

CELEBRATE CCC  
ANNIVERSARY AT  
WILDLIFE REFUGE

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

CCC boys, developing the St. Marks Migratory Bird Refuge in Wakulla, Jefferson and Taylor counties of Florida, 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 CCC.

The St. Marks 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 Florida 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 more attractive to wildlife and easier to administer.

"CCC boys," says Dr. Gabrielson, "are familiar figures in many localities, and the public by becoming acquainted with them and their work, can also see the beneficial effect camp training has in preparing them for good citizenship as well as learn about their contributions to the wildlife program."

The St. Marks Refuge in northern Florida is one of the selected areas which the Biological Survey is improving with CCC help so that it will attract and support larger numbers of waterfowl and other wildlife. Lakes,

rivers and swamps within the refuge are being improved, land revegetated and water levels stabilised. Established by Presidential proclamation on December 31, 1931, the refuge now contains 53,317 acres and is becoming a wonderful winter haven for waterfowl. The Canada goose is a common visitor along with countless ducks, especially osprey, black ducks, mallards and pintails. Hundreds of gulls and terns remain the year round as do quail and wild turkey. Mink, raccoon, white-tailed deer and otter are among the mammal inhabitants.

The boys worked on this refuge from June 27, 1933 to May 25, 1934 and then started again on April 28, 1936. During this period they completed 24.8 miles of track trails and built 32 vehicle bridges, which make it easier for refuge officials to reach points within the sanctuary.

Thirty acres of land have been cleared for a reservoir site and 7 diversion dams are complete. A total of 629,483 yards of earth was used in building dikes, jetties and levees, which enable the Survey to control water levels. It also has been necessary to lay 10,100 square yards of riprap along banks, remove 3,250 cubic yards of earth in deepening channels. Erosion has also been checked by sloping 5,753 yards of banks.

Completion of 21½ miles of fire break affords fire control for wildlife—one of the most important jobs on a refuge. Special emphasis is placed upon fire control as fire not only destroys wild birds and animals but also ruins their cover, feeding and breeding places. In addition, the boys have seeded and sodded 77,644 square yards of ground and planted 38 acres to food and cover plants in suitable locations for wildlife.

Two dwellings for administration purposes have been completed at St. Marks along with a garage and 5 other necessary buildings. Three lookout

towers offer the refuge guardians vantage points from which fire and game poachers may be spotted and the movements of the wildlife observed.

Thirty-one miles of telephone line have been built and 10 miles of power line that the boys strung carry electricity into the refuge. Cattle guards have been laid down at strategic points to keep out stray stock. The grounds around the headquarters have been landscaped and signs and markers constructed inform the public of boundary limits and what is in refuge. A topographic or descriptive survey of 13,760 acres also has been completed.

"All these accomplishments," says Dr. Gabrielson, "help make the waterfowl and other wildlife at St. Marks feel at home, and will serve as lasting tributes to the OGC. Five years ago when our wildlife resources, especially waterfowl, were in serious danger, the Biological Survey had a restoration program, but neither the means nor man-power to carry it out. Then emergency funds for buying refuge areas became available and about the same time OGC help for developing the refuges. This was indeed a happy coincidence as the accomplishments on record today were only dreamed of five years ago."