

CELEBRATE CCC
ANNIVERSARY AT
WILDLIFE REFUGE

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

CCC boys, developing the Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge in Comanche County, Oklahoma, 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 CCC.

The Wichita Mountains camps are joining other camps throughout the nation this week (March 31 to April 5) in celebrating the anniversary and invite the public to visit the camps during an "open house" celebration on (insert date) to see the progress being made at this Oklahoma wildlife refuge. Here the CCC 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 easier to administer and more attractive to wildlife.

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

The Wichita Mountains Refuge, in southwest Oklahoma is an important sanctuary for big game animals and upland game birds as well as waterfowl and it contains 61,480 acres. Formerly a National Forest and game preserve tract, it was transferred to the Biological Survey for administration in 1935, and since October 1 of that year work here

has been carried out under the direction of the Bureau. On the refuge live buffalo, elk, Virginia deer and a herd of Texas Longhorn cattle that are being perpetuated. Wild turkey, quail, prairie chicken and wild ducks and geese as well as other migratory birds are to be found at this Oklahoma sanctuary.

The CCC boys have constructed 73 miles of truck trail, built fire breaks, horse and foot trails, developed extensive recreational areas, and numerous other improvements. Twenty-two concrete and forty earthen dams, and numerous check dams have been complete for lake and pond development. Eleven horse bridges, two vehicle bridges, four dwellings and twenty other necessary building have been constructed or reconditioned.

Reservoir sites have been cleared as necessary behind the dams and forty-one acres planted to food and cover. In addition banks have been sloped, trees and shrubs have been moved and planted and old buildings razed. Fence and guar rail erection and hydroelectric plant and power line construction, and installation of irrigation, sanitation systems, and disposal fields have been additional tasks.

"The accomplishments of the CCC boys," says Dr. Gabrielson, "help to make wildlife at Wichita Mountains feel at home. Their work will serve as a lasting monument to the CCC. Five years ago when our wildlife resources were in serious danger, the Biological Survey had a restoration program. It lacked the means and man power to carry it out. Then emergency funds for buying refuge areas became available. About the same time CCC help for developing the refuges was obtained. This was indeed a happy coincidence as the accomplishments on record today were only dreamed of five years ago."