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## VISITING NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGES

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*U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service*

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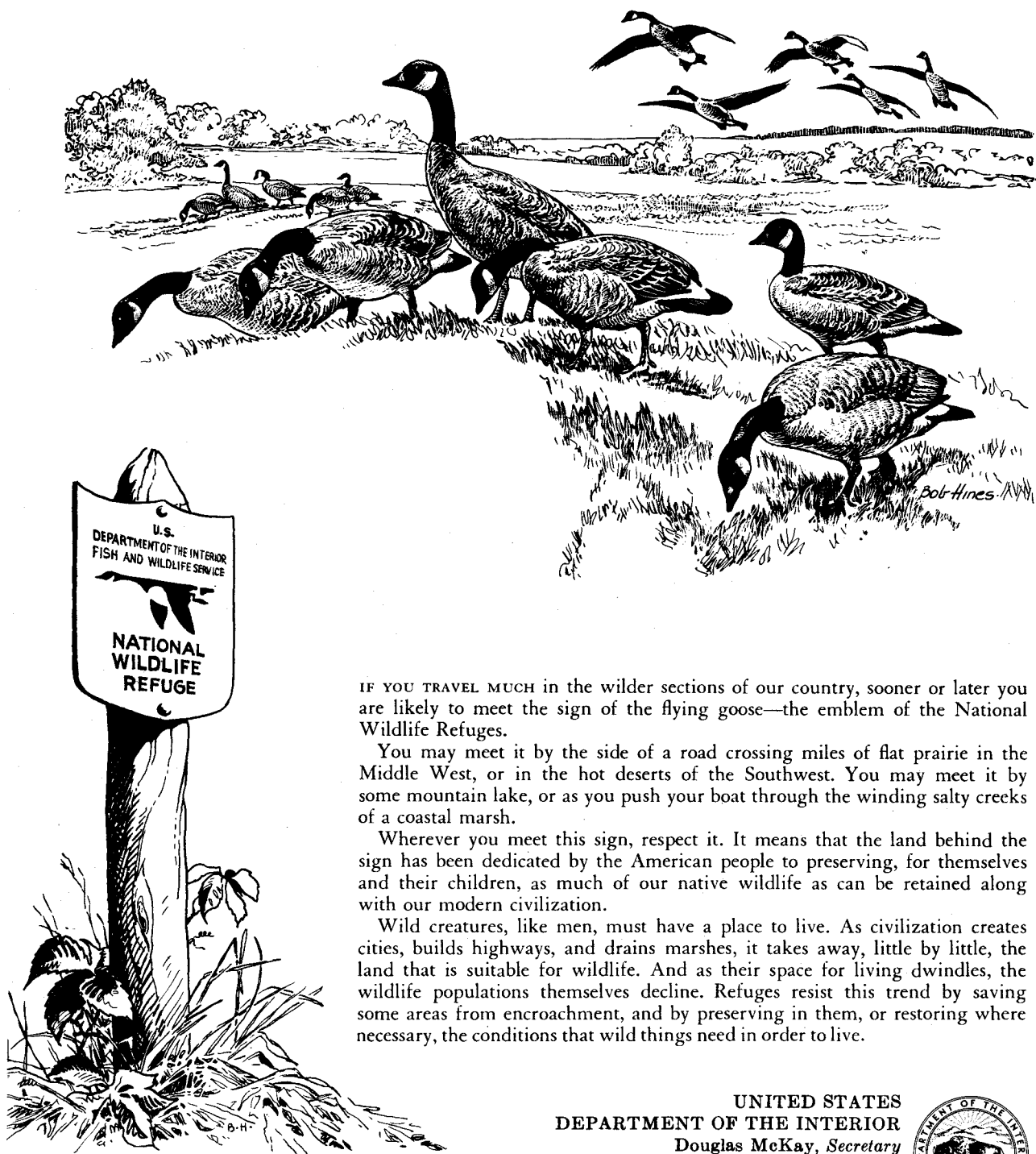
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McKay, Douglas and Farley, John L., "VISITING NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGES" (1953). *US Fish & Wildlife Publications*. 257.

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# VISITING NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGES



IF YOU TRAVEL MUCH in the wilder sections of our country, sooner or later you are likely to meet the sign of the flying goose—the emblem of the National Wildlife Refuges.

