

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Long Island *National Wildlife Refuge Complex*



The Long Island National Wildlife Refuge Complex boasts nine of more than 500 units in the National Wildlife Refuge System. The National Wildlife Refuge System, administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, is a network of lands and waters managed specifically for the protection of wildlife and wildlife habitat and is the most comprehensive wildlife management program in the world.

Welcome!



This blue goose, designed by J.N. "Ding" Darling, has become the symbol of the National Wildlife Refuge System.

The Long Island Complex is comprised of eight national wildlife refuges and one wildlife management area, totaling almost 6,500 acres. The primary purpose for each is to protect and benefit wildlife. These nine units protect many of the island's habitat types which are critical to migratory birds, endangered species and other wildlife. Long Island's strategic location—situated in the Long Island Pine Barrens and along the Atlantic Flyway—provides important nesting, wintering and migratory stop-over areas for hundreds of bird species. Each refuge in the complex is unique and provides a necessary component to wildlife survival.

As part of the National Wildlife Refuge System, the Long Island National Wildlife Refuge Complex is committed to managing the nation's wildlife and their habitats. We encourage wildlife-dependent visitor use when it does not interfere with this primary goal. Please respect the animals and habitats you see. You too can protect wildlife!

Opposite:
Oak forest
© T. Kman

Enjoy your visit!

Green heron



Wertheim National Wildlife Refuge

This 2,550-acre refuge on Long Island's south shore is bisected by the Carmans River—state-designated wild and scenic river and one of the island's largest. Wertheim hosts a wide variety of habitats including oak-pine woodlands, grasslands, ponds, river, streams and bays, as well as fresh, brackish and salt water wetlands. These habitats attract and support a remarkable diversity of wildlife including white-tailed deer, osprey, muskrat, wading birds, fox, weasel, turtles and frogs. The refuge also serves as a haven for waterfowl, such as black ducks, bufflehead and mergansers, along with shorebirds, raptors, songbirds and estuarine fish.



Rufous-sided towhee

Management

Wertheim is managed to protect the Carmans River estuary for use by migratory waterfowl (particularly black ducks, bufflehead, wood ducks, scaup and gadwalls) and other waterbirds. Refuge staff manage impoundments, wetlands and forests to maintain and enhance habitat, wildlife diversity and productivity. Managers also maintain nesting structures for songbirds, barn owls, osprey and wood ducks.



Nest box



Yaphank Creek



Directions: From Long Island Expressway (I-495) take Exit 68S, or from Sunrise Highway (Highway 27) take Exit 58S to William Floyd Parkway (CR 46S). Right (West) onto Montauk Highway (CR 80W). Left (South) onto Smith Road for 1/4-mile. Entrance road is on the right. The refuge is open from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. daily.

Visiting the Refuge

Wertheim offers four miles of hiking and some of the best canoeing on Long Island. You can also enjoy wildlife viewing, nature photography, fishing, environmental education, nature interpretation, hiking and cross-country skiing to facilitate wildlife observation and photography. Waterfowl numbers peak in the winter, while bird watching during the spring and fall migrations allows you to view a variety of birds including raptors, waterfowl and songbirds. The spring bloom decorates the refuge with colorful flowers such as irises, marsh buttercups and violets. Autumn colors are equally splendid! An information kiosk, wildlife observation blinds and public restrooms are provided for your convenience.



© T. Kiman

Blue flag

Target Rock National Wildlife Refuge

Target Rock is an 80-acre refuge on the Lloyd Neck Peninsula of Long Island's north shore. The refuge, composed of mature oak-hickory forest and a half-mile rocky beach, supports a variety of songbirds (particularly warblers in the spring), mammals, shorebirds, fish, reptiles and amphibians. During the colder months, diving ducks are common offshore, while harbor seals use the beach and nearby rocks as resting sites. The spring bloom at Target Rock is a reminder of its days as a formal garden with flowering rhododendrons and mountain laurel.



