REPORT OF THE MIGRATORY BIRD CONSERVATION COMMISSION FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 1947

During the fiscal year 1947, the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission considered and approved the purchase of 15,412 acres of land in 16 refuge units under authority of the Migratory Bird Conservation Act approved February 18, 1929 (45 Stat. 1222; U.S.C., title 16, sec. 715b). One of these was a new refuge in southern Illinois in the important Mississippi Flyway. In addition, the Commission approved the leasing of 8,914 acres of land in four units, two of which involve 8,760 acres and substantially the same areas as previously administered under lease agreements now expired. The Commission also approved the acceptance of a gift of 1,788 acres of land on Long Island, New York, for the establishment of a new refuge. The remaining program presented and approved was a continuation of the Department's policy of rounding out of existing refuge units.

NEW REFUGE UNITS ESTABLISHED

Three new national wildlife refuges were established during the year. The Commission approved the purchase of 10,163 acres for the establishment of the Crabchard National Wildlife Refuge in Williamson County, Illinois. Provision for the establishment of the Wertheim National Wildlife Refuge in Suffolk County, New York was provided by the approval of the Commission for the acceptance of a gift of 1,788 acres with actual possession to be taken by the United States upon the deaths of the donor and his wife.

The Michigan Islands National Wildlife Refuge in Alpena and Charlevoix Counties, Michigan was established by a public land order setting aside for refuge purposes 12 acres of public domain.

The Everglades National Wildlife Refuge in Florida, which was previously established with the approval of the Commission to lease lands, was enlarged by the acceptance of a gift of 409,309 acres from the State of Florida.

CRABORCHARD NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

The Crabchard Lake area in southern Illinois is strategically located from a waterfowl standpoint in the heart of the Mississippi Flyway. Lack of food and sufficiently large rest areas in southern Illinois has resulted in a heavy drain on migratory waterfowl in this area. Development of the refuge will result in building up a duck and goose concentration at this point which will relieve the pressure on existing refuges and improve waterfowl hunting over a large area. In addition to the value from a migratory waterfowl standpoint, the project will provide an ideal game management area for native small game. A portion of the unit will be administered as a recreation area with fishing, boating and swimming allowed.

The Commission approved the purchase of 10,163 acres of the project within the former Illinois Ordnance Plant which was declared surplus and made available for disposal by sale through the War Assets Administration, with the understanding that an effort would first be made to obtain transfer of the property without payment of funds. By Public Law 361, 80th Congress, approved August 5, 1947, an area of approximately 44,000 acres, which included the former Ordnance Plant and an additional area under the administration of the Soil Conservation Service of the Department of Agriculture, was transferred to the Department of the Interior for administration by the Fish and Wildlife Service. Management plans call for the use of the former ordnance plant area as a national wildlife refuge with some recreational, agricultural, and industrial activities permitted. Within this area the lands previously classified as suited for industrial uses by the War Assets Administration will be so used and where possible such use will be expanded. The remaining area which lies in Williamson, Jackson and Union Counties will be devoted primarily to agricultural, forest, and recreational uses with management so arranged that wildlife will also benefit to the greatest possible extent.

WERTHEIM NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

This unit of approximately 1,788 acres lies about 60 miles east of New York City in the Carmans River area of Long Island and in one of the important waterfowl concentration points of Great South Bay. The refuge will serve to offset the extremely heavy hunting pressure in this area and will aid in the restoration and development of adequate habitat for the black duck which has decreased in numbers along the Atlantic Coast as the result of hunting pressure and drainage of suitable habitat. The land comprising the refuge is a gift from Maurice Wertheim and actual possession of the land will not be taken by the United States until the deaths of Mr. and Mrs. Wertheim. The monetary value of this gift is estimated to exceed a quarter of a million dollars. Value of property in this critical waterfowl area has heretofore been considered too expensive for purchase with the limited funds available for acquisition of refuge lands.

MEMBERSHIP OF COMMISSION

During the fiscal year 1947 the membership of the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission was changed by the appointment of Senator A. Willis Robertson, from Virginia, to fill the vacancy caused by the expiration of the term of Senator George L. Radcliffe, from Maryland, and by the appointment of Representative Frank M. Karsten, from Missouri, to fill the vacancy created by the expiration of the term of Representative John J. Cochran, from Missouri.

