

From U. S. Biological Survey
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Release on day
Malheur CCC Camp holds
anniversary celebration.

FOURTH ANNIVERSARY
OF CCC CELEBRATED
AT MALHEUR REFUGE

April 2, 1937

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

Civilian Conservation Corps boys doing development work on the Malheur Migratory Bird Refuge, in Harney county, Oregon, have done a good job, says Ira M. Gabrielson, Chief of the U. S. Biological Survey, in congratulating the boys on the fourth anniversary of the C. C. C.

The Malheur camp is celebrating today (fill in date and brief explanation of celebration exercises planned). This is a part of a nation-wide, annual "birthday party" which the boys of the camps over the nation are holding.

C. C. C. boys on 17 wildlife refuges are contributing man-power for the Biological Survey's nation-wide refuge program, says the Bureau's Chief. They are, in general, doing two important things: making the areas more attractive to the birds and making the refuges easier to administer.

One of these areas, the Malheur, among the oldest and largest of the wildlife refuges administered by the Bureau, was originally set aside by Executive order in August of 1908. Its 159,872 acres, embracing almost the entire watershed of the Hellsen river, is a haven for many picturesque wild birds. They nest in the tule patches which dot the refuge; and moose, goats, both deer and antelope, roam its confines in safety.

Sedheads, ruddy ducks, mallards, gadwalls, cinnamon teal, pintails, shovelers, and blue-winged teal nest here in large numbers each summer, as well as Canada geese and many species of shorebirds--the long-billed curlew, Wilson's snipe, avocet, western willet, Wilson's phalarope, killdeer, and spotted sandpiper. Other birds add interest to the refuge, too, such as the

sandhill crane, white pelican, black and Forster's tern, California and ring-billed gull, egret, heron, white-faced glossy ibis, and various grebes. The refuge ~~is~~ is well stocked with mule deer and antelope and some of the more valuable fur-bearers--the beaver, raccoon, mink, and muskrat.

Introduced into the area in 1913, the ring-necked pheasant has increased fairly well in certain localities on the refuge. European partridges, likewise aliens, have increased; and 16 Oregon ruffed grouse band raised at the State Game Commission's Experimental Farm were liberated last spring in a brushy part of the refuge in an effort to colonize this species.

The C.C.C. boys' accomplishments make these wild creatures feel at home on the Malheur Refuge, says Chief Gabrielson. Much of their work began in August of 1933, and includes a vast amount of accomplished projects. They have built 16 vehicle bridges, for example, an equipment and storage supply house, and are finishing two dwellings. They dismantled and salvaged the materials in 66 undesirable structures.

They have erected 31,372 rods of fence, 33 miles of telephone line, and laid 1,620 linear feet of pipe and tile line. They have developed a spring, constructed 11 cattle guards, and built or are completing 32 miles of truck trails. For levees, dikes, and jetties, they excavated 372,006 cubic yards of earth; and threw up protection for 3,330 square yards of stream and lake banks. They have built 31 check dams, and crushed 7,239 tons of rock and limestone. Other work included clearing, cleaning and excavating more than four hundred thousand square yards of channels, and riprapping 28,023 square yards along water areas. They removed fire hazards on 20 acres of refuge land, cleaned up 911 more acres in general, and developed 1,230 square yards of land for parking area.

They planted and seeded 535 acres to feed and cover, made a lineal survey of 315 miles on the area, and sketched 135 miles of refuge boundaries.

"This work," says Gabrielson, "is all a part of the restoration of our American wildlife, an invaluable resource of great benefit to all Americans. The next time you may see a wedge of geese honking along their flyway, or a flash of ducks, you may say to yourself, 'Well, perhaps I have seen them because the U. S. G. boys are doing a good job out there at the Salineur Refuge.'"