

COC EXTENDING NEW
DEAL TO WATERFOWL

How COC workers are extending the new deal to waterfowl and other species of wild life is told in an account released today by Robert Fechner, Director of Emergency Conservation Work.

Under the supervision of the Bureau of Biological Survey, of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, Civilian Conservation Corps camps, says Mr. Fechner, are making great improvements in sanctuaries maintained by the Federal Government for the conservation of the Nation's resource in ducks and geese and other valuable species. These improvements, he explains, will make the refuges more attractive to the birds, facilitate administration and maintenance of the areas, and reduce the cost of future development.

Improving Refuge in North Carolina

One of the sanctuary areas being thus improved by COC workers is just off Pamlico Sound in North Carolina. Here is the Swanquarter Migratory Bird Refuge—more than 15,000 acres of land and marsh about Swanquarter Bay, Rose Bay, and Juniper Bay. Swans, geese, and ducks find a resting and feeding place on this refuge; coveys of quail live here; and the wild-life visitors include deer, bear, and many smaller animals.

Two problems have confronted Biological Survey officials on this refuge—how to make the area most suitable for the birds and how to administer it most economically and efficiently. COC workers are helping in the solution of both.

Fire, for example, has been a constant threat to the refuge and all its wild-life inhabitants. Thick stands of trees with dense growths of

underbrush have provided ready fuel and at the same time have made it difficult for firefighters to reach the flames. Now the CCC workers are cutting 15 miles of firebreak, crisscrossed to divide the area into sections to which an outbreak can be confined. They are also building three steel towers as lookouts for use in spotting fires, as well as for observation of waterfowl and to facilitate patrol. One of these towers has already been built, at headquarters near the northwest corner of the refuge; another will be near the east end of the sanctuary; and a third, between these two.

Later the Civilian Conservation Corps will make several ponds for waterfowl food plants and carry on other activities directly benefiting the birds. Now, however, aside from providing firebreaks, the camp is working for the most part to benefit the birds indirectly—by making it possible for the Biological Survey protectors to patrol the refuge more effectively and thus give better protection to the waterfowl.

The CCC workers are connecting this wild-life area with the outside world and providing foot trails within the refuge. Already they have established a telephone line to headquarters, and now, between the refuge headquarters and a State highway, they are building a 2-mile corduroy truck trail across a swamp, using poles that they themselves have cut on the ground.

Other work carried on at Swanquarter includes cleaning up for fire prevention along the trails constructed, building a sea wall to protect the banks along Rose Bay from erosion, and improving the buildings and grounds at headquarters. When the Civilian Conservation Corps finishes its work on this area, Biological Survey officials believe that the refuge will be almost idealistic for its purpose, from the standpoint of physical development.