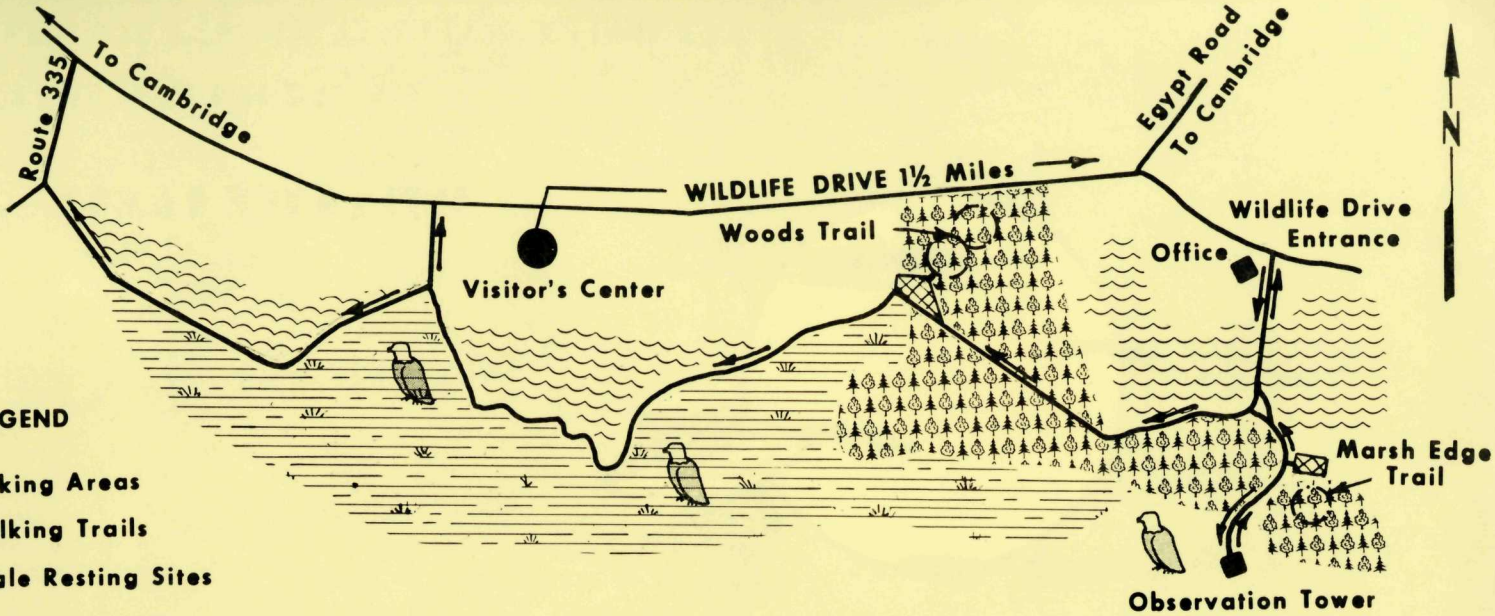


**BLACKWATER NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE**




**CAMBRIDGE, MARYLAND**

**WILDLIFE DRIVE**





**LEGEND**

-  Parking Areas
-  Walking Trails
-  Eagle Resting Sites

**PLEASE REMAIN IN YOUR CAR  
ALONG WILDLIFE DRIVE**



To See More Wildlife  
PLEASE

Drive slowly and remain in your car, except at designated walking areas in the woods.

National Wildlife Refuges provide protection, food, and cover for wildlife through specific land management programs.

This guide points out some of Blackwater's wildlife management programs. It is keyed to observation points along the drive.



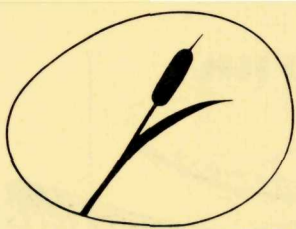
**WILDLIFE DRIVE**

**FRESH WATER POND**

**WOODLAND AND FIELD**

**DIKED IMPOUNDMENT AND  
SALT MARSH**

**OPEN COUNTRY**

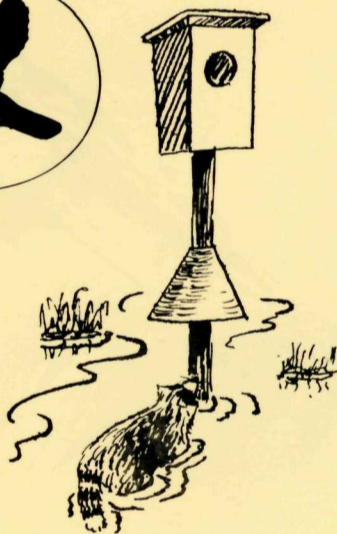


## FRESH WATER

Fresh water habitat is scarce in areas such as Blackwater because of the predominantly brackish marshes. This **FRESH WATER POND** was constructed to provide for a wider diversity of wildlife.

