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57 SMALL REFUGES FOR DUCKS AND WATER CONSERVATION ARE ESTABLISHED IN NORTH DAKOTA

Farmers Help Biological Survey's Waterfowl Restoration Program by Turning Over 90,000 Acres for Refuges

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Fifty-seven small refuges for migratory waterfowl and water conservation have been established in North Dakota during the past year by the U. S. Biological Survey on more than 90,000 acres of land turned over to the Government through perpetual easements signed by farmers and other landowners. Twenty-five such refuges have been developed during the past year by the Survey with funds from the Works Progress Administration, and 1,800 men are now at work improving the 32 other refuges.

"North Dakota contains the outstanding hereditary migratory waterfowl nesting area in this country, and thousands of wild ducks nested on the easement-refuges this year," says the Survey. "Large numbers of ducks caught by the drought last summer at pot holes and small water places flocked into the easement refuges and into the larger refuges that have been developed in this State."

Many North Dakota farmers also hauled water last summer from the refuges for livestock. Some livestock was watered at the refuges. When this was done the stock was kept away as much as possible from the shallow water areas and marsh lands inhabited by ducks.

The farmers helped to advance the easement-refuge program in North Dakota by granting the easements gratuitously. Out of 93,391 acres obtained for this type of

refuge development it was necessary to buy less than 1,500 acres. To facilitate this program the State legislature enacted laws authorizing and directing the 32 counties in which the easement areas are located to exempt from taxation all inundated refuge land, and to waive collection of fees for recording and filing the necessary documents covering the easement transactions.

Development of refuges, in practically every case, involves the building of storage dams, marsh embankments, and other water-impoundment devices which help to conserve water. The severity of future droughts in the vicinity of areas unwisely taken from migratory waterfowl can be lessened, the Survey believes, by converting such places into refuges for these birds. Water impounded on the refuges also helps stabilize water levels in adjoining land.

Sites for refuges were selected with a view of developing them into individual flood and soil-erosion control units also. In most instances submarginal or low-grade lands were chosen as sites for the water reservoirs. Construction work was performed with relief labor, with the exception of a small number of supervisory personnel. Persons in need of relief also are doing the construction work on the 32 refuges now under development. Picnic grounds or bathing beaches are being provided for the public on a number of the easement refuges. In developing these refuges the Survey has followed the general plan of improving the shallow water areas and marsh lands for waterfowl, reserving a part of the water area for livestock, and, whenever possible, providing public recreational facilities at the deep-water parts near the impoundment dams.

An allotment of $286,240 from the Works Progress Administration was used in completing the development of 25 refuges and in making essential improvements on 7 others. Last summer the Works Progress Administration in its emergency drought-relief program allotted an additional $600,000 to the Survey for the restoration and improvement of refuges and water conservation in several States. Of this al-

lotment $353,548 is being used for developing 25 new easement refuges and 7 on which work had already been done - 32 in all - in North Dakota, and in improving the Sullys Hill Game Preserve in Benson County. The remainder of the allotment is being used in developing wildlife and water conservation projects in South Dakota, Nebraska, Montana, Oklahoma, Louisiana, and Wisconsin. At present these projects are providing work for 2,800 farmers and other persons in need of relief.

"Development of small refuges for migratory waterfowl ties in with and helps to round out the Survey's program for the restoration and development of nesting and feeding places for these birds," says J. Clark Salyer, II, Chief of the Division of Migratory Waterfowl of the Survey.

"Small refuges in the vicinity of large refuges strategically located," says Mr. Salyer, "enhance the value of the large refuges by attracting more waterfowl to the area. A number of small refuges in a breeding area lessens the danger of the birds nesting in isolated and unprotected spots and at small water places that are likely to dry up during a drought. It should also be noted that ducks spend considerable time in visiting other refuges. Under average conditions an isolated refuge, therefore, stands little chance of attracting as many ducks as one that is in the vicinity of other refuges."