You may meet it by the side of a road crossing miles of flat prairie in the Middle West, or in the hot deserts of the Southwest. You may meet it by some mountain lake, or as you push your boat through the winding salty creeks of a coastal marsh.

Wherever you meet this sign, respect it. It means that the land behind the sign has been dedicated by the American people to preserving, for themselves and their children, as much of our native wildlife as can be retained along with our modern civilization.

Wild creatures, like men, must have a place to live. As civilization creates cities, builds highways, and drains marshes, it takes away, little by little, the land that is suitable for wildlife. And as their space for living dwindles, the wildlife populations themselves decline. Refuges resist this trend by saving some areas from encroachment, and by preserving in them, or restoring where necessary, the conditions that wild things need in order to live.

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
Douglas McKay, *Secretary*  
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
John L. Farley, *Director*  
REFUGE LEAFLET 1



EACH YEAR INCREASING NUMBERS OF PERSONS are visiting national wildlife refuges to see or photograph wild birds and animals in their natural surroundings. On some refuges once-endangered species that have been saved can be seen. At the proper season, tremendous flocks of migratory birds compete for attention on refuges set up to give them feeding and resting places on their flights north and south. In addition to a chance to see wildlife, many refuges afford opportunities for limited recreational use.

A tiny island in Indian River on the east coast of Florida was the birthplace of the National Wildlife Refuge System that now includes more than 270 refuges. By Executive order of Theodore Roosevelt in 1903, Pelican Island became our first refuge—bringing recognition on a national scale that the time had come to conserve our wildlife resources. Many reservoir areas and bird-nesting rocks or islands, and some larger areas, were added in the next few years. Most of the great waterfowl refuges were acquired and developed since 1935, after our waterfowl had dwindled alarmingly. These refuges are distributed along the four principal migration routes up and down the country—the Atlantic and Pacific Flyways along the coasts, and the Mississippi and Central Flyways through the interior.

Many of the refuges in the Atlantic Flyway from Maine to Florida are not far off the principal north-south automobile highways. Almost at the start of U. S. 1 in Maine is Moosehorn <sup>61</sup>, a summer home for woodcock and a resting stop for

migrant birds after they cross the Bay of Fundy on their flight south. At Parker River <sup>62</sup> in Massachusetts, just off U. S. 1 at Newburyport, can be seen a greater variety of birds than almost anywhere else in the State.

Canada geese stop regularly at Bombay Hook <sup>64</sup> in Delaware or at Blackwater <sup>65</sup> in Maryland, while tremendous numbers of these birds winter in and around Mattamuskeet <sup>67</sup> and Pea Island <sup>66</sup> in North Carolina.

Near U. S. 13 in the Virginia part of the Delmarva Peninsula is Chincoteague Refuge. The entire population of greater snow geese visits Bombay Hook, Chincoteague, Back Bay Refuge in Virginia, and Pea Island during the winter season.

Mattamuskeet, Swanquarter, and Pea Island—two on North Carolina's mainland and one on the barrier beach—attract huge concentrations of ducks and whistling swans, as well as Canada geese, from November to March. Some miles east of U. S. 17, Mattamuskeet has a modern and comfortable lodge, with accommodations for more than 40 persons.

Cape Romain <sup>68</sup>, off U. S. 17 north of Charleston, S. C., has a varied wintering population, particularly of shorebirds and waterfowl, while many interesting landbirds may be found there on Bulls Island at all seasons. Dominick House, a concession-operated lodge on Bulls Island can accommodate 12 to 14 persons.

Many winter tourists, southbound along the coast, stop at Savannah Refuge <sup>69</sup> on the Savannah River, since U. S. 17 passes refuge headquarters.

<sup>1</sup> Circled numbers refer to the map on the last page.







Okefenokee ⑦⑩ in southeastern Georgia, near U. S. 1, is one of the most primitive swamps in America. In its nearly 700 square miles of shallow water and hummocks of land with moss-bearded trees can be found bears, deer, wildcats, raccoons, opossums, otters, and alligators, along with Florida cranes and other bird life. Boat trips into the swamp are permitted only with a licensed guide. A typical cross section of the swamp may be seen at Swamp Park, at the north end just outside the refuge. Nearest town is Waycross.

