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BIRD REFUGE ESTABLISHED
IN RAILROAD VALLEY, NEV.

Artesian wells in a desert valley of Nye County southwest of Ely, Nev., have created an area so desirable for waterfowl that the Federal Government has reserved and set aside the lands for refuge purposes, says the Bureau of Biological Survey, U. S. Department of Agriculture, in describing the Railroad Valley Migratory Bird Refuge established recently by Executive order. Only public lands were involved in the order.

Sunk in connection with an unsuccessful potash-development project years ago, the wells have continued to flow and have created swampy areas and ponds--one of 50 acres and another of 30 acres--used by the birds as nesting, resting, and feeding areas. A Bureau biologist in August 1933 observed about a thousand ducks on these ponds, mostly cinnamon teals and mallards but including many pintails. He also observed white-faced glossy ibises, avocets, and other water birds and found a luxuriant growth of aquatic vegetation including tules and sedges. Additional wells and engineering operations for water control are being planned by the Biological Survey, and when thus developed it is expected that the area will be an important link in the chain of Federal bird refuges.

Third in size among the Federal sanctuaries administered by the Biological Survey in the United States, the Railroad Valley Migratory Bird Refuge includes about 135,184 acres. It is approximately 18 miles long and 16 miles wide.

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