

# **INFORMATION FOR THE PRESS**

## **United States Department of Agriculture**

Release - Immediate

WASHINGTON, D. C., September 29, 1938

### **C. C. C. ENROLLEES IMPROVE FEDERAL BIRD REFUGE SET UP IN MONTEZUMA MARSHES, N. Y.**

- - -

C. C. C. boys are improving the newly-established Montezuma Migratory Bird Refuge, Seneca County, N. Y., for the use of waterfowl by building dikes and water-control structures and creating marsh ponds and lakes. The sanctuary is in the Finger Lakes region where many waterfowl stop to rest and feed during their annual migrations.

The C. C. C. boys have nearly completed the construction of a headquarters building and a lookout tower. Other work under way includes the cleaning of water channels and the building of roads and trails to facilitate administration of the area by the U. S. Biological Survey. Enrollees at the Montezuma Refuge have also assisted in the development of the nearby Howland Island State Game Preserve. Operation of the Montezuma and 31 other Biological Survey refuge camps for the next 6 months periods, beginning October 1, has been approved by C. C. C. Director Robert Fechner.

The area designated in a recent Executive Order for the refuge contains 7,500 acres, of which 6,220 have already been purchased under provisions of the Migratory Bird Conservation Act. Originally most of this land was under water and a favorite nesting place of black and wood ducks. Muskrats also were common. Construction of a barge canal through the Montezuma marshes in 1916 lowered the water level and seriously affected the habitat of waterfowl and fur animals. Dikes and water-control structures that are being built will make it possible to control water levels and restore natural conditions. The sanctuary also contains an area suitable for the management of upland game.

"Although the Montezuma Migratory Bird Refuge may be small compared to some of the other refuges on the Atlantic flyway it is in a region where a refuge has been badly needed to help carry out the Department's waterfowl restoration program," says J. Clark Salyer, chief of the Survey's Division of Wildlife Refuges. "Within a few years it should again attract large numbers of ducks and geese."

- - - B - - -

476-39