The small islands provide cover and nesting habitat for waterfowl and also serve as roosting areas for egrets and herons in summer. Wading and shore birds feed along the shallow edges.

Turtles are often seen sunning themselves on the logs.



## WOOD DUCK NESTING BOXES

The **WOOD DUCKS** are the only resident ducks that build their nests in tree cavities. Increasing demands for land and lumber have created a scarcity of such cavities; therefore, nesting boxes are used to replace diminishing natural sites.

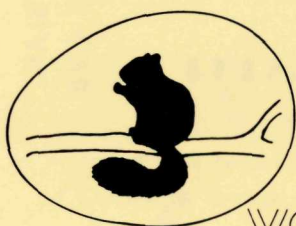
A metal guard keeps out predators such as raccoons and insures greater nesting success.

## **FRESH WATER POND**

## **WOODLAND AND FIELD**

## **DIKED IMPOUNDMENT AND SALT MARSH**

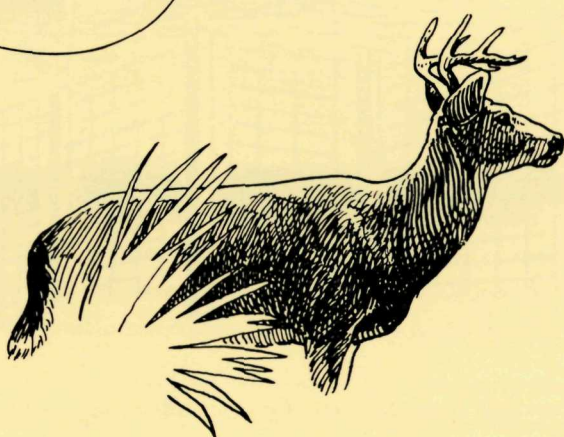
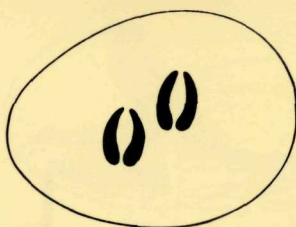
## **OPEN COUNTRY**



## WOODLAND MANAGEMENT

This WOODLAND is being managed to provide habitat for the endangered Delmarva Peninsula Fox Squirrel.

These large, light gray squirrels, which are unique to Maryland's Eastern Shore, have been driven to the brink of extinction due, in part, to man's destruction of the forests.



## FIELD MANAGEMENT

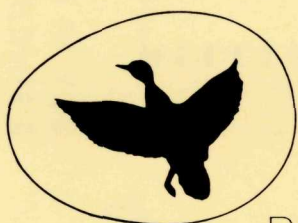
The FIELD adjoining the woodland is maintained primarily for deer.

Here, in close proximity, they find two vital requirements—food and cover. Like many other wild species, deer are most active and therefore most often seen in the early morning and late afternoon.

## WOODLAND AND FIELD

## DIKED IMPOUNDMENT AND SALT MARSH

## OPEN COUNTRY

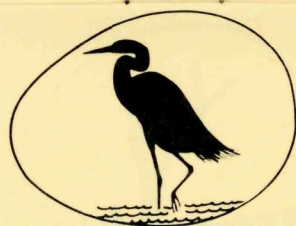
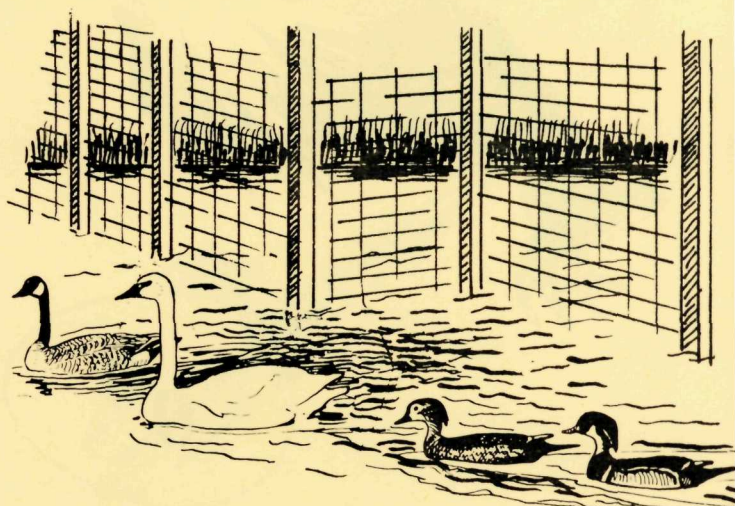


## BANDING

Wintering waterfowl are caught in the trap to your right, identified, banded, and released. Species using Blackwater include whistling swans, 3 species of geese, and more than 20 species of ducks.

Reports from hunters and recaptures by other banding stations provide information on migration and population patterns.

This information, combined with other data, is used in formulating hunting regulations. It also provides valuable life history information necessary for the proper management of each species.

