

CELEBRATE CCC
ANNIVERSARY AT
WILDLIFE REFUGE

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

C.C.C. boys, developing the Mud Lake Migratory Waterfowl Refuge in Marshall County, Minnesota, are making an invaluable contribution to the national wildlife restoration program, says Dr. Ira W. Gabrielson, Chief of the U. S. Biological Survey. His congratulations to the camp personnel came on the fifth anniversary of the C.C.C.

The Mud Lake camp is joining other camps throughout the nation this week (March 31 to April 5) in celebrating the anniversary and invites the public to visit the camp during "open house" celebration on (insert date) to see the progress being made at this Minnesota wildlife refuge. Here the C.C.C. boys, under the direction of the Biological Survey, are working to improve the refuge as they are in 31 other camps on refuges over the United States. They are making the refuges easier to administer and more attractive to wild life.

"C.C.C. boys," says Dr. Gabrielson, "are familiar figures in many localities. The public is becoming acquainted with them and their work. It can see the beneficial effect of camp training as a preparation for good citizenship. It also learns of the C.C.C. contribution to the wildlife program."

The Mud Lake Refuge, in northwest Minnesota, is one of the selected areas which the Biological Survey is improving with C.C.C. help so that it will attract and support larger numbers of waterfowl and other wildlife. This area once was ideal for waterfowl, but an agricultural project brought about its drainage.

Camp work started October 26, 1935. The boys have been repairing old dams and dikes, constructing new ones, and erecting necessary buildings and bridges on the refuge. 14 miles of telephone lines and 20 miles of truck trail have been built, 345 acres cleared for reservoir and pond sites, while 2400 trees have been planted.

Ninety five percent of the work from October 25, 1935, through June, 1937, was done on State land. Since then 75 percent of the work was on Federal land with 25 percent on State land.

Mallards, blue-winged teal, gadwalls, American Bitterns, sandpipers and marsh hawks are found at Mud Lake. When the plans are completed the Survey will restore much of the marsh and shallow water area which once was a natural breeding place for waterfowl.

To furnish food for the migratory and nesting birds the boys have collected 1,330 pounds of seed and planted 66 acres to feed and cover. In addition, riprapping for water control and boundary marking has been completed. Some time has been spent fighting forest fires.

"All of these accomplishments," says Dr. Gabrielson, "help make the waterfowl and other wildlife at Mud Lake feel at home. The work will serve as a lasting monument to the C.C.C. Five years ago when our wildlife resources, especially waterfowl, were in serious danger, the Biological Survey had a restoration program. It lacked the means and man power to carry it out. Then emergency funds, for buying refuges, became available. About the same time C.C.C. help was obtained for development work. This was indeed a happy coincidence as the accomplishments on record today were only dreamed of five years ago."