FUNDS AVAILABLE

The appropriation authorized under the Migratory Bird Conservation Act and the funds appropriated for the fiscal years 1930 to 1947 are shown in

table 1. The total amount authorized for appropriation during these years was $9,475,000. The amounts appropriated to June 30, 1947, aggregated $1,934,925.

TABLE I.— Funds Authorized and Appropriated under the Migratory Bird Conservation Act - Fiscal Years 1930 - 1947.

Fiscal Year	Authorized	Appropriated	Fiscal Year	Authorized	Appropriated
1930	$ 75,000	$ 75,000	1939	$1,000,000	$ 79,753
1931	200,000	200,000	1940	200,000	79,753
1932	600,000	400,000	1941	200,000	79,753
1933	1,000,000	318,000	1942	200,000	78,450
1934	1,000,000	89,525	1943	200,000	79,240
1935	1,000,000	65,015	1944	200,000	50,000
1936	1,000,000	67,500	1945	200,000	58,330
1937	1,000,000	79,753	1946	200,000	55,100
1938	1,000,000	79,753	1947	200,000	
				$9,475,000	$1,934,925

From the total revenue derived from the sale of stamps under the Migratory Bird Hunting Stamp Act of March 16, 1934, there has been allotted $4,362,062 for the examination, appraisal, survey and acquisition of lands. Of this sum $667,104 was made available during the fiscal year 1947.

SUMMARY OF NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE PROGRAM

Table 2 shows the accomplishments during the year in the acquisition of national wildlife refuge lands under the provisions of the Migratory Bird Conservation Act, by gift, and by reservation of public lands.

Table 3 shows the status of the national wildlife refuge system in the United States as of June 30, 1947.

TABLE II.— Acreage acquired or in process of acquisition for national wildlife refuges under the Migratory Bird Conservation Act and by gift and Executive or public land order.

		FISCAL YEAR 1947			
State	Refuge	Acquired other than by Purchase	Purchased under M.B.C. Act	Total Acquired	Pending Title Conveyance
Delaware	Bombay Hook		4	4	
Florida	Chassahowitzka				2,394
	Everglades	409,309		409,309	
Georgia	Okefenokee	1,860	1,510	3,370	1,792
Illinois	Flannigan's Island	668		668	
	Henderson	352		352	
	Keithsburg	1,448		1,448	
Iowa	Louisa	3,890		3,890	
	Union Slough				213
Kentucky	Kentucky Woodlands	246	252	498	1,779
Maine	Moosehorn				85
Michigan	Michigan Islands	12		12	
Minnesota	Tamarac				1,568
Missouri	Mingo		10,080	10,080	8,650
	Swan Lake				3
New Jersey	Brigantine		3,016	3,016	7,266
	Killcohook		38	38	
New Mexico	Bitter Lake		280	280	
	Bosque del Apache				963
No. Carolina	Mattamuskeet		4	4	17
No. Dakota	Des Lacs		3	3	6
	Lake Ilo				117
	Long Lake		1,545	1,545	52
	Tewaukon		512	512	
Oregon	Cold Springs				131
	Hart Mountain		20	20	
	Malheur		18,060	18,060	12,376
Vermont	Missisquoi				220
Virginia	Chincoteague				168
Washington	Little Pend Oreille		279	279	600
	Turnbull		300	300	1,905
	Willapa		260	260	3,079
Wisconsin	Horicon		1,712	1,712	1,994
	Necedah				121
	TOTALS	417,785	37,875	455,660	45,499

TABLE 3.-- Status of the national wildlife refuge system in the United States as of June 30, 1947 showing control on public domain lands, and including costs of acquired lands under appropriations available to the Fish and Wildlife Service.

