

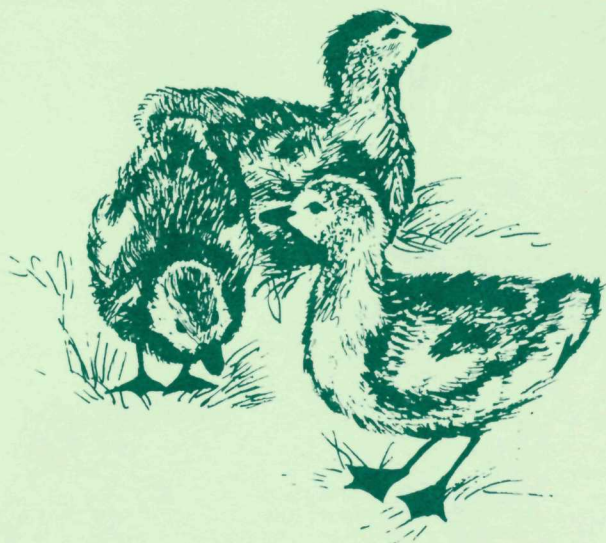
EASTERN NECK

NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE



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Eastern Neck National Wildlife Refuge, located at the mouth of Chester River on the eastern side of Chesapeake Bay in Kent County, Maryland, was established in December 1962. This island refuge contains 2,285 acres and is a major feeding and resting place for migratory and wintering waterfowl on Maryland's famed "Eastern Shore."



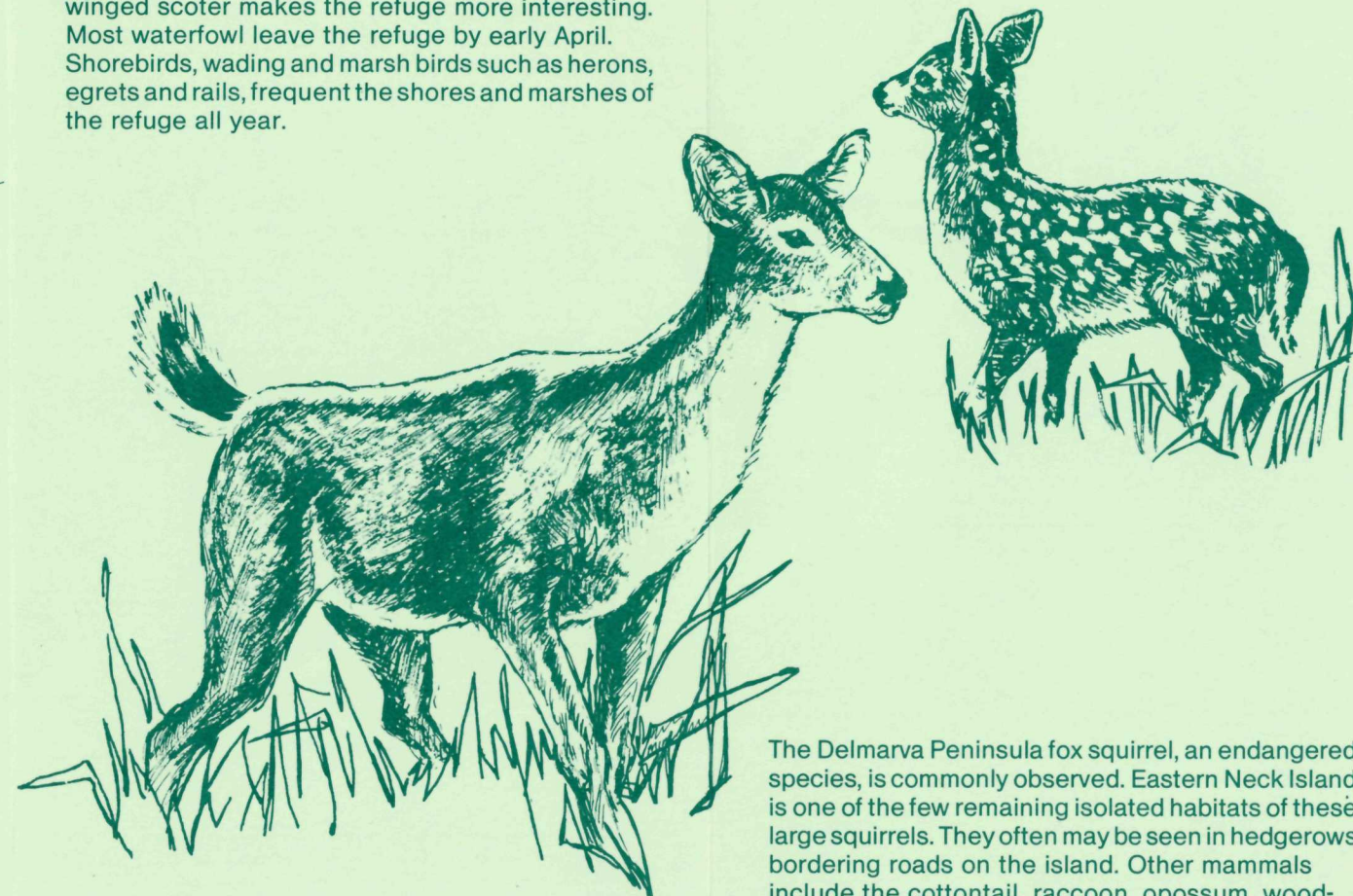
Eastern Neck, strategically located at the confluence of river and bay, has a long and varied history. The island was among the first settled areas in the New World. Here Major Joseph Wickes obtained a grant of 800 acres in 1650 and built "Wickliffe," one of the finest mansions of the time. Packet ships built on the mainland to carry goods and passengers across Chesapeake Bay made regular stops at Bogle's Wharf on the east side of the island from colonial days until 1924. Farming and waterfowl hunting were the most important land uses prior to the establishment of the refuge. The island was known as one of the best hunting grounds on the bay and was a favorite with gunning clubs.