Location of the North Dakota easement refuges already developed and the acreage they contain are as follows:

Refuge	County	Acreage
Appert Project	Emmons	1,120
Billings Lake	Cavalier	760
Bone Hill Creek	LaMoure	640
Canfield Lake	Burleigh	310
Clouds Lake	Sargent	840
Lake George	Kidder	3,278
Halvorson Project	McHenry	399
Hanson Project	Emmons	640
Hutchinson Project	Kidder	449
Johnson Lake	Nelson and Eddy	1,726
Klabunde Project	Emmons	480
Lawler Project	Emmons	495
Lords Lake	Bottineau and Rolette	1,916
Lost Lake	McLean	960
Maple River	Dickey	1,120
Nason Project	Grand Forks	359
Lake Nettie	McLean	1,800
Pleasant Lake	Benson	959
Sheyenne Lake	Sheridan	812
Shirek Project	Walsh	480
Shirk Project	McKenzie	400
Storm Lake	Sargent	677
State Land Project	Emmons	640
White Lake	Slope	960
Wood Lake Marsh	Benson	545

Refuges under development and their location and acreage are as follows:

Refuge	County	Acreage
Lake Alice	Ramsey	5,279
Lake Ardoch	Walsh	2,985
Buffalo Lake	Pierce	1,903
Kelleys Slough	Grand Forks	903
Long Lake	Burleigh	17,552
Lake Tewaukan	Sargent	3,761
Willow Lake	Rolette	2,784
Camp Lake	McLean	1,204
Charles Lake	Hettinger	800
Cottonwood Lake	McHenry	569
Dakota Lake	Dickey	2,520
Lake Oliver	Oliver	640
Lake Burleigh	Burleigh	320
Florence Lake	Burleigh	700
Lake Williams	Williams	1,978
Lake Grant	Grant	1,440
Hobart Lake	Barnes	1,873
Lake Barnes	Barnes	680
Lake Ilo	Dunn	2,960
Legion Lake	Mountrail	360
Oen Lake	Ward	640
Painted Woods Lake	McLean	957
Lake Patricia	Morton	1,440
Petersburg Lake	Nelson	320
Rock Lake	Towner	8,160
Rose Lake	Nelson	1,280
Lake Stutsman	Stutsman	960
School Section Lake	Rolette	678
Sibley Lake	Griggs	1,340
Stewart Lake	Slope	1,440
Stoney Slough	Barnes	1,720
Wildfang Lake	Burleigh	480

17 October 1936

Dear Mr. McKinney:

The Chief liked the statement and made only two changes--on page 3.

I think we have the best possible arrangment of the quotes.

I tried to improve the first paragraph. Maybe it would be better yet to say "since the disastrous inroads of civilization" or something to that effect, but I think the idea ought to be left in.

Would a new 1-sentence lead, without changing the lead we now have, help get the story across. I'm thinking of something like the following suggestions:

The long-hoped-for increase in American Wildlife is at last in sight.

Better days for American wildlife are at last in sight.

Better prospects for American wildlife have at last been realized.

American conservationists can at last have hopes for an abundant wildlife.

I am going to be out of the city all of next week, so I trust that I have done everything that I can to help with this story. I'll be looking for it in the Pittsburgh papers.

Sincerely,

Zahniser

Wildlife conservation programs launched during the past four years and pushed forward with Civilian Conservation Corps man-power have helped to give migratory birds and other game their first real chance for survival since ~~this continent has been settled~~ their alarming decrease due to man's civilization, Robert Fechner, Director of Emergency Conservation Work, stated today. For the first time in our history, he said, conservationists ~~may hope~~ have grounds for hoping that the decrease of wildlife has been halted and that an increase will take place in the future.

The contributions made by the Civilian Conservation Corps in advancing this nation-wide program for the development and conservation of the country's wildlife resources were outlined by Mr. Fechner in a summarization of a series of reports forwarded to his office by the Department of Agriculture and the Department of the Interior. These two departments supervise the bulk of all work performed by the CCC.

Compiled from reports prepared by the U. S. Biological Survey, the Forest Service and the Soil Conservation Service of the Department of Agriculture and the National Park Service, the Office of Indian Affairs, the Bureau of Reclamation and the Division of Grazing of the Department of the Interior, Mr. Fechner's summary showed that the CCC contributed both directly and indirectly to the improvement of wild life conditions on federal refuges, national forests, national parks, state parks, Indian reservations, farms where erosion control work was done, range lands, and areas affected by the construction of flood control and irrigation works.

