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For Release JUNE 28, 1962

Another new refuge will be the 25,942-acre Davis Island National Wildlife Refuge in Mississippi. It is in an area important as a feeding and wintering region and as a haven in the spring and fall migrations. Its value will increase as the bottom woodlands and the wetlands of the Mississippi River are drained and put to other uses. Davis Island is near Vicksburg and was once the site of the Jefferson Davis Brierfield Plantation.

The third newly authorized refuge area is on Maryland's Eastern Shore. It is on Eastern Neck Island and will be known as Eastern Neck National Wildlife Refuge. Its authorized acreage is 2,071 acres. It is in one of the fine hunting areas of the eastern seaboard, a favorite spot for gun clubs for three-quarters of a century. Management plans include farming all agricultural lands, development of many small impoundments, and opening up woodlands for production of waterfowl food. The new refuge is not close to either a State or National Wildlife area, and it will be an important unit in the management of the flocks which have deep-water resting areas in that section of the Atlantic seaboard.

The Commission authorized the addition of 5,327 acres to the 14,160-acre Bombay Hook National Wildlife Refuge in Delaware. The acquisition will furnish an additional source of water to supply the present pools and permit desirable water manipulation. It will also provide a site for additional pools. With the addition, the peak populations of waterfowl are expected to increase from 52,000 to 120,000 birds with a total of 8,000,000 days of waterfowl use annually.

Other areas to which additional acreages were authorized by the Commission are (present actual and authorized acreage in parentheses): Laguna Atascosa, Texas, (41,767), 3,021; Monte Vista, Colorado, (12,402), 334; Rice Lake, Minnesota, (15,894), 294; Noxubee, Mississippi, (44,799), one-half acre.

The members of the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission are: Secretary of the Interior Stewart L. Udall, chairman; Secretary of Agriculture Orville L. Freeman; Secretary of Commerce Luther H. Hodges; Senator Roman L. Hruska of Nebraska; Senator Lee Metcalf of Montana; Representative Frank L. Karsten of Missouri; and Representative Leon H. Gavin of Pennsylvania.

Ex officio members at the Commission's June 27, 1962, meeting were:

Robert Elliott, Assistant Director, Colorado Game and Fish Department; Norman G. Wilder, Director of Conservation, Board of Game and Fish Commissioners, Delaware; George C. Moore, Director, Kansas Forestry, Fish and Game Commission; Minor E. Clark, Commissioner, Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources, Kentucky; Ernest A. Vaughn, Director, Department of Game and Inland Fish, Maryland; Richard L. Knox, Deputy Commissioner, Department of Conservation, Minnesota; Forrest V. Durand, Director, Tennessee Game and Fish Commission; and Eugene A. Walker, Director of Program Planning, Game and Fish Commission, Texas.

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