Two new refuges in Florida are of the open 'glades type on which travel is by air-thrust boats. Guides for trips on Chassahowitzka ⑦② may be obtained at Homosassa Springs on U. S. 19, where refuge headquarters are located. This refuge has the largest winter concentration of diving ducks along the west Florida coast. Loxahatchee ⑦③ occupies a part of the Everglades west of Fort Lauderdale. Only now being developed, this refuge will benefit herons, ibises, and the everglades kite, as well as a great variety of waterfowl. Headquarters are at Dania on U. S. 1.

On the Florida Keys, the great white heron, the roseate spoonbill, and the white-crowned pigeon have all been conserved through the establishment of Great White Heron and Key West Refuges. Although these areas are not accessible, similar keys may be visited along the Overseas Highway.

Wintering Canada geese are one of the attractions on St. Marks ⑦①, south of Tallahassee, Fla. More than a hundred different kinds of birds are found there in winter.

At Wheeler ⑥⑨, east of U. S. 31 at Decatur, Ala., on a TVA impoundment, geese and ducks in some numbers are seen throughout the winter.

The blue and snow goose concentrations in the winter months on Sabine ④⑤ and Lacassine ④⑥ in coastal Louisiana, south of U. S. 90, are difficult to reach, but sometimes they may be seen near the highway. In the spring the northward flight of geese up the Mississippi Flyway leaves these refuges late in February. This part of the flight is generally nonstop to Squaw Creek ③⑦ in northwestern Missouri, west of U. S. 275. These birds spend the month of March along the Missouri River in western Iowa and eastern South Dakota.

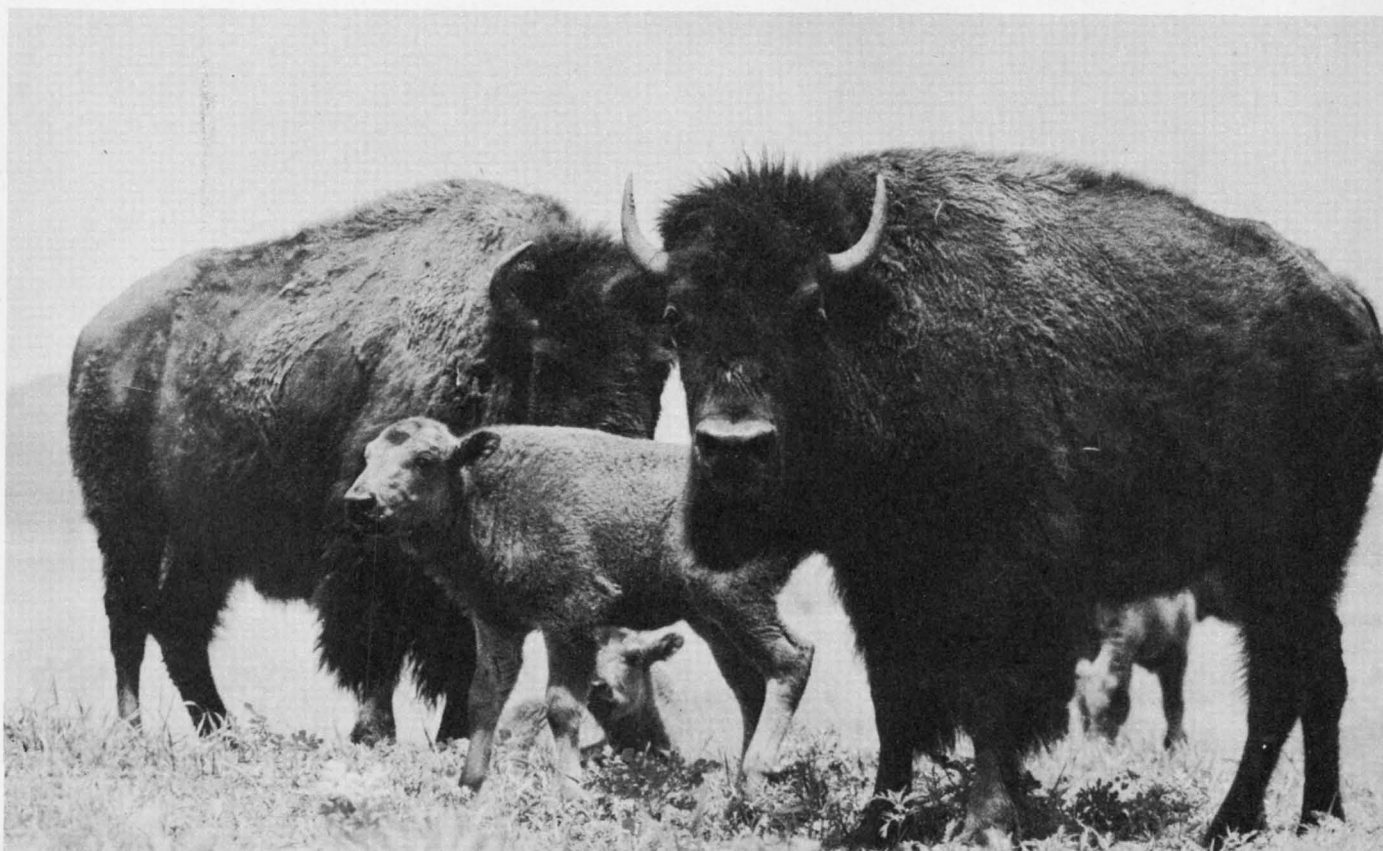
The quarter of a million or more blue and snow geese reach Sand Lake (③②) near Aberdeen, S. Dak., about April 5, on their way to Arctic Canada. In the fall, together with Canada geese they feed and rest on several national wildlife refuges: Seney ⑤⑩ on the Upper Peninsula of Michigan; Necedah ④⑧ and Horicon ④⑨ in central and eastern Wisconsin; Chautauqua ⑤① and Crab Orchard ⑤② in central and southern Illinois; Swan Lake ③⑧ and Mingo ⑤③ in north-central and southeastern Missouri; and Big Lake ⑤⑥ west of U. S. 61 in northeastern Arkansas.