"The reports show," the director said, "that the CCC has aided wildlife directly by assisting the Biological Survey expand and develop a system of wildlife refuges without parallel in any country of the world. A second direct aid for wildlife has come through the work that has been done to expand the production capacities of fish hatcheries, the construction of more than 7,500 fish-rearing ponds, the improvement of conditions for fish propagation in more than 5,000 miles of streams, the stocking of streams, lakes, ponds and other waters with 189,000,000 fingerlings and young fish and the construction of large numbers of lakes and ponds in the course of the CCC program to check soil erosion, to conserve water in areas subject to drought and to control floods.

"Indirectly, the advancement of a nation-wide reforestation program by the CCC, while primarily conducted for the purpose of improving conditions for tree growth, has increased the amount of food or 'browse' available for wildlife, provided healthy protective covering and breeding places for game and afforded the natural habitat of many game species ~~with~~ better protection from forest fires.

"Use of Civilian Conservation Corps men by the various federal agencies has also been influential in promoting the recognition of the need for a national wildlife program by all the Government's land-administering agencies, ~~Mr. Fechner pointed out.~~ Wildlife technicians, ~~he explained,~~ have been consulted in regard

to the various programs for CCC work, and the result has been a better coordination of all activities affecting wildlife. The diversity of the CCC work is also promoting better cooperation among state and local agencies, as well as those of the federal Government.

In his report to the Director on the part played by the CCC in the work of the Biological Survey, Dr. Ira N. Gabrielson, chief of the Biological Survey, had this to say:

"For the first time in our history, this country now has a national program under way that promises a future for our wildlife resources, and the Civilian Conservation Corps is playing an important part in this program.

"It has been my pleasure to have had contact with the CCC since its inception, and I have visited hundreds of camps scattered over the United States, on national forests and on state lands, as well as our own.

"Since June 30, 1933, the Federal Government has acquired more than a million and a half acres for wildlife refuges. The Biological Survey has been developing these areas to make them suitable for the birds and to make it possible to administer them efficiently. The Survey has formulated the program and has supervised the work. The CCC camps have furnished man-power.

"The CCC boys have constructed dikes, dams, and other water-control structures to stabilize water levels and store water. Stabilizing the level of shallow fresh-water areas has permitted the growth of aquatic and other vegetation that will furnish food for the birds. Storage helps to maintain a continuous supply of water in the drier areas, especially in the important waterfowl-nesting regions of the Northwest. The boys have also developed springs and wells.

"Where food plants for the birds were lacking, the CCC camps have planted them. They have collected seeds and tubers where the plants are abundant and stored them for planting at the right time. The plantings have also included

shrubs and trees and field crops that are left for the waterfowl and upland game birds.

"Nesting islands have been built. Fences have been erected to protect wildlife food and cover from destruction by stock. Erosion-control work has been carried on to prevent silting of waterfowl ponds and to protect the ranges of big-game animals.

"All of these activities," Dr. Gabrielson explained, "will make the areas into better habitat for the birds--refuges in fact as well as in name. Other work by CCC camps is directed toward the same end by making it possible for the refuge supervisors to protect the birds more efficiently. Truck trails, fire lanes, lookout towers, and service buildings have been constructed, to promote the efficient operation of the refuges.

"Our CCC camps have also been invaluable wildlife relief agencies in times of emergency. When drought threatened the birds, boys from the camp helped in gathering up the birds on dried-up areas and releasing them on refuges where the water supply had been conserved. During severe winter weather, the boys also helped the birds out by emergency winter feeding activities.

"All these developments are promoting the greatest feeling of encouragement that American wildlife conservationists have ever known."