STATE	PROJECT	EXECUTIVE OR PUBLIC LAND ORDER				DEVISE OR GIFT	PURCHASED		LEASED	TOTAL ACRES
		PUBLIC DOMAIN			OTHER		ACRES	COST		
		SOLE	SECONDARY	JOINT						
Alabama	Petit Bois (a)	134								134
	Wheeler				T 38,448					38,448
	STATE TOTALS	134			38,448					38,582
Arizona	Boulder (b)		R 311,877		R 170					312,047
	Cabeza Prieta	40		860,000						860,040
	Havasu (e)		R 8,317		R 13,109					21,426
	Imperial (d)		R 27,303		R 1,408					28,711
	Kofa	40		660,000			1	1		660,041
	Safford				240					240
	Salt River	40	R 21,020							21,060
	STATE TOTALS	120	368,517	1,520,000	14,927		1	1		1,903,565
Arkansas	Big Lake	8,864					574	10,950	84	9,522
	White River	6			82,508	972	22,900	90,864	4,009	110,395
	STATE TOTALS	8,870			82,508	972	23,474	101,814	4,093	119,917
California	Clear Lake		R 25,300							25,300
	Colusa						2,385	107,313		2,385
	Farallon	91								91
	Havasu (e)		R 10,412		R 4,060					14,472
	Imperial (f)		R 15,992		R 2,089					18,081
	Lower Klamath (g)		R 20,480			448				20,928
	Sacramento						10,776	150,499		10,776
	Salton Sea		R 23,425				8,982	21,117	3,000	35,407
	Sutter						1,278	29,400		1,278
	Tule Lake		R 37,337							37,337
	STATE TOTALS	91	132,946		6,149	448	23,421	311,329	3,000	166,055
Delaware	Bombay Hook						13,811	152,544		13,811
	Cape Henlopen				212					212
	Killcohook (h)				E 580					580
	STATE TOTALS				792		13,811	152,544		14,603
Florida	Anclote	173								173
	Brevard	12								12
	Caloosahatchee	40								40
	Cedar Keys	379								379
	Chassahowitzka	414					5,343	11,461		5,757
	Chinsegut					2,033				2,033
	Everglades					409,309			341,933	751,242
	Great White Heron	1,000								1,000
	Indian Keys	191								191
	Island Bay	11,100								11,100
	Istokpoga								5,760	5,760
	Key West	1,865	M-CG 154							2,019
	Matlacha Pass	10								10
	Palma Sola	2								2
	Passage Key	36								36
	Pelican Island	15								15
	Pine Island	31								31
	St. Marks	40	CG 101		33,363		31,575	98,001	29	65,108
	Sanibel								2,394	2,394
	STATE TOTALS	15,308	255		33,363	411,342	36,918	189,462	350,116	847,302
Georgia	Blackbeard				4,854					4,854
	Okefenokee				1,860	29	325,275	471,765	4,730	331,894
	Piedmont				30,971					30,971
	Savannah (i)				4,015		1,399	16,072		5,414
	Tybee				E-CG 100					100
	Wilson					1,588				1,588
	Wolf Island				CG 538					538
	STATE TOTALS				42,338	1,617	326,674	487,837	4,730	375,359
Idaho	Camas						10,535	166,229		10,535
	Deer Flat		R 10,179				73	2,203		10,252
	Minidoka		R 22,123							22,123
	Snake River	355								355
	STATE TOTALS	355	32,302				10,608	168,432		43,265
Illinois	Chautauqua	2					4,471	25,760		4,473
	Flannigans Island				E 668					668
	Henderson				E 352					352
	Keithsburg				E 1,448					1,448
	Upper Miss. (j)	229					2,788	22,120		3,017
	STATE TOTALS	231			2,468		7,259	47,880		9,958
Iowa	Louisa				E 3,890					3,890
	Union Slough						1,850	73,187		1,850
	Upper Miss. (k)	378				1	20,069	140,357		20,448
	STATE TOTALS	378			3,890	1	21,919	213,544		26,188

a - Part; See Mississippi
b - Part; See Nevada
c - Part; See California
d - Part; See California
e - Part; See Arizona
f - Part; See Arizona
g - Part; See Oregon
h - Part; See New Jersey
i - Part; See So. Carolina
j - Part; See Iowa, Minn. & Wisc.
k - Part; See Ill., Minn. & Wisc.