Gray squirrel

Management

Target Rock provides excellent habitat for migratory birds due to its coastal location. The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service manages the refuge to protect this special habitat for migratory songbirds, shorebirds, waterfowl and other wildlife. From April 1 through August 31, a portion of Target Rock beach is closed to public use to provide undisturbed nesting and feeding habitat for bank swallows and shorebirds like the piping plover. We appreciate your respect of the beach closures to protect the nation's wildlife for present and future generations!



Northern flicker

Target Rock Headlands



Directions: From the Long Island Expressway (I-495), take Route 110N to Huntington. Left (West) on Route 25A (Main Street). Right (North) onto West Neck Road to Lloyd Harbor Road. Straight onto Target Rock Road. Entrance is on the right. The refuge is open 1/2-hour before sunrise to 1/2-hour after sunset.

Visiting the Refuge

The nature trail at Target Rock winds through hardwood forest, past seasonal ponds and along

Fishing/Huntington Bay



Huntington Bay. You can enjoy wildlife-dependent activities such as photography, wildlife observation, environmental education, nature trails, nature interpretation and fishing. State regulations apply when fishing. An information kiosk and public restrooms are provided for your convenience.

An entrance fee is required; collected funds help protect wildlife habitat as well as maintain the refuge trails and facilities.

Elizabeth A. Morton National Wildlife Refuge



A. Stewart/USFWS

*Looking for
wildlife sign*

Visiting the Refuge

Piping plover



A. Krevitz

Morton Refuge, a 187-acre peninsula on Noyack and Little Peconic Bays, boasts exceptionally diverse habitats. Sandy and rocky beaches fringe the peninsula, while wooded bluffs overlook the bays. Morton consists of upland forest, ponds, saltmarshes, beach, a lagoon and grasslands. These habitats provide for a variety of wildlife including white-tailed deer and other mammals, reptiles, amphibians, songbirds and raptors like the osprey. Wintering waterfowl, such as oldsquaw and white-winged scoter, are common during the cold months, while shorebirds, particularly piping plover, use the beach in the warmer months.

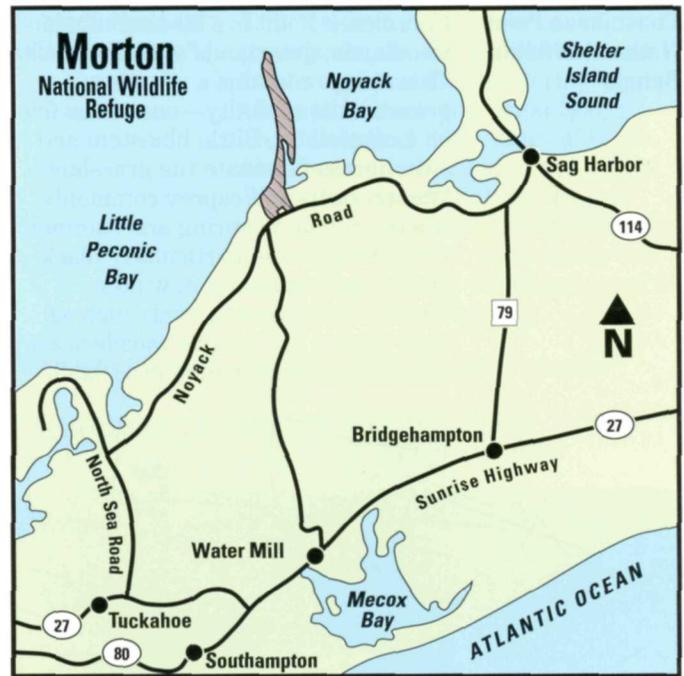
The nature trail at Morton passes through upland areas and onto the beach. You can then follow the peninsula for almost two miles, travel an upland trail or visit a brackish pond. Saltwater fishing from shore is permitted (state regulations apply). Enjoy nature photography and observation, hiking, nature interpretation and environmental education. An information kiosk and restrooms are provided for your convenience.