The marshes, coves, ponds, and abundant aquatic vegetation in Chesapeake Bay and the Chester River made this a natural waterfowl habitat through the years. Both diving and puddle ducks have historically used the area. Swans also concentrate around the island by the thousands. Canada geese can be readily observed during the fall and winter months, feeding in food plots grown primarily for the Delmarva fox squirrel, or cleaning up leftover grain from refuge farming operations.

Most waterfowl begin arriving in early October. Their numbers reach a peak in November. Whistling swan, Canada goose, bufflehead, widgeon, pintail, mallard, black duck, canvasback, and scaup are the principal waterfowl using the refuge. The presence of sea ducks such as the oldsquaw and white-winged scoter makes the refuge more interesting. Most waterfowl leave the refuge by early April. Shorebirds, wading and marsh birds such as herons, egrets and rails, frequent the shores and marshes of the refuge all year.

The diversity of habitat, including the shoal waters, sand beaches, open fields, marshes, swamps, hedgerows, and woodlands provide for a variety of bird life. Upland game birds include bobwhite and mourning doves. Bald eagles frequent the region and osprey nest on the island. Various woodpeckers, along with many song birds, can be seen in the timbered areas and hedgerows.

Mammals are also an attraction on Eastern Neck. The most popular is the white-tailed deer which are regularly observed by refuge visitors. In order to prevent an overabundance of deer and to provide recreational hunting, the Fish and Wildlife Service in cooperation with the Maryland Wildlife Administration conducts an annual hunt.



The Delmarva Peninsula fox squirrel, an endangered species, is commonly observed. Eastern Neck Island is one of the few remaining isolated habitats of these large squirrels. They often may be seen in hedgerows bordering roads on the island. Other mammals include the cottontail, raccoon, opossum, woodchuck, muskrat, and skunk.

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Nearly 6 miles of roads and trails are open to public traffic most of the year. The Ingleside Recreation Area on the northwest side of the refuge has facilities for crabbing and car top boat launching from May 1 to October 1. Bogle's Wharf landing is located on the east side of the refuge and offers large boat launching facilities. Wildlife trails, a boardwalk, and observation tower are available for those wishing to observe the refuge environment on foot. The more adventuresome visitor may hike anywhere in the Open Area located in the northeast corner of the refuge. (See Map) **All other areas are delineated by Closed Area signs. These areas are managed for wildlife, and the visiting public is not permitted within them.** Environmental Education programs are offered for the general public, and are also arranged for school, scout, senior citizen, and other special groups. Visitors to the refuge are urged to observe and obey refuge signs and regulations.

