

INFORMATION FOR THE PRESS

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TWO ISLAND REFUGES CREATED BY PRESIDENT

President Roosevelt has signed executive orders making bird refuges of two small islands along waterfowl flyways in the United States, the Department announced today. They are the Fort Tyler Migratory Bird Refuge off the north shore of Long Island, New York, and the West Sister Island Migratory Bird Refuge at the western end of Lake Erie.

West Sister Island, 25 miles east of Toledo, Ohio, and 10 miles off the south shore line of the lake, lies at a junction of the Mississippi and Atlantic waterfowl flyways and is used as a stopping place by ducks and geese traveling these two great flyways in their semi-annual migrations. One of the largest known nesting colonies of black-crowned night herons also inhabits the island.

Formerly under Department of Commerce jurisdiction, 82 acres of the island have been turned over to the Department of Agriculture to be administered by the Biological Survey. Three acres at the southwest of the island have been retained for use by the Bureau of Lighthouses.

The new Fort Tyler Refuge, comprising 14 acres on Gardiners Island in Suffolk County, New York, lies on the Atlantic waterfowl flyway and is visited by considerable numbers of migratory birds.

The island has long been a favorite resort for bird students and among naturalists has been especially famous for its nesting colony of ospreys, or fish hawks, at one time declared to be the largest in this country and possibly the

largest in the world. More than a century ago the Mr. Gardiner whose name the island bears reported 300 osprey nests there, one of the records included in the work published in 1812 by the great ornithologist Alexander Wilson.

Once a New York State park, the area was later known as the Fort Tyler Military Reservation. The President's Executive order has effected its transfer from the War Department to the Department of Agriculture for administration by the Biological Survey.