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FOURTH ANNIVERSARY
OF CCC COLLABORATED
AT WICHITA MOUNTAIN

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

Civilian Conservation Corps boys doing development work on the
Wichita Mountains
Wichita Wildlife Refuge, located in Comanche county, near Cache, Okla., have
done a good job, says Ira N. Gabrielson, Chief of the Biological Survey, in
congratulating them on the fourth anniversary of the C. C. C.

The Wichita Mountains camp is celebrating today (April 4) with
colorful exercises, talks, and a general, old-fashioned open house, as part
of the program to which the public is invited. Parties of guests will be
guided around the camp and its environs as they desire, by camp caretakers.

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

One of these areas, that of the Wichita Mountains, comprises 31,400
acres of rough mountain land and deep gorges, with a fair proportion of typical
prairie and woodland, embracing the major portion of the Wichita Mountains
in the southwestern part of the State. Its administration was transferred
to the Biological Survey under provisions of an act of June 4, 1934. Chiefly
notable among its game life are buffalo, elk, deer, and a herd of Texas
longhorns sheltered there. Too, in fair numbers, are turkeys, quail, prairie
chickens, ducks, geese, and other wild birds.

The G. C. C. boys' accomplishments here make these wild creatures feel at home at this Refuge, says Chief Gabrielson. Since October, 1935, when the Bureau first began to supervise the activities on the Refuge, their efforts have resulted in the construction, for example, of 9 foot bridges, one vehicular bridge, two bath houses, five dwellings, and seven other buildings. They have also partly completed four other structures, including shelters, dwellings, and miscellaneous outhouses.

Seven diversion dams were constructed by the Corps, and on three more the work is in progress. They built 480 rods of fence; laid 7,970 linear feet of pipe and tile line. They cleared the way for and constructed 30 miles of truck trails, eight miles of foot trails, and another four miles for horse trails.

Additional work included the clearing up of 41 acres of land for a reservoir site, and the further general improvement of another 33 acres. The boys did an even 20,000 square yards of fine grading, cleaned up 220 acres of channel. They moved and planted 1,600 trees; and seeded and planted to feed and cover for wildlife still another 41 acres.

These activities were the major projects. The boys also laid disposal beds, built power lines, constructed cattle guards, portals, signs, markers, monuments, etc.--all improvements not only for big game and waterfowl, but also for a general public which has sought out the Wichita consistently.

The Bureau, aided intensively here by the man-power of the G.C.C., has made of this Refuge, one of southwest Oklahoma's finest public recreational areas. Last year, more than 250,000 visitors saw the herds of buffalo, elk, deer, and the longhorn cattle, and enjoyed the scenic drives to the lakes nestled in tree-lined valleys among the Wichita's rugged hills.

"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 may see a thin line of geese heading their way along a flyway, or see shaggy buffaloes lined against the horizon, perhaps you will say to yourself, 'Well, it may be that I am able to see these things because the G.C.C. boys have been doing a good job down at the Wichita Refuge.'"