked the funds and man-power to carry out that program. Then emergency funds for refuge areas became available and about the same time CCC help was obtained for development. The resulting accomplishments were not dreamed of five years ago."