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BOMBAY HOOK, DEL., ADDED  
TO U. S. WATERFOWL REFUGES

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President Roosevelt today (June 25) signed an Executive order establishing another in the series of bird refuges now dotting the flyways of the United States and administered by the Bureau of Biological Survey. This is the new Bombay Hook Migratory Waterfowl Refuge, more than 12,000 acres of tidal flats and marshes adjacent to Delaware Bay, east of Leipsic, between Woodland Beach and Mahon Lighthouse, in Kent County, Delaware. This brings the total number of refuges along the Atlantic Coast to 17.

The refuge is on the Atlantic flyway used by the black duck on its migration from eastern Canada to the South. It is also on the migration route used by pintails and green-winged teal that come from central and northwestern Canada and eastern Alaska, and proceed in a general southeasterly direction to the east coast. The refuge has not been under observation long enough to list the wildfowl breeding there, but observations last summer, showed that black ducks, blue-winged teal, wood ducks, and Canada geese nested on or near the area.

The area is well adapted to waterfowl support and protection. For a number of years, a large population of ducks and geese from Delaware Bay and other open waters in that region have found sanctuary there, especially during storms. The refuge attracted 19 different species of waterfowl last fall and winter, individual flocks numbering 50 to 8,000 ducks at the height of the fall migration. Flocks of 3,000 to 15,000 snow geese were present on the refuge from Thanksgiving Day last year up to April 12.

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At present, title to more than 11,000 acres of the refuge's marsh and upland is in process of conveyance from private owners to the Government. About 350 acres are upland, and this area will be cropped to produce grains for winter feeding in emergencies here and on other refuges. A large part of the upland also will be devoted to permanent food, nesting, and shelter areas for upland game. No shooting will be allowed on the refuge, but when the abundance of upland game reaches the saturation point, the surplus will be used to restock other parts of the State. There will also be a natural overflow of upland game into adjacent territories.

Among other developments, the Bureau intends to create small, fresh-water areas that will have a stable level throughout the year. These will provide the necessary environment for a variety of food, nesting, and cover plants, which will be introduced.

The scattered natural breeding, feeding and wintering grounds of the East and Northeast have been diminishing of late years, and the birds have also suffered heavy losses from hunters from the large population centers nearby--in New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Delaware. It is to aid these birds of the eastern flyway that the Biological Survey will maintain this refuge in the coastal marshes of Delaware.