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LAKE MATTAMUSKEET MADE  
A REFUGE FOR WATERFOWL

A 50,000-acre tract in Hyde County, N.C., that is being restored to the swans, geese, and ducks as part of the Bureau of Biological Survey program of waterfowl restoration has been reserved and set apart by Executive Order as the Lake Mattamuskeet Wildlife Refuge.

Lake Mattamuskeet originally was a body of shallow water about 12 miles long and 7 miles wide. Several years ago an attempt was made to drain it, but the plan proved impractical. The drainage operations deprived waterfowl of one of the best resting and feeding areas on the Atlantic Coast. Now, with funds from the Federal Emergency Relief Administration for the retirement of submarginal lands, the Government is purchasing the lake bed and permitting the lake to restore itself naturally.

Swans, geese, and many species of ducks--principally pintails, widgeons, mallards, and black ducks--are found in numbers on the water areas available. Even the drainage of the lake bed did not deter some birds from returning season after season to rest on the surface of the canals and low places, and it is expected that the restored lake will again attract large concentrations of swans and other waterfowl.