TABLE 3.-- continued

STATE	PROJECT	EXECUTIVE OR PUBLIC LAND ORDER				DEVISE OR GIFT	PURCHASED		LEASED	TOTAL
		PUBLIC DOMAIN			OTHER					
		SOLE	SECONDARY	JOINT			ACRES	COST		ACRES
Kentucky	Kentucky Woodlands				47,104		1,903	25,272		49,007
	STATE TOTALS				47,104		1,903	25,272		49,007
Louisiana	Breton	7,158								7,158
	Delta	1,408	E 2,927		9,992		34,463	233,324		48,790
	East Timbalier	337								337
	Lacassine				22,992		8,133	38,159		31,125
	Sabine				138,902		438	4,876	3,409	142,749
	Shell Keys	77								77
	STATE TOTALS	8,980	2,927		171,886		43,034	276,359	3,409	230,236
Maine	Moosehorn				6,490		15,435	75,244		21,925
	Widows Island				12					12
	STATE TOTAL				6,502		15,435	75,244		21,937
Maryland	Blackwater						10,799	193,558		10,799
	Chincoteague (1)						95	851		95
	Patuxent						2,606	98,829		2,606
	STATE TOTALS						13,500	293,238		13,500
Massachusetts	Monomoy						2,946	29,060		2,946
	Parker River						12,367	185,302		12,367
	STATE TOTALS						15,313	214,362		15,313
Michigan	Huron	23			E-CG 125					148
	Lake St. Clair					5				5
	Michigan Islands	12								12
	Seney	2,736			21,678		69,301	147,123	38	93,753
	STATE TOTALS	2,771			21,803	5	69,301	147,123	38	93,918
Minnesota	Mille Lacs	1								1
	Mud Lake				60,216		160	400		60,376
	Rice Lake				7,823		3,636	24,846		11,459
	Talcot Lake					805				805
	Tamarac	40					27,912	222,080		27,952
	Upper Miss. (m)	242			E 9,528		14,879	119,070		24,649
	STATE TOTALS	283			77,567	805	46,587	366,396		125,242
Mississippi	Noxubee	40			38,199					38,239
	Petit Bois (n)	1,192								1,192
	Yazoo						2,440	45,856		2,440
	STATE TOTALS	1,232			38,199		2,440	45,856		41,871
Missouri	Mingo						13,980	186,517		13,980
	Squaw Creek				2,889		3,920	135,647		6,809
	Swan Lake				5,341		5,331	195,568		10,672
	STATE TOTALS				8,230		23,231	517,732		31,461
Montana	Benton Lake	12,235								12,235
	Black Coulee	640								640
	Bowdoin		R-GS 14,907				640	6,720		15,547
	Creedman Coulee	80								80
	Fort Keogh		AI 56,954							56,954
	Fort Peck	378,439	E 408,511		E 159,994					946,944
	Hailstone		GS 312							312
	Hewitt		GS 400							400
	Lake Thibadeau	19								19
	Medicine Lake	367			28,667	4	2,420	25,021		31,458
	National Bison	18,521				1	18	700		18,540
	Ninepipe		R 1,980							1,980
	Pablo		R 2,868							2,868
	Pishkun		R 3,155							3,155
	Red Rock Lake	6,870			32,136		1,003	15,109		40,009
	Willow Creek		R 2,399		720					3,119
	STATE TOTALS	417,171	491,486		221,517	5	4,081	47,550		1,134,260
Nebraska	Box Butte				R 2,210					2,210
	Crescent Lake	179			R 1,847		41,961	298,186	2,560	46,547
	Ft. Niobrara	14,401			2,384		1,240	21,484	640	18,665
	North Platte		R 5,107							5,107
	Valentine				63,621		2,186	51,713	640	66,147
	STATE TOTALS	14,580	5,107		70,062		45,387	371,383	3,840	138,976
Nevada	Anaho	248								248
	Boulder Canyon (o)		R 343,800		2,643	40	89	655		346,572
	Charles Sheldon(p)			525,000		119	23,253	149,847		548,372
	Desert Game			2,022,000			320	5,600		2,022,320
	Fallon		R 17,902							17,902
	Railroad Valley	133,397								133,397
	Ruby Lake	7,166					28,452	133,760		35,618
	Sheldon Antelope	31,399				2,377	315	1,950		34,091
	Winnemucca	570	R 9,236							9,806
	STATE TOTALS	172,780	370,938	2,547,000	2,643	2,536	52,429	291,812		3,148,326

l - Part; See Virginia
m - Part; See Ill., Iowa & Wisc.
n - Part; See Alabama
o - Part; See Arizona
p - Part; See Oregon