An entrance fee is required; collected funds help protect wildlife habitat as well as maintain refuge trails and facilities.

Black capped chickadee



© S. Pollack



Directions: Take Sunrise Highway (27E). Left (North) onto North Sea Road (CR 38) for North Sea. Right onto Noyack Road for 5 miles. Entrance is on the left. The refuge is open from 1/2-hour before sunrise to 1/2-hour after sunset.

Management

Morton is managed to protect a unique natural area for migratory birds. Endangered and threatened species such as piping plover, least tern, roseate tern and osprey use the refuge for nesting, rearing young, feeding and resting. In order to protect the peninsula's habitat for wildlife, access to that part of the beach is seasonally closed (April 1 through August 31). Nesting structures (platforms, nest boxes) help increase bird productivity. Refuge staff manage wetlands to enhance waterfowl use, while grasslands are maintained for habitat diversity and migratory birds.

*Morton Beach,
Little Peconic Bay*

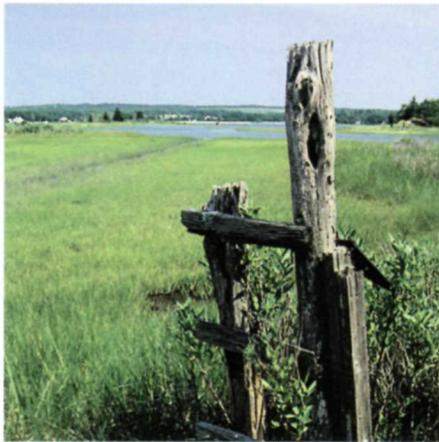


R.W. Parris/USFWS

**Conscience Point
National Wildlife
Refuge***

Conscience Point is a 60-acre mix of woodlands, grasslands and saltmarsh. This refuge contains a maritime grassland community—one of the few on Long Island. Little bluestem and switchgrass dominate the grassland. Wading birds and osprey commonly use the refuge in spring and summer, while waterfowl—particularly black ducks—are abundant in winter. Grassland-dependent birds such as blue-winged and prairie warblers are common in the maritime grassland.

*Tidal
wetland*



© T. Krnan

**Lido Beach
Wildlife
Management
Area***

Almost entirely composed of tidal wetland, this area has a high density of shorebirds and wading birds. Wintering waterfowl such as black ducks and Atlantic brant also use the wetland. Due to its location on a barrier island, Lido Beach supports nesting clapper rails, osprey and numerous songbirds. Management focuses on wetland restoration and invasive species control.

