



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

INFORMATION SERVICE

UNITED STATES FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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MIGRATORY BIRD CONSERVATION COMMISSION AUTHORIZES NEW WATERFOWL REFUGE

Proposals by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service to establish a new wildlife refuge to acquire 31,003 acres of additional land for migratory waterfowl conservation purposes were approved today by the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission, Secretary of the Interior Fred A. Seaton announced. The acquisitions will be on seven areas in five States. In instances where options have not yet been obtained the Commission directed the Service to proceed with the purchase as rapidly as possible without further approval from the Commission.

The proposed new refuge is the Oak Orchard swamp in western New York, an area which has been an excellent waterfowl area but which is now being drained for agricultural purposes. The Fish and Wildlife Service is authorized to purchase 10,157 acres there. New York State has already acquired 2,400 acres and has its tract about 60 percent developed. At the present time there is no Federal waterfowl refuge servicing the western portion of the Atlantic flyway.

The largest acquisition would be at Quivira, Kansas, it is planned to add 16,681 acres to the 5,300 acres already in the refuge. This area is an important resting place for the waterfowl of the central flyway. Other acquisitions authorized include 3,185 acres for Long Lake, North Dakota; 257 acres for Chase Lake, North Dakota; 426 acres for Shiawassee, Michigan; 172 acres for Montezuma, New York, and 125 acres for Noxubee, Mississippi.

These lands will be purchased for money received from the sale of the "duck stamp".

Present at the meeting were Secretary Seaton, chairman; Senator John W. Bricker of Ohio; Congressman Frank M. Karsten of Missouri, and Congressman Leon H. Gavin of Pennsylvania. Ex Officio members, sitting in as representatives of their States on their State's acquisitions only were E. L. Cheatam of New York, Rex McRaney of Mississippi, David Leahy of Kansas, and L. A. Davenport of Michigan.

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