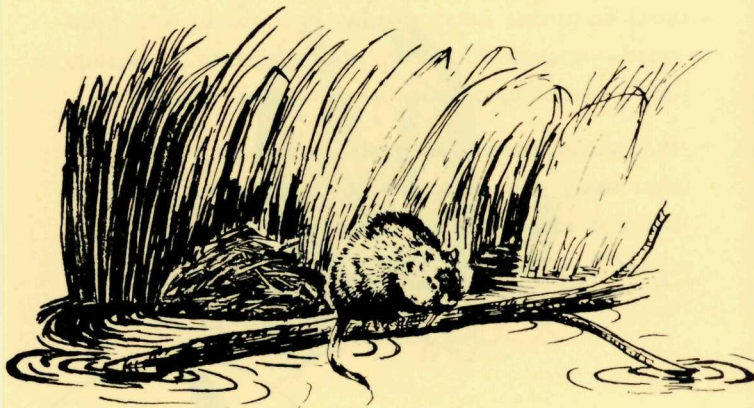


## IMPOUNDMENTS AND MARSH MANAGEMENT

The dike you are now on serves as an aid in controlling water levels in the low land and fields to your right. The natural foods and crops planted in the summer are flooded in the fall and are thus made readily available to wintering waterfowl.

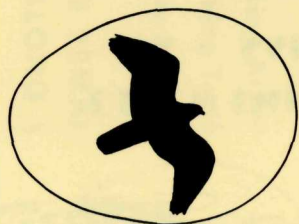
Carefully controlled burning in late winter of the marsh to your left encourages succulent natural vegetation relished by waterfowl, muskrats and nutria. The three-square bulrush is the favored food of these marsh dwellers.

During the summer, egrets, herons, and other water birds feed on the fish and crustaceans of this brackish marsh. They also feed on frogs and snakes of the impounded fresh waters.



**DIKED IMPOUNDMENT AND  
SALT MARSH**

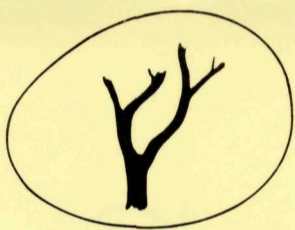
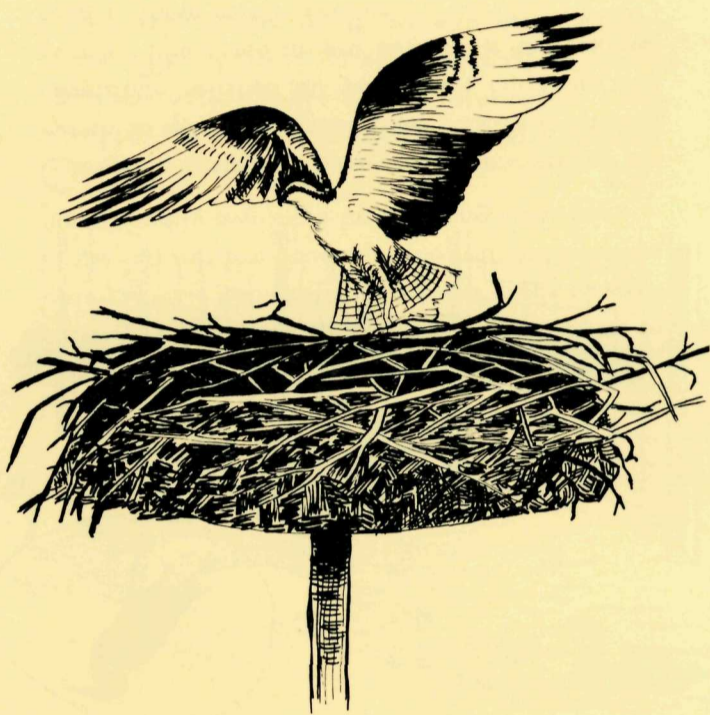
**OPEN COUNTRY**



## BIRDS OF PREY

An OSPREY NESTING PLATFORM (left, at water's edge) helps compensate for the scarcity of desirable tall trees near the water that would normally be used for nesting.

The osprey, or fish hawk, once common in Dorchester County, is now becoming scarce—probably due to reduced reproduction resulting from eating foods frequently contaminated with pesticides.



## PROTECTION

Another victim of pesticides and irresponsible hunters is the Bald Eagle.

The clump of dead trees to your left is a typical resting spot for this majestic bird as well as for hawks and vultures of the area.

Eagle nesting areas on Blackwater are protected from encroachment by man. Human disturbance poses an added threat to the survival of this critically endangered symbol of our country.



" . . . we seek as never before to retain  
and restore beauty and wildness in our lands,  
yet we have set in motion more powerful  
forces than we seem capable of controlling."  
—Raymond Dassman



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
Fish and Wildlife Service  
Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife

AUGUST 1971

