

Holt Collier

National Wildlife Refuge



photo: Michael A. Kelly



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photo: USFWS

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Refuge Facts

- Established January 23, 2004 by the 2004 Consolidated Appropriations Act. Legislation was sponsored by Senator Thad Cochran (R-MS) and Congressman Bennie Thompson (D-MS).
- Size: 1,435 acres currently; an additional 633-acre donation from the Corps of Engineers is imminent, for a total of 2,068 acres. The acquisition boundary encompasses approximately 18,000 acres.
- Location: 29 miles southeast of Greenville, Mississippi and five miles east of Hollandale in the Darlove, Mississippi area. Bordered on the north by the Bogue Phalia River, on the east by the Big Sunflower River, and on the south by Highway 12.
- One of seven refuges in the Theodore Roosevelt National Wildlife Refuge Complex.

Natural History

- Prior to January, 2004, the lands that are now included in the Holt Collier National Wildlife Refuge were Farmers Home Administration (FmHA) lands that had been transferred to the Fish and Wildlife Service. The former FmHA lands are managed for conservation.
- Located strategically in the Mississippi Flyway, the Holt Collier National Wildlife Refuge provides habitat and resources for more than 250 songbirds. Small fur bearers, such as rabbit, are plentiful.
- Approximately 1,100 acres of marginal agricultural lands have already been reforested with native bottomland tree species that will produce a rich source of food for wildlife in 15-20 years.

- As additional lands are purchased, much of it will be reforested with native bottomland hardwood trees to help provide essential habitat for the threatened Louisiana black bear, a common visitor in the region.

Refuge Objectives

- Install new refuge signs and kiosks.
- Remove debris, abandoned buildings, solid waste, and roadside trash.
- Create habitat for migratory water fowl, wading birds, and alligators.
- Install infrastructure for wildlife observation, photography, and interpretation.
- Improve access roads for visitors.

Management Tools

- Water management for waterfowl, shorebirds, wading birds, and other wildlife.
- Deer and small game hunting.
- Reforestation of marginal cropland to provide future habitat for Louisiana black bear.
- Law enforcement.

Public Use Opportunities

Deer archery and rabbit hunting.

Calendar of Events

October-January: Deer archery hunting.

February: Rabbit hunting.

Questions and Answers

Is the refuge open to the public?

Yes. The refuge offers deer archery and rabbit hunting. Visitors can also walk along existing roads or explore the early successional forest to catch a glimpse of the more than 200 species of neotropical birds that use the refuge.

Where can I learn more about Holt Collier?

Several websites are available that provide information about Holt Collier. Please be aware that some of the websites provide differing information. Go to one or more of the following websites to read about Holt and see his picture:

<http://www.theodore-roosevelt.com/trcanebrakes.html>

<http://newdeal.feri.org/asn/asn03.htm>

<http://www.mississippiscv.org/collier.htm>

<http://www.civilwarstudies.org/trivia-answers.htm>

Does Holt Collier Refuge include the city of Darlove, Mississippi?

Yes, Darlove is inside the boundary of the refuge, on land that had been transferred to the Service some years ago by the Farmers Home Administration.

Does the refuge have a facility where visitors could go and learn about the habitat?

The refuge is currently unstaffed. Future plans include the construction of a visitor contact station and management staff.