

INFORMATION FOR THE PRESS



U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
OFFICE OF INFORMATION
PRESS SERVICE



Release - Immediate

WASHINGTON, D. C

April 26, 1934.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT ALLOCATES
\$1,000,000 FOR BIRD PROTECTION ✓

Chief Darling Hails First Real Opportunity
for Waterfowl Restoration.

One million dollars of Emergency Conservation Work funds were allocated for migratory-bird restoration purposes by President Roosevelt on April 19. Executive Order No. 6684 authorizes the purchase and rental of lands as refuges for migratory birds and other forms of wild life that constitute a diminishing natural resource. Acquisition and proper development of the refuge lands will provide protection not only for the depleted wild-life resources but for the lands themselves. The work incident to acquisition and improvement will also provide employment on useful public work.

Jay N. Darling, Chief of the Bureau of Biological Survey, in expressing his satisfaction over the action of President Roosevelt, said that this is the first real opportunity we have had to restore to our birds some of the areas we have taken from them. "Various promotion schemes," he said, "have robbed the birds of more than 17,000,000 acres of nesting areas and homes for the young. Now we shall have a real chance to put some of these lands and marshes back to their proper uses—for the birds. Their restoration, however, is all part of the general movement for the conservation of our natural resources, and it parallels

2434-34

and aids efforts in flood, forest-fire, erosion, and insect-pest control. We can visualize the ultimate success of the plans now forming. The recent passage of the 'Waterfowl Stamp Act,' will furnish continuing revenue each year for the new refuge program thus happily inaugurated. The many flyways of the birds will be increasingly dotted with adequate 'travelers' aid' stations, and permanent breeding grounds will be assured. Such practical measures will restore the natural resources that we have wasted.

"All who have the real welfare of our birds at heart can now stop talking for a while and actually get down to work. With the Biological Survey well equipped for a good start, the Government is doing its part. It is essential also that neighborhoods realize their responsibility and not neglect their own duties. The job is for everybody, and there is no time to waste. The effective interest of President Roosevelt will challenge the rest of us to act--as individuals, as groups, and as communities. We must all work for the restoration of our seriously threatened natural resources in wild-bird life."

This use of ECW funds, while not governed or limited by the Migratory Bird Conservation Act of 1929, will further the purpose of that act, which is to establish bird refuges. That act authorized appropriations for land acquisition, but Congress has not yet made the funds fully available.

The President's order was issued under the provisions of the Unemployment Relief Act, the purpose of which, as stated in Section 1, are: (1) To relieve unemployment; (2) to provide for the restoration of the country's depleted natural resources; and (3) to provide for the advancement of an orderly program of useful public works. Section 2 of the act authorizes acquisitions of land for these purposes.

Following is the text of the order:

WHEREAS it is necessary to purchase or rent various lands in order to provide suitable refuges for, and to protect and conserve, migratory birds and other wild life constituting depleted natural resources of the United States; and

WHEREAS the work and improvements necessary to be performed and made upon such lands to make them suitable and proper refuges for migratory birds and other wild life will provide protection for such lands from forest fires, floods and soil erosion, and plant pest and disease, and aid in the restoration of the country's depleted natural resources; and

WHEREAS the purchase of such lands will provide employment for citizens of the United States who are unemployed;

NOW, THEREFORE, by virtue of and pursuant to the authority vested in me by the act of Congress entitled "An act for the relief of unemployment through the performance of useful public work, and for other purposes," approved March 31, 1933 (48 Stat.22), the purchase or rental of such lands as are suitable for the aforesaid purposes is hereby authorized; and by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Fourth Deficiency Act, fiscal year 1933, approved June 16, 1933 (48 Stat. 274), the sum of \$1,000,000 is hereby allocated for the purchase or rental of such lands (including the costs incident to purchase or rental) from the appropriation made by the said deficiency act for carrying into effect the provisions of the said act of March 31, 1933.

The sum herein allocated shall be transferred by the Treasury Department to the credit of the War Department for the purchase or rental of such lands (including the costs incident to purchase or rental) and shall, upon request of the Chief of Finance, under direction of the Director of Emergency Conservation Work, be transferred by the Treasury to the credit of the Department of Agriculture, and the funds so transferred shall be withdrawn on requisition by the Secretary of Agriculture.

-----P-----