Wildlife benefits of Emergency Conservation Work are not limited to those resulting from the full-time work of the Biological Survey camps, however, Mr. Fechner pointed out. "The conservation of wildlife both in the water and the fields and forests has played an important part in our program during the three years and a half that the CCC has been at work", he said. "The reports show that the entire Civilian Conservation Corps work program has contributed either directly or indirectly to wildlife protection. The CCC camps assigned to reforestation work have not only improved the conditions for the growth of trees but have also increased the amount of food and cover for wildlife. In its report, the Forest Service states:

according to the Forest Service report
The Director pointed out also that/the reforestation program carried out in national and state forests under the supervision of that service

Reports from the other services, the Director said, indicated a similar interest in the pm improvement of wildlife conditions on other types of government-mmmm administered land. In its report, the Forest Service states:

"Forests provide shelter, cover and breeding grounds for big game and bird life and b y their shade and soil-holding qualities have an enormous direct influence in maintaining both the continuous flow and temperature of streams, both essential to fish life. Construction of fish rearing ponds, development of lakes and streams to make conditions more suitable for fish and stocking them with fish, and the seeding and planting of shrubs, vines, et cetera, for wild life food and cover, constitute the principal wildlife activities of the camps on forest lands.

"In addition to the activities which are designed to contribute directly to wild life conservation, there are many additional activities and projects which contribute indirectly. The forest improvement program of the CCC, in addition to improving the conditions for the growth of trees, has also increased the amount of food or "browse" available for wildlife and provides a healthy protective covering. Fire prevention work also lessens the danger that food supplies as well as wildlife itself will be destroy d by fires. Water conservation projects - the planting of trees in generally treeless areas - in fact, practically every project carried on by the CCC in the forests contributes indirectly to the betterment of wildlife conditions.

"Among the principal wildlife life activities of the soil erosion control camps are the seeding and planting of vines, shrubs and other woody vegetation providing wild life food and cover, and rodent control."

"In addition to the work in the national parks which has been directly beneficial to wildlife, a survey of the work of the CCC on state, county, and metropolitan parks shows that much work has been done on such projects as these:

1. Construction of water impounding dams
2. Stream and lake bank protection
3. Sheet erosion planting
4. Water control structures other than dams
5. Field planting and seeding
6. Construction of fish rearing ponds
7. Food and cover planting and seeding
8. Lake and pond development
9. Fish stocking
10. Stream improvement

"There are more than 500 parks of this nature widely distributed throughout the country, so situated in most cases as to constitute nuclei to provide food and cover for wildlife and also a stock which will naturally diffuse into the contiguous territories as increases occur within the parks."

Several CCC companies, Mr. Fechner pointed out, have been assigned to the development of fish hatcheries supervised by the U. S. Bureau of Fisheries. In a brief survey of the work on these projects, the Bureau of Fisheries said:

"At the York Pond fish hatchery, in the White Mountain National Forest in New Hampshire, for example, CCC men have been engaged in developing a plant which will be the Bureau's chief source of supply for brook trout eggs for the entire country. Ponds, buildings, and a water supply system have been developed, and expected production of some fifteen million brook trout eggs is expected to be attained as the result of the work of the CCC.

"Similar projects have been carried on by detachments of men at the state fish hatchery at Hackettstown, New Jersey, at Indian Camp Creek, in South Carolina, at Bozeman, Montana, and elsewhere.

"The Bureau of Fisheries has also cooperated with the Forest Service in the planning of stream improvement operations which have been carried out by the CCC on national forests.

Thousands of miles of streams were charted by the Bureau of Fisheries, to indicate points at which dams, current deflectors, shelters, and other devices, could be installed by the CCC under the supervision of the Forest Service. Other factors of stream improvement are the removal of beaver dams which slow down water, the clearance of silt and muck, the exposure of gravel bottoms and the provision of faster current, and hence cooler water. Such measures provide shelter, food, and spawning grounds for the fish. "

The protection of wildlife has also been a factor in CCC projects under the supervision of the Division of Grazing of the Department of the Interior. In a letter to the Director, the Division of Grazing stated that one of its objectives is the development of a rounded plan of wildlife management on lands under its jurisdiction. Summarizing the work completed by the CCC which has been of aid to wildlife, the division said; "Through the CCC camps, the Division of Grazing is developing additional water for the use of animals using the range; fencing [redacted] ranges [redacted] which may be desired for the sole use of wildlife; removing poisonous plants and herbivorous rodents, which consume natural forage, and developing water supplies which will effect a better distribution of forage resources. "