

INFORMATION FOR THE PRESS

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MAINE LAND UTILIZATION PROJECT INCLUDED IN MOOSEHORN REFUGE

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Permanent administration of the 5,600-acre Edmonds, Washington County, site of the Maine Rural Life Land Utilization Project, developed by the Farm Security and former Resettlement Administrations, has been assigned by Executive Order to the Bureau of Biological Survey of the Department of Agriculture.

The area becomes a part of the Moosehorn Migratory Bird Refuge. The land involved in the transfer runs southwest from the Cobscook river to the Marion town line. It was purchased in connection with the nation-wide program whereby land unsuited to farming is being converted to permanently productive uses.

The Moosehorn Refuge harbors a variety of wildlife. It was established last summer, however, primarily for protection and preservation of woodcock. The refuge is in a region where the birds first land after crossing the Bay of Fundy on their annual southward migration. They are also abundant there during the nesting season. Artificial singing grounds have been built as woodcock require such places near their natural habitat. The refuge also offers protection to ruffed grouse, deer, bear, moose, caribou, rabbits, and fur animals. During migration several species of waterfowl use the area as a nesting place.

With the addition of the lands mentioned in the Executive Order, the refuge now contains approximately 17,500 acres. Considerable work already has been done with relief labor provided through the Works Progress Administration under supervision of earlier administering agencies, to adapt the area to these purposes.

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