TABLE 3.-- continued

STATE	PROJECT	EXECUTIVE OR PUBLIC LAND ORDER				DEVISE OR GIFT	PURCHASED		LEASED	TOTAL
		PUBLIC DOMAIN			OTHER		ACRES	COST		ACRES
		SOLE	SECONDARY	JOINT						
New Jersey	Brigantine						5,238	49,224		5,238
	Killcohook (q)			867			38	1,500		905
	STATE TOTALS			867			5,276	50,724		6,143
New Mexico	Bitter Lake	11,236					12,688	48,523		23,924
	Bosque del Apache	140					55,887	120,977		56,027
	Carlsbad		R 12,820		R 3,414					16,234
	Mesilla (r)				IBC 483					483
	Rio Grande		R 29,760		43,468					73,228
	San Andres		P-LM 57,215							57,215
	STATE TOTALS	11,376	99,795		47,365		68,575	169,500		227,111
New York	Ft. Tyler				P 14					14
	Montezuma					12	5,810	133,457	17	5,839
	Shinnecock				R 8					8
	STATE TOTALS				22	12	5,810	133,457	17	5,861
North Carolina	Mattamuskeet				49,925		236	1,286		50,161
	Pea Island				CG 34		5,846	35,402		5,880
	Swanquarter						15,501	61,001		15,501
	STATE TOTALS				49,959		21,583	97,689		71,542
North Dakota	Ardoch						288	2,739		288
	Arrowwood	4			11,240	3	2,097	46,906		13,344
	Buffalo Lake	24				3				27
	Chase Lake	375								375
	Des Lacs	90			13,298	30	606	6,862		14,024
	Hobart Lake	9								9
	Johnson Lake					4				4
	Kellys Slough	680								680
	Lac Aux Mortes					2	8	97		10
	Lake George	29								29
	Lake Ilo					10	1,945	6,025		1,955
	Long Lake	1,170					12,439	75,302		13,609
	Lostwood	199			21,498		2,388	16,100		24,085
	Lower Souris	241			36,923		21,401	306,222		58,565
	Roosevelt				37,309					37,309
	Slade					3,000				3,000
	Stewart Lake					4				4
	Storm Lake						2	161		2
	Stump Lake	27								27
	Sullys Hill	994								994
	Tewaukon	1					592	12,607		593
	Upper Souris	120			29,061	7	2,823	41,061		32,011
	Lake Zahl	80								80
	STATE TOTALS	4,043			149,329	3,063	44,589	514,082		201,024
Ohio	West Sister	CG 82								82
	STATE TOTALS	82								82
Oklahoma	Salt Plains	19,043			E 11,057		480	11,003		30,580
	Tishomingo				E 13,449					13,449
	Wichita Mountains	59,099								59,099
	STATE TOTALS	78,142			24,506		480	11,003		103,128
Oregon	Cape Meares	139								139
	Charles Sheldon(s)						627	4,079		627
	Cold Springs	20	R 1,505		927		33	326		2,485
	Hart Mountain	180,255	LM 2,511				48,252	206,894		231,018
	Lower Klamath (t)		R 1,340							1,340
	Malheur	43,975			64,716		50,259	348,124		158,950
	McKay Creek				R 1,813					1,813
	Oregon Island	21								21
	Thief Valley		R 162		R 1,333					1,495
	Three Arch Rocks	17								17
	Upper Klamath		R 8,140							8,140
	STATE TOTALS	224,427	13,658		68,789		99,171	559,423		406,045
South Carolina	Cape Romain				5,191	6,343	22,481	18,729		34,015
	Carolina Sandhills				40,829					40,829
	Hilton Head				102					102
	Santee						27	490	78,342	78,369
	Savannah (u)				5,071		2,143	18,101		7,214
	STATE TOTALS				51,193	6,343	24,651	37,320	78,342	160,529
South Dakota	Belle Fourche		R 13,680							13,680
	Lacreek					80	9,362	181,713		9,442
	Lake Andes						443	9,321		443
	Sand Lake	80					19,717	432,609		19,797
	Waubay						2,587	72,567		2,587
	STATE TOTALS	80	13,680			80	32,109	696,210		45,949
Tennessee	Lake Isom				1,501		255	24,932		1,756
	Reelfoot						1	4,500	9,271	9,272
	Tennessee				T 49,510					49,510
	STATE TOTALS				51,011		256	29,432	9,271	60,538