The whooping crane, America's second rarest bird, is protected on Aransas Refuge ④③ in Texas, northeast of Corpus Christi. Arriving in October from their recently discovered nesting grounds on Great Slave Lake in Canada, and remaining until the end of March, pairs or groups of these stately white birds may be observed from a tower. Deer, turkeys, and a number of other distinctive mam-





On National Wildlife Refuges you may see migratory waterfowl like the Pintails (lower left), for which refuges provide needed resting stops; or, in the West, you may see the Pronghorn, or Pronghorned Antelope (upper left), the Trumpeter Swan (upper right), and the American Bison, or Buffalo (lower right).







Wintering Elk

mals and birds may be seen throughout the year.

Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge ④①, north of U. S. 62, has become an outstanding area in the United States for big-game animals, containing one of the largest herds of buffaloes, as well as elk, deer, and longhorn cattle. In addition, the refuge has provided year-round recreation for much of southwestern Oklahoma. The Easter Sunrise Service attracts thousands of persons each year.

In the Middle West, chiefly in the Central Flyway, refuges through Minnesota, the Dakotas, and Montana contain a great variety of migrant and nesting birds. All of these are on or north of U. S. 2. They include Mud Lake ②⑤ near Holt, Minn., east of U. S. 59; Upper and Lower Souris ②⑤②⑥, reached from Minot, N. Dak.; Des Lacs ②④, with headquarters across the lake from Kenmare, N. Dak.; and Medicine Lake ②③ and Bowdoin ②②, near Medicine Lake and Malta, Mont.

Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge ②①, west of Brigham, Utah, on U. S. 30S, is one of the most exciting wildlife areas to visit. There is an abundance of nesting birds, seen easily from the roadway on the dike, and fall concentrations occur in flocks that resemble the descriptions by early explorers. Bear River Refuge is attractive at all seasons except midwinter.

Wintering herds of elk on the National Elk Refuge ①⑨ in Jackson Hole, Wyo., appear when

snows drive them down out of the Teton National Forest and onto the refuge. Sled trips are arranged among the feeding animals during the winter.

Red Rock Lakes ①⑦, in southwestern Montana west of Yellowstone Park, has been chiefly responsible for saving the trumpeter swan from disappearing in the United States. Roads to the refuge are generally difficult after wet spells and necessitate local inquiry.

Further north, near Moiese, Mont., off U. S. 93, the National Bison Range ①⑥ protects a large herd of buffaloes, as well as elk, deer, and about 20 mountain bighorns. A few of these animals may be seen at any season.

West of the Rockies in the Pacific Flyway, Malheur ⑤ near Burns in southeastern Oregon, and the Klamath Basin refuges, particularly Tule Lake ③ and Lower Klamath ② on the Oregon-California line, have thousands of migrant birds in the spring and fall, with many remaining to nest. Further south, right on U. S. 99W, thousands of geese and ducks, including the rare Ross's goose, winter on the Sacramento Refuge ⑧ near Willows.

