

# **INFORMATION FOR THE PRESS**

## **United States Department of Agriculture**

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### **TAMARAC MIGRATORY WATERFOWL REFUGE ESTABLISHED IN WEST CENTRAL MINNESOTA**

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An area of 47,520 acres in Becker County, Minn., has been established by Executive order as a Federal wildlife refuge.

Known as the Tamarac Migratory Waterfowl Refuge, the area will be administered by the U. S. Biological Survey for the benefit of other wildlife species as well as waterfowl. With the help of a C.C.C. camp, it is being developed to make the most of its natural advantages for wildlife and to facilitate its administration.

Located in one of the greatest duck concentration areas in northern United States, the new refuge also occupies a key position at the head and center of the Mississippi Flyway, greatest flight lane for migratory birds in this country.

The refuge includes a group of lakes with an abundance of wild rice and other waterfowl foods. Marshes and sloughs also provide excellent feeding grounds and ideal nesting sites.

Blue-winged teal, mallards, gadwalls, shovellers, and coots breed at Tamarac, while scaup ducks and ruddy ducks are abundant during migration. Common among the migrants are pintails, baldpates, and American mergansers. Other migrant birds using the refuge include canvasbacks, redheads, goldeneyes, and white-winged scoters. A flock of 200 whistling swans has been seen on one of the refuge lakes, and Canada and snow geese have also been reported.

Tamarac also contains resident upland game birds such as ruffed grouse, present in abundance, and the prairie hen, less numerous. Hungarian partridges occur in limited numbers.

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The Biological Survey has introduced 22 beavers, which have constructed several dams within the refuge. White-tailed deer and raccoon are common, and the snowshoe rabbit, although rare, has been noted within the boundaries of Tamarac.

A small portion of the tribal lands in the White Earth Indian Reservation is included within the refuge boundary. This inclusion, however, will not alter or qualify the status of those lands, and the Indians will be permitted to harvest wild rice there as formerly.

The Executive Order establishing the refuge was signed by President Roosevelt on June 2.

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