

CELEBRATE CCC
ANNIVERSARY AT
WILDLIFE REFUGE

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

C.C.C. boys, developing the Pea Island Migratory Waterfowl Refuge in Dare County, North Carolina are making an invaluable contribution to the national wildlife restoration program, says Dr. Ira N. Gabrielson, Chief of U. S. Biological Survey. His congratulations to the camp personnel came on the fifth anniversary of the C.C.C.

The Pea Island 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 Carolina Migratory Waterfowl 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 smaller figures in many localities. The public is becoming acquainted with them and their work. It can see the beneficial effect that camp training has in preparing them for good citizenship. It also learns of their valuable contribution to the wildlife restoration program."

The Pea Island Refuge, part of the long barrier reef which runs south to Cape Hatteras, lies east of the Roanoke Island and the North Carolina mainland separates Pamlico Sound from the Atlantic Ocean. The island is a low, sandy strip of land. Pamlico Sound, of varying depth, is a marshy area bordering it.

Brant, snow geese and red-head ducks concentrate here.

This sanctuary, which is of no value for farming, was formerly used as a private shooting preserve. Since coming under control of the Biological Survey, however, it has been protected. Beginning October 25, 1936, CCC boys have been at work here.

Levee, dike and jetty construction have fenced off salt creeks to make fresh water pools. Barriers, against the storms that sweep the reef, have been constructed. 443 acres of land have been planted against erosion control.

Surveys, preparation and transportation of materials and a general cleanup of the refuge are all parts of the improvement program. Feeding, seed collection and the construction of 10,592 rods of sand fence afford protection and offer augmented food resources. Here diving birds and those surface feeders seeking fresh water facilities which the diked ponds offer, can be accommodated.

Sea Brant winter here and the largest concentration of snow geese on the coast has been noted at this sanctuary. CCC boys, planting food, preparing pools and protecting valuable land against erosion, insure them a continued haven.

At Pea Island the great stretch of beach and shallows offers ideal accommodation to shore birds. Black skimmers, terns and laughing gulls nest on the refuge and thousands of Canada geese stop here as well as ducks such as pintails, black duck, scaup and goldeneye.

"All of the camp's accomplishments," says Dr. Gabrielson, "help make the waterfowl and other wildlife at Pea Island feel at ease. The work will serve as a lasting tribute 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 man power and means to carry it out. Then emergency funds for buying refuges became available. C.C.C. help was made possible. This was indeed a happy coincidence as the accomplishments on record today were only dreamed of five years ago."