

CELEBRATE CCC
ANNIVERSARY AT
WILDLIFE REFUGE

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

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C.C.C. boys, developing the Seney Migratory Waterfowl Refuge in Schoolcraft County, Michigan, are making an invaluable contribution to the national wildlife restoration program, says Dr. Ira N. 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 Seney 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 an "open house" celebration on (insert date) to see the progress being made at this Michigan wildlife refuge. 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 more attractive to wildlife and easier to administer.

"C.C.C. boys," says Dr. Gabrielson, "are familiar figures in many localities and the public, by becoming acquainted with them and their work, can also see the beneficial effect camp training has in preparing them for good citizenship as well as learn about their contributions to the wildlife program."

The Seney Refuge, in northern Michigan, 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. It was declared an inviolate sanctuary by an Executive Order of President Roosevelt on December 10, 1935. Before the

Survey began its waterfowl restoration program the area was largely waste-land. Thousands of ducks and geese and other wildlife used these marshes before they were partly drained. Although the drainage was abandoned, the ditches that had been dug lowered the water level so that the area ceased to attract waterfowl in large numbers.

The work on the Seney Refuge is largely marshland restoration. Dams, spillways, and other engineering structures for controlling the water supply on 20,000 acres of the refuge was completed early last year. Work of developing the second unit of about 30,000 acres is well under way. Ultimately, the Biological Survey expects the refuge to consist of three adjoining units covering 90,000 acres. A large part of the land in this project is State-owned, and with the cooperation of State officials, the Survey is acquiring additional land along the refuge boundary for the State in exchange for State land in the refuge. The State Conservation Department also cooperates with the Survey in developing and maintaining the refuge.

Already the restoration activities are showing results. Large numbers of migrating waterfowl stop at the refuge in fall and spring. Black ducks together with pintails, mallards, blue-winged teal, and ruddy ducks nested there the past two seasons. The Survey also hopes the Canada goose will return to this region as a nesting bird.

The CCC boys began work on the Seney Refuge on June 24, 1935, and have excavated 389,937 cubic yards of earth in building levees, dikes, and jetties. They also removed 169,507 cubic yards of earth in digging channels, canals, and ditched and used 38,605 square yards of earth in fine grading work. In addition, one large diversion dam has been completed.

Two lookout towers built by the boys enable refuge officials to observe the movements of waterfowl and to keep a close watch for outbreaks of fire and law violations. Four public shelter buildings, two garages, and a vehicle bridge have been built. In addition, 8,308 rods of fencing, 7 miles of telephone line, and 6 miles of truck trails have been completed .

The boys have devoted 8,545 man-days to fire prevention work and fire-fighting, and in cleaning up 3,090 acres of refuge land they spent 500 man-days in dismantling and salvaging material from undesirable structures. They also devoted 7,370 man-days in developing lakes and ponds, 1,646 man-days in preparing and transporting materials used in construction work, and 1,309 man-days to other wildlife activities. A total of 228 acres were cleared for pond and lake sites. Other work done by the camp included cutting of fence posts, topographic surveys, food and cover planting, soil preparation, moving and planting trees and shrubs, and building of signs and markers.

"All of these accomplishments," says Dr. Gabrielson, "help make the waterfowl and other wildlife on the Sney marshes feel at home, and will serve as lasting tributes to the CCC. Five years ago when our wildlife resources, especially waterfowl, were in serious danger, the Biological Survey had a restoration program, but neither the means nor Man-power to carry it out. Then emergency funds for buying refuge areas became available and about the same time CCC help for developing the refuges. This was indeed a happy coincidence as the accomplishments on record today were only dreamed of five years ago."