

The terrain becomes increasingly marshy now, and water-fowl life more abundant. The low buildings of the project appear and we follow for a short distance along the banks of the main stream of the Bear River, turgid and muddy, and soon find ourselves in the midst of the Government village, 15 miles, or a little more, from our starting-point.

We present our credentials to the refuge's superintendent, and are immediately taken in charge and introduced to the small administrative staff. The intent of the Government in the preservation of wild life is fully outlined and many of its methods explained. We are then conducted through the group of buildings, preliminary to a tour of the nesting-grounds, the most interesting proving to be the power plant and the as-yet-incompleted research building for the biological staff. The complete power-plant furnishes the refuge buildings with heat, light, and refrigeration, operated from a natural gas-well. As pure water has not been obtained, a distilling plant is used. A filtration plant furnishes water for all other purposes. The building for scientific research houses apparatus to be used in the study of wild-life plagues such as have decimated the flocks in past years. Methods of feed-growing and all factors contributing to the well-being of the feathered inhabitants are studied.

We are shown a great store of various wild plant seeds which must have been gathered with infinite labour from many distant points, to be used experimentally to supply a variety as well as an increase of food-supply.

A great room of glass tanks, located in tiers, one above the other, for experimental and observation purposes is a feature of the research plant.

Steel towers, 100 feet high, with mounted telescopes, stand out prominently in the refuge, for the observation of flights and the apprehension of poachers. There are warehouses, cottages for employees, garages, and other buildings, constructed with the appearance of permanency and utility usual to Government buildings.

A raised area of about 10 acres, which is to be parked with lawns, trees, driveways, and paths, is being formed by CCC workers about the buildings. The top-soil of this island is hauled about 20 miles. This is made necessary on account of the alkalinity of the soil of the locality. Here is also under construction a

lagoon, fed by the river, which will be surrounded by a high fence and in which will be kept on display specimens of the wildfowl life of the region.

The trip through the nesting-grounds is made on roadways on the top of the dikes, of which there are more than 40 miles. They are 150 feet thick at the base and about 8 feet high. The territory encompassed amounts to over 60,000 acres. Several miles of the fresh-water side have been beached with fine gravel. Grit is as essential to the well-being of wild fowl as to domestic fowl. At the mouth of the river the main dike contains forty spillways to keep the water at the desired level.

Our conductor, the superintendent, has explained to us the qualifications which are considered for the selection of employees. They are, he says, experience in similar work, such as game-warden, and special adaptation. Courses are now given as preparation in colleges. As we are shown about we are able to observe the meaning of special adaptation—the careful watchfulness of the mother hen coupled with the same amount of affection for her charges.

Driving out upon the first dike to begin a 10-mile tour, the most interesting imaginable, our guide demonstrates all this special adaptation. His care with the nests of Teals, which he searched out, standing smilingly by while our unaccustomed eyes fail to locate the nest 2 feet away, although it contains 9 eggs almost as large as pullet eggs, shows to us what he had meant.

We note now, all along the way, the peculiar circumstance that all the nests are located on the north and west sides of the dikes. Our guide can give no reason for it but it is noticeable that, of the nearly eighty species of classified water-fowl, all are located thus. Some are concealed in weeds and grasses; others, as those of the Avocet, lie carelessly exposed upon the bare dirt.

The uproar of the marshes is almost unbelievable. The vast numbers of feathered inhabitants living here do not preserve the stillness usual to wild life in contact with man. Here they live as they did before the coming of their human enemies, without the restraint of fear. Constant chattering and piping, squawking and honking, the flapping of wings and the impact of meteor-like bodies on the surface of the