Preservation of the pronghorn, or "pronghorned antelope," has been assured through the establishment of Hart Mountain Refuge ④ in Oregon, east of Lakeview, and Sheldon ⑦ in the northwest corner of Nevada. In years of sage-



grouse abundance, these birds may be seen frequenting the waterholes on both areas. Desert bighorns continue to increase on Kofa ⑭ and Cabeza Prieta ⑮ Game Ranges, on either side of U. S. 80 in extreme southwestern Arizona, and on the Desert Game Range ⑩ north of Las Vegas, Nev. Roads in all of these big-game areas are poor, and those in the bighorn ranges are accessible only by mountain- or desert-adapted vehicles.

Refuges were established primarily for wildlife, chiefly for migratory waterfowl, and consequently have but limited recreational facilities. Fishing is permitted on parts of most refuges, in accordance with State laws and regulations, *except during waterfowl concentrations*. Check with the refuge manager about fishing areas that are open. Picnic and swimming areas have been developed on a number of refuges, and boating is permitted on some. In general, camping, building fires, carrying or using firearms, and running of dogs are all prohibited.

Accommodations in lodges operated by concessionaires are available at—

Mattamuskeet National Wildlife Refuge, ⑥7  
New Holland, N. C.

Cape Romain National Wildlife Refuge, ⑥8  
Bulls Island, Awendaw, S. C.

Havasu National Wildlife Refuge, Box 1717, ①1  
Parker, Ariz. (Lodges on both the Arizona and the California sides of the Colorado River.)

Imperial National Wildlife Refuge, Box 1032, ⑬  
Yuma, Ariz.

Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge, Box ⑦0  
117, Waycross, Ga.

Wildlife photography is encouraged on all refuges, with no permit required except for feature-length films or those using special equipment like permanent blinds, special backgrounds, or actors.

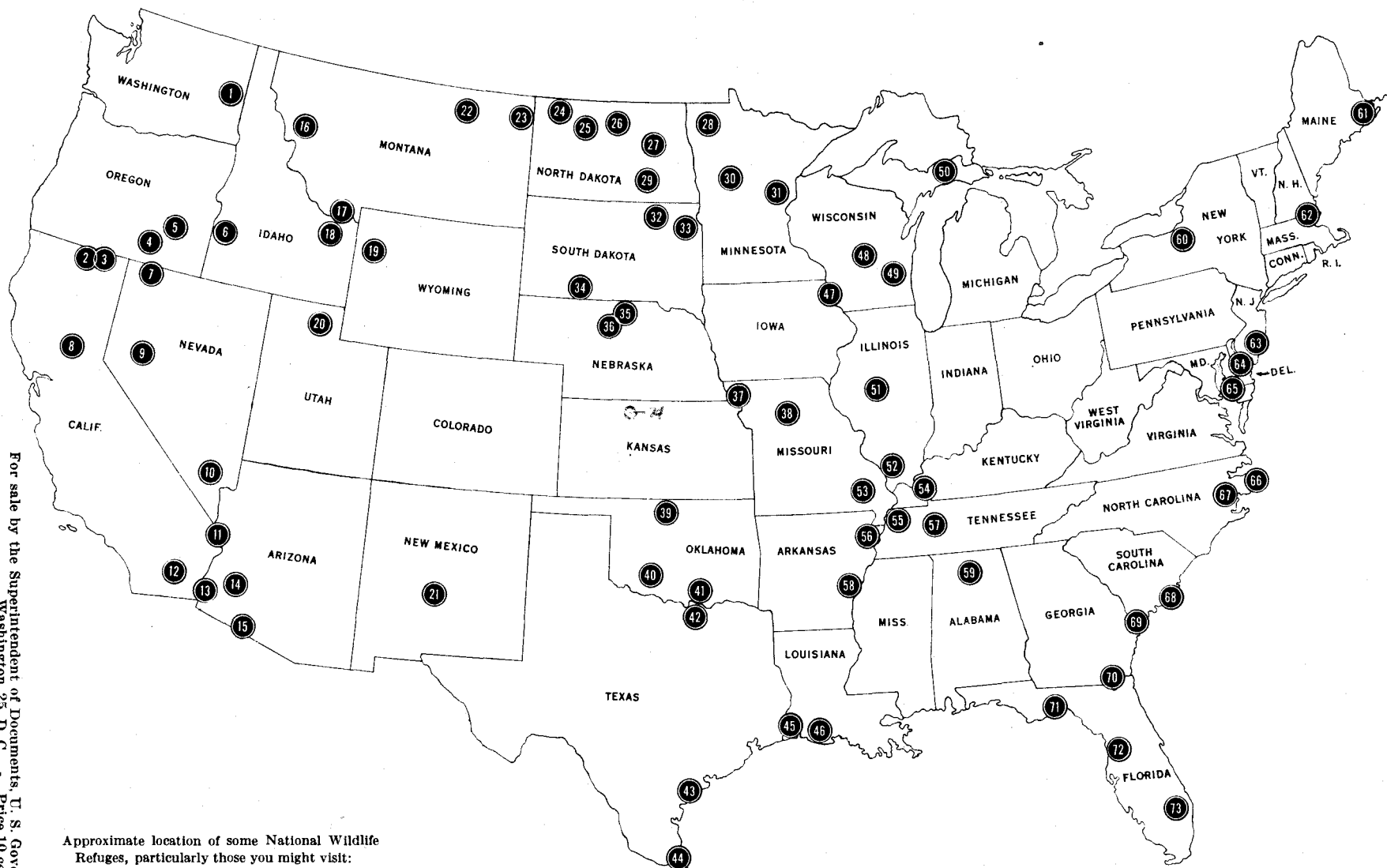
When planning your visit to a national wildlife refuge, write the manager—a few days in advance if time permits—indicating the date, how many in your party, and your particular field of interest. This will let the manager plan your trip over the refuge to best advantage. Call at refuge headquarters, register, and get suggestions for wildlife observations, trails to be used, and recreational opportunities.

