

# DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

news release

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## SCIENTISTS' VISIT MARKS MAJOR STEP IN EGYPTIAN WILDLIFE CONSERVATION

According to the Old Testament, when Moses and the Hebrews were wandering in the wilderness, a miracle in the form of a flock of quail saved them from starvation. Now, Egypt is establishing one of its first modern wildlife refuges in the same area, and is taking other major steps in wildlife conservation.

Working in cooperation with the U.S. Department of the Interior, Egypt is setting up two new wildlife reserves in parts of the Sinai which revert to Egypt from Israel under the 1979 peace treaty. The reserves--one at Lake Bardawil (where the quail reportedly saved the Hebrews) in Northern Sinai, and the other at Mt. St. Catherine, near the area historically known as Mt. Sinai--will protect migratory birds and endangered species. The reserves are the first natural, protected areas set aside for wildlife in Egypt.

An important step in the project will take place this month when two Egyptian Wildlife Service biologists visit the United States to study wildlife management techniques. From September 2 to October 26, the Egyptians will visit areas operated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the National Park Service, and other conservation agencies. Following their visit, they will return home to manage the new wildlife reserves.

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