q - Part; See Delaware r - Part; See Texas s - Part; See Nevada t - Part. See Calif. u - Part; See Ga.

TABLE 3.-- continued

STATE	PROJECT	EXECUTIVE OR PUBLIC LAND ORDER				DEVISE OR GIFT	PURCHASED		LEASED	TOTAL
		PUBLIC DOMAIN			OTHER					
		SOLE	SECONDARY	JOINT			ACRES	COST		ACRES
Texas	Aransas						47,261	463,532		47,261
	Hagerman				E 11,429					11,429
	Laguna Atascosa						11,275	103,732		11,275
	Mesilla (v)				IBC 17					17
	Muleshoe				3,654		2,155	25,740		5,809
	Santa Ana						1,981	23,766		1,981
	STATE TOTALS				15,100		62,672	616,770		77,772
Utah	Bear River	34,703					24,566	38,845		59,269
	Locomotive Springs	1,031								1,031
	Strawberry Valley		R 14,080							14,080
	STATE TOTALS	35,734	14,080				24,566	38,845		74,380
Vermont	Missisquoi						1,582	20,568		1,582
	Morgan				AI 952					952
	STATE TOTALS				952		1,582	20,568		2,534
Virginia	Back Bay						4,589	120,000		4,589
	Chincoteague (w)						8,809	76,488		8,809
	STATE TOTALS						13,398	196,488		13,398
Washington	Columbia	6,728	R 697				2,336	5,186		9,761
	Columbia River	8								8
	Conconully		R 190		743					933
	Copalis	5								5
	Dungeness		CG 235							235
	Flattery Rocks	125								125
	Jones Island	179								179
	Lenore Lake		R 6,159							6,159
	Little Pend Oreille	9,076			27,479		2,921	37,708		39,476
	Matia Island	145								145
	Quillayute Needles	117								117
	Skagit						4,673	24,631		4,673
	Smith Island		CG 65							65
	Turnbull						11,473	167,617		11,473
	Willapa		CG-E 626				2,893	23,455		3,519
	STATE TOTALS	16,383	7,972		28,222		24,296	258,597		76,873
Wisconsin	Gravel Island	27								27
	Green Bay	2								2
	Horicon						16,991	257,222		16,991
	Long Tail Point	103								103
	Necedah	60			39,357		44	194	18	39,479
	Trempealeau						707	22,243		707
	Upper Miss. (x)	196			E 19,946		46,557	297,572		66,699
	STATE TOTALS	388			59,303		64,299	577,231	18	124,008
Wyoming	Bamforth	201					965	6,368		1,166
	Hutton Lake	153					1,274	7,943		1,427
	National Elk	4,823				1,757	14,916	403,067		21,496
	Pathfinder		R 39,812		R 6,529					46,341
	STATE TOTALS	5,177	39,812		6,529	1,757	17,155	417,378		70,430
TOTALS	(ALL STATES)	1,019,116	1,593,475	4,067,867	1,442,676	428,986	1,307,194	8,689,297	456,874	10,316,188

v - Part; See New Mexico
w - Part; See Maryland
x - Part; See Ill., Iowa & Minnesota

Symbols designating agency having primary jurisdiction over certain refuge areas.

R - Bureau of Reclamation, Department of the Interior
E - Corps of Engineers, Department of War
CG - Coast Guard, Treasury Department
N - Department of the Navy
GS - Geological Survey, Department of the Interior
AI - Bureau of Animal Industry, Department of Agriculture
LM - Bureau of Land Management, Department of the Interior
T - Tennessee Valley Authority
IBC - International Boundary and Water Commission, United States and Mexico