



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

INFORMATION SERVICE

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

For Release MARCH 16, 1961

NEW WILDLIFE REFUGES AUTHORIZED IN OHIO AND NEW MEXICO

At its first meeting under the chairmanship of Secretary of the Interior Stewart L. Udall, the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission approved on March 15 the acquisition of two new wildlife refuges, the acquisition of additional lands to four existing refuges, and authorized the purchase of the lands of a refuge authorized to be established 10 months ago on a lease basis. The total acreage approved for acquisition was 24,416.

Authorized for purchase is 4,915 acres in the heart of the prairie marshland on the south shore of Lake Erie about 15 miles east of Toledo, Ohio. This will be known as the Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge. It is in Lucas and Ottawa Counties and has about 3 miles frontage on Lake Erie. Included within its boundaries is the Pintail Marsh. This is the first national wildlife refuge to be established in Ohio.

Authorized for acquisition by lease is Burford Lake and adjacent lands on the Jicarillo Apache Indian Reservation in New Mexico. Total acreage to be leased for this refuge is 2,000. It is in Rio Arriba County and about 80 miles northwest of Santa Fe.

Little Island Beach in Atlantic County, New Jersey, which is a natural sea barrier for Brigantine National Wildlife Refuge, will be acquired by purchase as an addition to the refuge. Ownership of this island will provide an opportunity to minimize erosion and to provide a base and vantage point for control of important waterfowl concentration areas. The area is 1,220 acres.

Conditional approval was given for acquisition of 10,665 acres to be added to the 2,440 acres which now constitute the Yazoo National Wildlife Refuge in Mississippi. This refuge is about 30 miles south of Greenville in the west-central portion of the State. It is extremely valuable as wintering grounds for ducks and geese.

A tract of 79 acres will be added to the Missisquoi National Wildlife Refuge in Vermont, not far from the Canadian border. This tract is bordered on three sides by the refuge. It contains some valuable waterfowl marsh and some acreage suitable for raising food for the waterfowl. A 5-acre tract will be purchased as an addition to the White River National Wildlife Refuge which stretches along the White and Arkansas Rivers in Arkansas. This area will be used as a subheadquarters to facilitate administration of the refuge.

At the May 1960 meeting, the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission approved the leasing of 5,532 acres in Crittenden County, Arkansas, with an option to purchase at some future date, the area to be known as the Wapanocca National Wildlife Refuge. At this meeting, the Commission authorized the purchase of these lands.

The Migratory Bird Conservation Commission was established in 1929. Its membership consists of the Secretary of the Interior, who is chairman; the Secretary of Agriculture; the Secretary of Commerce; two Senators named by the Senate; and two Representatives named by the House.

The present membership includes: Secretary of the Interior Stewart L. Udall, Chairman; Secretary of Agriculture Orville L. Freeman; Secretary of Commerce Luther H. Hodges; Senator Roman L. Hruska of Nebraska; Senator Lee Metcalf of Montana; Representative Frank L. Karsten of Missouri; and Representative Leon H. Gavin of Pennsylvania.

The following ex officio members attended: Nelson Cox, Director, Arkansas Game and Fish Commission; Dr. A. Heaton Underhill, Director, Division of Fish and Game, New Jersey; Hayden W. Olds, Chief, Division of Wildlife, Ohio; and Samuel H. Lamb, Department of Game and Fish, New Mexico.

x x x