About 110 of the refuges have full-time refuge managers, who can grant permission for entrance on their areas. Refuges without permanent staffs are under the general supervision of Fish and Wildlife Service Regional Directors with headquarters in Portland, Oreg., Albuquerque, N. Mex., Minneapolis, Minn., Atlanta, Ga., Boston, Mass.

The regional director in Alaska has headquarters at Juneau. Names and addresses of the various refuge managers and regional directors, as well as a list of all refuges, may be had by writing the Fish and Wildlife Service, United States Department of the Interior, Washington 25, D. C.







Approximate location of some National Wildlife  
Refuges, particularly those you might visit:

- |                  |                       |                   |                   |                       |                       |                    |
|------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Turnbull      | 12. Salton Sea        | 23. Medicine Lake | 34. Lacreek       | 44. Laguna Atascosa   | 54. Kentucky Woodland | 64. Bombay Hook    |
| 2. Lower Klamath | 13. Imperial          | 24. Des Lacs      | 35. Fort Niobrara | 45. Sabine            | 55. Reelfoot          | 65. Blackwater     |
| 3. Tule Lake     | 14. Kofa              | 25. Upper Souris  | 36. Valentine     | 46. Lacassine         | 56. Big Lake          | 66. Pea Island     |
| 4. Hart Mountain | 15. Cabeza Prieta     | 26. Lower Souris  | 37. Squaw Creek   | 47. Upper Mississippi | 57. Tennessee         | 67. Mattamuskeet   |
| 5. Malheur       | 16. Bison Range       | 27. Sullys Hill   | 38. Swan Lake     | 48. Necedah           | 58. White River       | 68. Cape Romain    |
| 6. Deer Flat     | 17. Red Rock Lakes    | 28. Mud Lake      | 39. Salt Plains   | 49. Horicon           | 59. Wheeler           | 69. Savannah       |
| 7. Sheldon       | 18. Camas             | 29. Arrowwood     | 40. Wichita       | 50. Seney             | 60. Montezuma         | 70. Okefenokee     |
| 8. Sacramento    | 19. National Elk      | 30. Tamarac       | 41. Tishomingo    | 51. Chautauqua        | 61. Moosehorn         | 71. St. Marks      |
| 9. Stillwater    | 20. Bear River        | 31. Rice Lake     | 42. Hagerman      | 52. Crab Orchard      | 62. Parker River      | 72. Chassahowitzka |
| 10. Desert Game  | 21. Bosque del Apache | 32. Sand Lake     | 43. Aransas       | 53. Mingo             | 63. Brigantine        | 73. Loxahatchee    |
| 11. Havasu       | 22. Bowdoin           | 33. Waubay        |                   |                       |                       |                    |

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