

# INFORMATION FOR THE PRESS



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### LAND ACQUISITIONS FOR BIRD REFUGES APPROVED

Migratory-Bird Conservation  
Commission Authorizes 10  
Additions in 9 States

The Migratory Bird Conservation Commission, of which Secretary Hyde of the Department of Agriculture is chairman, yesterday (December 3) authorized acquisition of lands by the Bureau of Biological Survey for 10 migratory game-bird refuges in New York, Maryland, North Carolina, South Carolina, Florida, Nebraska, North Dakota, Wyoming, and Nevada. The area amounts to 43,227 acres. The cost to the Government will average \$5.74 an acre.

The ten proposed refuges had been surveyed previously by biologists and land valuation experts of the Biological Survey, and the Department of Agriculture had approved their acquisition as units in the nationwide system of refuges authorized by Congress.

Including the lands approved <sup>yesterday</sup> by the commission, 154,744 acres have been authorized by the commission for acquisition by lease and by purchase since the migratory-bird refuge program was initiated in 1930. In addition, 65,970 acres have been set aside by Executive order and Presidential proclamation, making a total of 220,713 acres established or in the process of being established as inviolate Federal sanctuaries for migratory birds. Refuges have been established in California, Nevada, Montana, Wyoming, North Dakota, Nebraska, Oklahoma, Florida,

South Carolina, North Carolina, Maryland, and New York. The average cost per acre of all lands approved for purchase under the act is \$4.30.

In New York the commission authorized the leasing of lands for the Hempstead Migratory Bird Refuge, an area of 2,274 acres of land and water adjacent to Hewlett, Long Island. Because it is on the Atlantic coast flight route of migratory birds and near to the metropolitan area of New York this is considered an important link in the eastern chain of refuges. Within a zone where there is a great concentration of hunters and no refuge, this unit is a valuable migratory waterfowl sanctuary.

An outstanding acquisition approved by the commission at its meeting yesterday is the Blackwater Migratory Bird Refuge on the eastern shore of Maryland. This unit, situated about 10 miles from Cambridge, Md., contains approximately 10,000 acres, including marshes where black ducks and blue-winged teal breed in greater numbers than on any other area on the eastern seaboard south of Labrador. Mallards and pintails also concentrate on the marshes during the migration season, and many shorebirds will find sanctuary here.

In the Swanquarter Migratory Bird Refuge in Hyde County, N. C., acquisition of 3,600 acres contiguous to tracts previously approved was authorized. The refuge area will thus be consolidated and its value as an inviolate sanctuary increased. With the water areas this tract borders, the refuge will now make an administrative unit of about 25,000 acres.

Acquisition in South Carolina of approximately 414 acres of land, approved yesterday, will completely consolidate Government-owned land in the Cape Romain Refuge. The total area in this unit is now about 33,000 acres.

The Commission also approved the acquisition of 5,285 acres for the St. Marks Refuge, Fla., to consolidate the Government holdings there. With nearly 14,000 acres approved for acquisition a year ago this brings the total area in the process of acquisition to 19,167 acres. Stretching for approximately 14 miles

along the shores of Apalachee Bay, St. Marks Refuge is a famous winter resting ground for many species of ducks and shorebirds and one of the greatest Canada goose concentration areas along the Gulf coast.

Crescent Lake Migratory Bird Refuge, Nebr., in accordance with yesterday's authorization, will be extended by the acquisition of 1,688 acres, including several extensive water areas and numerous ponds and potholes. The acquisition will also tend to round out the boundaries of this sanctuary, which now includes about 40,000 acres.

By approving the acquisition of numerous small tracts bordering on Long Lake, in Kidder and Burleigh Counties, North Dakota, the commission yesterday took steps looking to the establishment of the first Federal migratory-bird refuge in that State. A favorite nesting ground for many forms of migratory wild life, the area will now become an inviolate sanctuary. Because of subnormal water conditions, duck sickness is still a serious menace there, but the Biological Survey is planning to take corrective measures. The total area approved yesterday for acquisition there is 4,269 acres.

The acquisition of 3,465 acres in Wyoming is the first to be approved for that State. Two refuges about 12 miles apart, one at Bamforth Lake and the other at Huston Lake, both near Laramie, will be acquired. In Wyoming the available water areas are so few that the Biological Survey considers this acquisition to be of exceptional importance to the conservation of migratory wild life.

The lands being acquired in Nevada will be additions to the 17,902 acres of the Fallon Migratory Bird Refuge set aside from the public domain by Executive order in February, 1931, as an inviolate sanctuary for migratory birds. The total area will now be 31,288 acres.

The members of the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission attending the meeting yesterday were Secretary of Agriculture Hyde, chairman; Secretary of the Interior Wilbur, Secretary of Commerce Lamont, Senator Peter Norbeck of South Dakota, and Representative Sam D. McReynolds of Tennessee. Senator Harry B. Hawes of

Missouri was out of the city. The late Ernest R. Ackerman, former representative from New Jersey, was also a member of the Commission.

In addition to the cabinet and congressional members in attendance, the following were present as ex-officio members to act when lands in their respective States were being considered: C. C. Woodward, State game commissioner of Florida; A. A. Richardson, chief game warden of South Carolina; J. W. Harrelson, director of the Department of Conservation and Development of North Carolina; E. Lee LeCompte, State game warden of Maryland; Burnie Maurek, State game and fish commissioner of North Dakota; Frank B. O'Connell, secretary and warden of the Game, Forestation, and Parks Commission of Nebraska; and Robert L. Douglass, chairman of the State Fish and Game Commission of Nevada.

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