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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
INFORMATION SERVICE

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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NEW GRANTS OF LAND ENLARGE ELIZABETH MORTON WILDLIFE REFUGE

The Fish and Wildlife Service announced today that Mrs. Elizabeth Morton Tilton, of Southhampton, Long Island, N. Y., has made a third donation of land in Suffolk County to the Department of the Interior for wildlife conservation use. This latest donation of 32 acres makes a total of 182 acres of land on Long Island which Mrs. Tilton has conveyed to the Federal Government.

Following the acceptance of the first gift of 112 acres in April 1955, the Fish and Wildlife Service took over administration of the area under the name of the Elizabeth Alexandra Morton National Wildlife Refuge. This area consisted chiefly of a promontory known as Jessup Point which rises above Point Bay at the eastern end of Long Island. The two later donations of 70 acres include farmland which the Service will cultivate to provide additional grain and forage, especially for Canada geese but also for other species of waterfowl.

In getting the grant into shape for use as a refuge, the Fish and Wildlife Service has been clearing and planting fields on the mainland to raise green feed for the geese. The Service is also using a small decoy flock in an attempt to stimulate use of the area by the flock of Canada geese frequenting this portion of the Atlantic Flyway in a move to increase this population. The Jessup Point part of the sanctuary is being preserved in its natural state.

For several years Mrs. Tilton watched the natural features of eastern Long Island give way to commercial interests. Convinced the countryside would be subdivided and the original fauna and flora decimated, she resolved to bend every effort to preserve areas as yet undisturbed. The retaining of Jessup Point in its relatively unspoiled condition is in line with this purpose.

In commending Mrs. Tilton for her interest in the conservation of wildlife, Acting Secretary Davis said, "These contributions are particularly valuable because they are located in a section of the country where expanding human pressures are

rapidly despoiling homes for our fauna and flora. It is our sincere hope that after seeing the wonderful example set by Mrs. Tilton in donating these lands for the conservation of wildlife, others will also help in similar ways."

Jessup Point is named after a colonial settler whose young daughter, Abigail Jessup, was buried there in 1724. It is reported that the first clash between Indians and the colonials in the Long Island Sound region occurred on Jessup Point.

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