

From U. S. Biological Survey  
Washington, D. C.

For release on date  
Savannah C.C.C. camp  
celebrates C.C.C.  
anniversary.

Apr. 2, 1937

FOURTH ANNIVERSARY  
BY CCC CELEBRATED  
AT SAVANNAH REFUGE

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

Civilian Conservation Corps boys doing development work on the Savannah River Migratory Bird Refuge, located in Chatham county, Georgia, and Jasper and Beaufort counties, South Carolina, have done a good job, says Ira M. Gabrielson, Chief of the U. S. Biological Survey, in congratulating them on the fourth anniversary of the C. C. C.

The Savannah River camp is celebrating today (fill in date) with appropriate exercises and an old-fashioned open house. Visitors at the camp will be taken on tours of the entire layout under the guidance of regular enrollees.

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 Savannah River refuge, was originally established by Executive order of April, 1927. Improvements have made the

refuge attractive so that now it has become of great importance to waterfowl, particularly to the wood ducks that nest on its 7,483 acres in large numbers.

This refuge is one of the most accessible maintained by the Bureau, and passing tourists are able to see the birds feeding in the marshes or flying over and across the sanctuary. Mallards, black ducks, and pintails are the most common of the ducks there, and many woodcock and Wilson's snipe also visit the area. Gallinules and rails find the area a favorite nesting ground. In addition, it is one of the finest wild turkey areas left in the South. The region is famous for its semiannual concentration of many types of migratory birds, since it lies directly in the line of the coastal migration path. Winter before last a flock of 10,000 blue-winged teal and a flock of as many wood ducks were seen on the refuge at one time.

The U. S. C. boys' accomplishments make these wild creatures feel at home on the Savannah River Refuge, says the Bureau's Chief. Since the camp was set up, in October of 1935, the boys have, for instance, cleaned up 19 acres of refuge land, eradicated poisonous weeds on another 30 acres, and seeded and planted 21 acres to food and cover for wildlife.

Other work, says the Survey, has been done to facilitate administration of the refuge and protection of the wildlife. In this category, for example, are included the construction of a lookout tower and ten miscellaneous refuge buildings. The boys likewise excavated 22,500 cubic yards of

material in the construction of diversion dams for the impounding of water, and another 33,876 cubic yards for levees, dikes, and jetties. They have built 12 water control structures. They have erected more than five miles of telephone line, and marked some 28 miles of refuge boundary.

"All this work," says Dr. Gabrielson, "is part of the restoration of our American wildlife, an invaluable resource of great benefit to all Americans. The next time you see a thin line of mallards or pintails winging their way across the sky you can say to yourself, 'Well, it may be that those fellows are up there because the U. S. G. boys have been doing a good job down at the Savannah River Refuge'."