Dowitchers



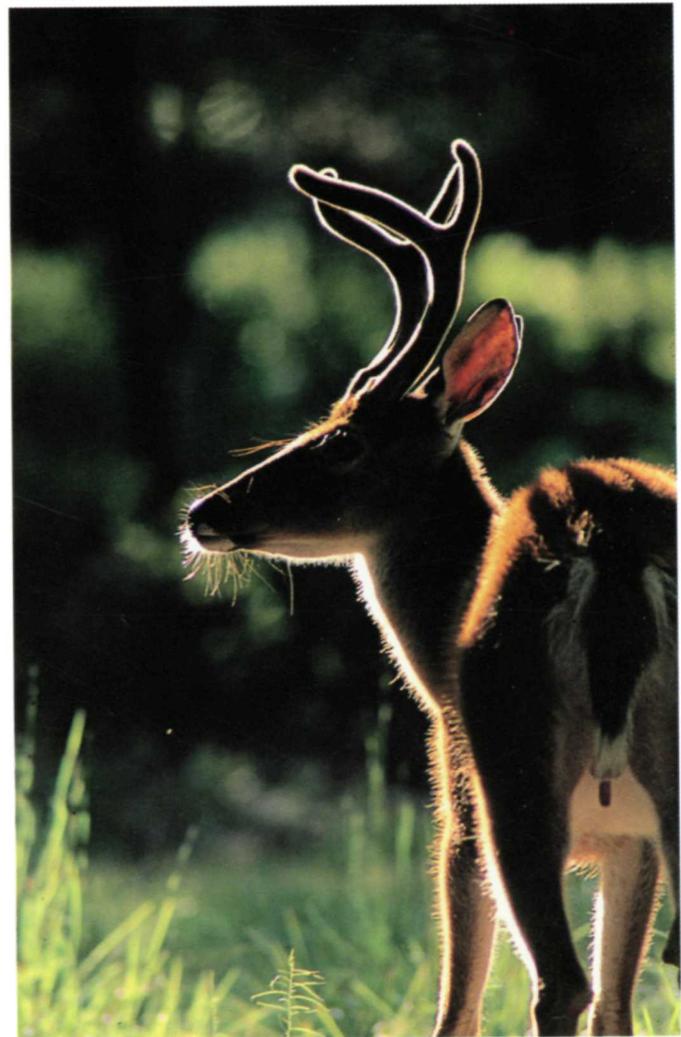
© E. Sambolin

**Seatuck National
Wildlife Refuge***

This 196-acre refuge consists of grasslands, woodlands, and salt and freshwater marshes bordering Champlin Creek and Great South Bay. More than 200 species of birds have been documented at the refuge. White-tailed deer and red fox are common. Seatuck is actively managed for migratory birds, particularly for nesting osprey and waterbirds, and to maintain habitat diversity.

**Open to select public use activities only by special use permit. Call 631-286-0485.*

White-tailed deer



© E. Sambolin



© E. Sambolin

Black duck

Oyster Bay National Wildlife Refuge

This 3,209-acre refuge includes sub-tidal habitats, saltmarsh and a freshwater pond. Most Long Island waterbird species have been documented on the refuge and more than twenty thousand ducks have been reported for one waterfowl survey. Wintering waterfowl include black ducks, greater scaup, bufflehead, canvasback and oldsquaw. Terns and cormorants, as well as Eastern diamondback terrapins and harbor seals, inhabit Oyster Bay. Management activities include wetland restoration and protection of the natural shoreline and vegetation. Enjoy fishing, wildlife observation, photography and environmental education.

The refuge is primarily composed of bay habitats. Access to the Oyster Bay is mainly by boat from Long Island Sound or local boat ramps.

Swimming muskrat



© E. Sambolin

Amagansett National Wildlife Refuge



© E. Sambolin

Willet

This 36-acre refuge preserves a unique double dune system—a habitat type lost on much of Long Island due to development. Amagansett’s coastal location makes it a prime stopover for migrating raptors, shorebirds and songbirds. The refuge also supports several rare orchids. Management focuses on non-native species control.

The refuge is adjacent to Atlantic Avenue, off Route 27 in Amagansett. Visitors can enjoy a walk on the beach to watch, study, and photograph wildlife, or fish from the shore. Watch for migrating birds in April–May and September–October!

Sayville National Wildlife Refuge*

Sayville’s habitats of oak-pitch pine forests and grasslands support a diversity of migratory songbirds. The refuge contains the largest population of sandplain gerardia (a federally endangered plant) in New York. Management activities focus on protecting and enhancing habitat for this endangered plant and for migratory birds.



R.W. Parris/USFWS

Managing endangered plants

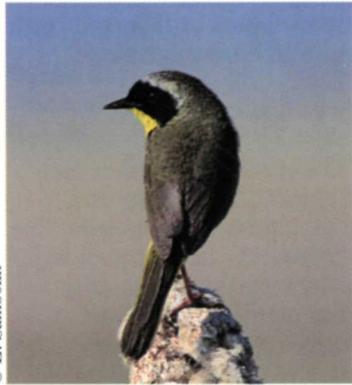
Insert: Sandplain gerardia

Don Sias/Courtesy of the Nature Conservancy

*Open to select public use activities only by special use permit. Call 631-286-0485.

