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For release on date  
C.C.C. camp holds local  
anniversary celebration.

FOURTH ANNIVERSARY  
OF CCC IS CELEBRATED  
AT SWANQUARTER CAMP  
U. S. Biological Survey  
Congratulates Boys  
on "Good Work."

Apr. 2, 1937

Civilian Conservation Corps boys doing development work on the Lake Mattamuskeet Migratory Waterfowl and the Swanquarter Migratory Bird Refuge, on the northwest and northeast sides of Pamlico Soundy in Hyde county, North Carolina, have done a good job, says Ira N. Gabrielson, Chief of the U. S. Biological Survey, in congratulating them on the fourth anniversary of the C.C.C.

The boys of the two camps are celebrating jointly today (fill in date brief explanation of exercises planned).

C.C.C. boys on 17 wildlife refuges are contributing man-power for the Biological Survey's nation-wide refuge program, says Chief Gabrielson. They are, in general, doing two important things: Making the areas more attractive to the birds and making the refuges easier to administer.

The Lake Mattamuskeet Refuge was established in December, 1934, and the Swanquarter Refuge was purchased in 1932. The former, containing some 50,000 acres, is an old lake bed slightly below sea level, and is the most important goose and swan wintering area on the Atlantic coast. The principal waterfowl on the refuge are geese, but ducks and swans also use it extensively. The average of three separate estimates of water fowl on the area last winter was 13,300 geese, 11,300 ducks, and 4,800 swans. Most common among the ducks were the mallard, black and wood duck. Already, 168 forms of bird life have been recorded on this area, including--in addition to the ducks, geese and swan--loons, grebes, cormorants, egrets, herons, terns, bitterns, eagles, ospreys sandpipers, gulls and quail.

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In exploring the shores of Paslico Sound many years ago, some of the early pioneers came to a beautiful bay where thousands of swans were quietly resting and feeding. The sight was awe inspiring. So they named the bay, "Swanquarter"--"home of the swans"--and the name has remained down through the years. This area, of 15,493 acres, is haven not only for geese and swans, but thousands of redheads, mallards, black ducks and scaups occur here in the fall and winter. In slightly lesser numbers are found green-winged teals, golden-eyes, and canvasbacks. The black duck, however, is the only species of duck which breeds in the region. Among other birds frequenting the region are the American bittern, least bittern, osprey, great blue heron, and the laughing gull.

The C. C. C. boys' accomplishments on these two refuges make these wild creatures feel at home, says Chief Gabrielson. A camp was established June 30, 1933, at Rose Bay, on the Swanquarter Refuge, and most of the efforts of the boys during its first two years of occupancy were required in carrying on work there. During its latter two years, the activities of the camp have been largely devoted to development of the Mattamuskeet area, which is but a few miles away.

Major projects completed by this C. C. C. man-power has included, for example, the construction of six bridges, several buildings--such as garages, dwellings, and overnight cabins, three lookout towers, three water control structures; and the dismantling of 14 undesirable buildings on the refuge and salvaging the material.

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Other work, too, says the Survey, has been done to facilitate administration of the refuge and protection of the wildlife there. The boys erected four miles of telephone line, five miles of foot trails, and another 15 miles of track trails. They threw up 4,680 square yards of bank protection; and, for clearing and cleaning channels, and excavating for these dikes, and ditches they moved a total of 132,475 square yards of earth and other materials.

They constructed 11 miles of fire break, and removed fire hazards from along five miles of road and 18 miles of trail. They collected 700 pounds of flower and grass seed, and prepared and planted 531 acres for food and cover for wildlife. In addition, they marked 38 miles of refuge boundary, constructed 13,500 rods of fence, built several disposal tanks, and executed numerous other miscellaneous jobs.

"All this work", says Dr. Gabrielson, "is part of the restoration of our American wildlife, an invaluable resource of great benefit to all Americans. The next time you see any of the beautiful wild swans of this area, or spot a wedge of geese passing high overhead, you may well say to yourself, "it may be that I have seen these things because the C.C.C. boys have been doing a good job down at the Mattamuskeet and Swanquarter Refuges."

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