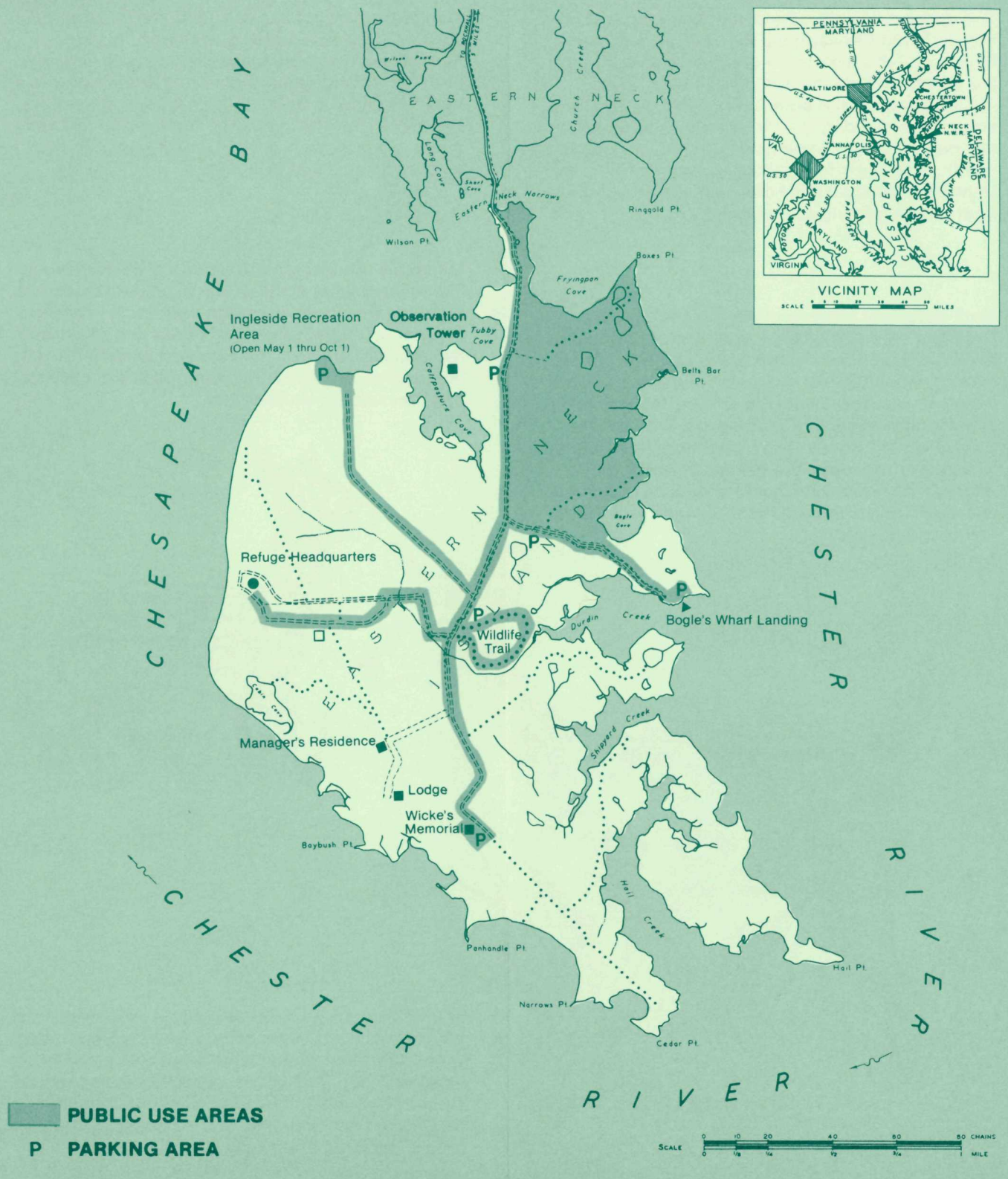
Additional information may be obtained at the refuge office from 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, or by writing:

Refuge Manager
 Eastern Neck National Wildlife Refuge
 Route 2, Box 225
 Rock Hall, Maryland 21661
 Telephone: (301) 639-7056



UNITED STATES
 DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
 Fish & Wildlife Service

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■ PUBLIC USE AREAS
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