**Common
Wildlife
of the Long
Island NWR**

"All Creatures Great & Small"
The Long Island National Wildlife Refuge Complex was established to protect and enhance migratory bird populations, threatened and endangered species and fish that live in both fresh and salt water during their life cycle. Protecting habitat for these species is a priority over other activities, yet most species benefit from the complex's management programs.



© E. Sambolin

Common yellowthroat



© E. Sambolin

Eastern wild turkey



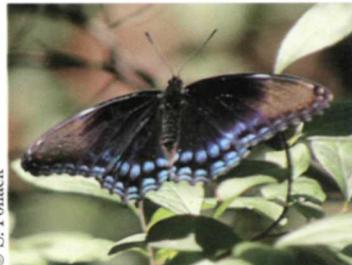
© R.W. Parris/USFWS

Menhaden



© S. Pollack

Common tern



© S. Pollack

Red spotted purple butterfly



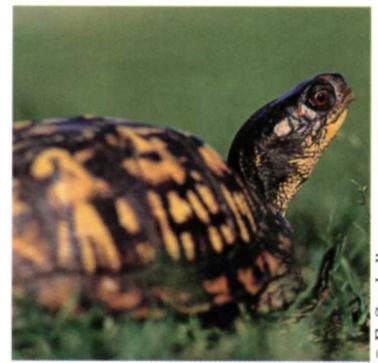
© T. Knaan

Bullfrog



© E. Sambolin

Great blue heron



© E. Sambolin

Box turtle



© E. Sambolin

Rose-breasted grosbeak



© E. Sambolin

Red fox



© E. Sambolin

American kestrel



© E. Sambolin

Canvasback



© E. Sambolin

Eastern cottontail rabbit

Numerous & Varied
Wildlife flourish from the habitat protection and management at the complex, which provides a place for more than 300 kinds of birds, 35 types of mammals, 30 species of reptiles and amphibians, 100 types of fish and more than 500 plant species. As a result you can expect to see a variety of animals when visiting any of the refuges.

Long Island National Wildlife Refuge Complex Protects Habitat from the Atlantic Flyway to Pine Barren Forests

Migration Stopover and Wintering Grounds
The Atlantic Flyway is a “path” birds follow from the Southern Hemisphere to the Northern Hemisphere during migration. The Long Island Refuges have an important location on this “path,” especially for birds dependent on aquatic habitats. Other birds using the flyway for migration take advantage of the edges between upland and aquatic habitats.

Atlantic brant



USFWS

Tidal wetland



R. W. Parris/USFWS

Beach at Morton NWR



USFWS

Tidal Wetlands
During migration, shorebirds and waterfowl use the complex to rest and feed. Tidal wetlands support wintering waterfowl, particularly black duck and Atlantic brant, and other wildlife including nesting osprey and harriers. Wading birds and kingfishers hunt for fish. Shorebirds make use of tidal flats and saltmarshes.

Bays & Beaches
Several of Long Island’s refuges have beaches as well as bays. Beaches are important for threatened and endangered species like piping plover and roseate terns. Sea and bay ducks, osprey, sea turtles, terns and harbor seals also use the beaches and particularly the adjacent bays.



© S. Pollack

Magnolia warbler

Long Island Pine Barrens
Pitch pine trees distinguish pine barren habitats. The pitch pine

depend on fire to reproduce and compete with other plants. In the pine barrens, pitch pine and oaks form the overstory, while the understory provides wildlife with fruits such as blueberry and huckleberry.

Pine barrens and other forest types within the complex support breeding migratory songbirds including warblers, vireos, wrens and flycatchers. Owls and other raptors also use the forests and openings to nest and hunt throughout the year.



