



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
INFORMATION SERVICE

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FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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LAND GRANT TO SERVE AS NEW WILDLIFE REFUGE

Secretary of the Interior Douglas McKay today announced that 112 acres of land donated to the Department of the Interior by Mrs. Elizabeth Alexandria Morton Tilton of Southampton, N.Y., has been established by the Fish and Wildlife Service as a national wildlife refuge.

The land is comprised chiefly of a promontory known as Jessup's Point which rises 200 feet above Point Bay at the eastern end of Long Island. Included also is a sand spit which connects the point with the Long Island mainland. A focal point for several species of migratory birds, the property faces richly vegetated shoal waters which serve as an excellent feeding area for these birds.

In preparing the grant for use as a refuge, the Fish and Wildlife Service is clearing and planting fields on the mainland to provide green feed for Canada geese. The Service also will use a small decoy flock in efforts to lift the wintering population of Canada geese here to a point approaching the level of earlier days. Other species of waterfowl also will benefit from the farming program. The Jessup's Point portion of the sanctuary is being preserved in its natural state.

For several years Mrs. Tilton watched the natural features of eastern Long Island give way to commercial interests. Convinced the countryside would be subdivided and the original fauna and flora decimated, she resolved to bend every effort to preserve areas as yet undisturbed. The retaining of Jessup's Point in its relatively unspoiled condition is in line with this purpose.

The Fish and Wildlife Service reports that the new refuge is well situated as a link in the chain of sanctuaries serving the migratory birds of the Atlantic flyway--one of the four major flight routes along which winged migrants travel north in the spring and south in the fall. The Service maintains 272 such refuges in continental United States, Hawaii, Puerto Rico, and Alaska. These sanctuaries cover an aggregate of approximately 17½ million acres where migratory waterfowl, rare wildlife species, and other wild creatures are protected.

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