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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
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UNITED STATES FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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MIGRATORY BIRD CONSERVATION COMMISSION AUTHORIZES LAND ACQUISITIONS

The Migratory Bird Conservation Commission has authorized the acquisition of 4,409 acres of land as additions to nine national wildlife refuges, Secretary of the Interior Fred A. Seaton said today. Also authorized was the leasing of 2,728 acres for two refuges.

All of the refuges for which the additional land is being provided are strategically located in their respective flyways, Secretary Seaton said.

During a recent meeting, approval was granted for the acquisition of 320 acres for the Missisquoi National Wildlife Refuge in northern Vermont and for the leasing, with option to purchase, of another 435 acres. This brings the total lands acquired or in process of acquisition on Missisquoi Refuge to 3,840 acres.

Under another lease 2,293 acres will be added to the Columbia National Wildlife Refuge in Washington.

Other acquisitions authorized include:

Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge in southern Georgia, 1,960 acres. This addition is on the northern side of the refuge and brings the boundary up to the northern end of the swamp in that area. It is of considerable importance to migratory birds, including waterfowl.

Chase Lake National Wildlife Refuge in central North Dakota, 762 acres out of a proposed total of 1,622 acres.

Kentucky Woodlands National Wildlife Refuge in western Kentucky, 236 acres.

Reelfoot National Wildlife Refuge in Kentucky and Tennessee, 79 acres on the Kentucky side.

Quivira National Wildlife Refuge in south-central Kansas, a refuge established about a year ago, 560 acres.

Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge in south-central Michigan, 227 acres, bringing the total acreage there to 3,893.

Tewaukon National Wildlife Refuge in southeastern North Dakota, 240 acres.

Santee National Wildlife Refuge in southeastern South Carolina, 25 acres.

The Commission also considered the acquisition of additional acreage for the Santee Refuge and an acquisition for the Tamarac National Wildlife Refuge in northwestern Minnesota, but deferred action on the proposals.

The Migratory Bird Conservation Commission consists of Secretary of the Interior Fred A. Seaton, chairman; Secretary of Agriculture Ezra Taft Benson; Secretary of Commerce Sinclair Weeks; Senator John W. Bricker of Ohio; Senator Thomas C. Hennings, Jr., of Missouri; Representative August H. Andresen of Minnesota, and Representative Frank M. Karsten of Missouri.

Arthur A. Riemer, chief of the Branch of Lands, Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, United States Fish and Wildlife Service, serves as Commission secretary. In addition to these members, the head of a State game department is also an ex officio member of the Commission and has a right to vote on acquisitions or leases proposed for his State.

Present at this meeting were Dave Leahy of Kansas; Dr. George A. Selke of Minnesota, H. R. Morgan of North Dakota, and George W. Davis of Vermont; as well as Larry Gale, designated representative for Commissioner Earl Wallace of Kentucky.

The Commission operates in accordance with the Migratory Bird Conservation Act of 1929 which authorizes appropriations for the establishment of a Federal system of refuges for migratory birds. Appropriations under this Act, together with funds from the sale of Federal duck stamps and from other sources have resulted in the world's most extensive system of bird refuges.

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