© T. Kman

Pitch pine



© S. Pollack

Saw-whet owl

Tidal wetland



© T. Kman

Restoring Important Wildlife Habitat through Effective Management

As part of the National Wildlife Refuge System, the Long Island National Wildlife Refuge Complex is committed to managing wildlife and their habitats. The complex conducts management programs to protect our nation's wildlife.

Management Goals

- Provide and manage a diversity of high quality habitats to support breeding, migrating and/or wintering birds, threatened and endangered species, and fish.
- Maintain high quality habitats for all native wildlife and plant species.
- Establish and maintain partnerships to benefit wildlife for present and future generations.



Canada geese

Terrestrial Management

The complex manages upland habitats for a variety of wildlife. Forests are managed to maintain native species and diversity, as well as to reduce the impacts of exotic species and forest pests. Forest openings and grasslands provide additional habitat diversity for the complex's upland-dependent wildlife.

Wetland Restoration

The complex routinely restores

Managing a forest opening



R.W. Parris/USFWS

Marsh restoration



R.W. Parris/USFWS

Prescribed burn

coastal wetland and subtidal habitats. Wetlands benefit waterfowl like black duck and Atlantic brant, as well as colonial nesting birds like herons, terns and cormorants. Wetlands are also habitat for the majority of Long Island's shorebirds.

Prescribed Fire

This management technique benefits a variety of natural resources. In areas of Long Island where prescribed fire has been used, the complex has been able to reduce fuels for protection from wildfire and restore a natural ecological process—fire—to wildlands. Burning helps

to maintain fire-dependent vegetation, manage grasslands, remove non-native plants, and improve foraging and nesting areas for wildlife.

Refuge Partners—Working Together for Wildlife

The complex's nine units are part of Long Island's larger ecosystems which many wildlife species depend on. The complex works with other

agencies and groups to achieve its management goals, both on and off refuge lands.

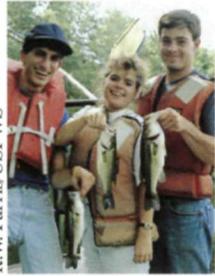
Partnerships



R.W. Parris/USFWS

Things to Enjoy at the Refuges

Morton and Target Rock National Wildlife Refuges are open to public use from 1/2-hour before sunrise to 1/2-hour after sunset. Wertheim NWR (Complex Headquarters) is open from 8 am to 4:30 pm. There are many activities for you to enjoy during your visit.



Anglers

- Wildlife viewing
- Hiking
- Nature photography and art
- Environmental education[†]
- Bird watching
- Canoeing and kayaking[‡]
- Fishing[‡]
- Cross-country skiing
- Guided hikes[†]
- Volunteer opportunities
- Special events

[†]*By appointment*

[‡]*New York State regulations apply, as well as special refuge rules.*

When to Watch

Late October through early April offers the best times to view waterfowl on the refuges. The forests burst into song with the arrival of warblers in the spring. Chickadees, black ducks and white-tailed deer may greet you year-round.

Environmental education at Wertheim NWR



B. Stewart



R.W. Parris/USFWS

Piping plover eggs

Help Protect Wildlife

Everything on the refuges is either a home or food for wildlife; therefore, please remember ...

- Take only pictures, leave only footprints.
- Use official trails only.
- Respect refuge boundary signs, closed areas and private property.
- Please keep pets off the refuges. Their presence disturbs wildlife.
- Keep a walking pace. Running triggers a flight response in wildlife.
- Keep your distance—respect nesting wildlife.
- Pack your garbage out with you.
- Keep noise levels low. You will have a better chance at seeing or hearing wildlife!

It is your responsibility to know and follow refuge regulations. If you need assistance, please ask for help at the Complex Headquarters located at Wertheim NWR.

Sprucing up a nature trail



R.W. Parris/USFWS



Carmans River

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Units of the National Wildlife Refuge System stretch across the United States from northern Alaska to the Florida Keys and include small islands in the Caribbean and South Pacific. The character of the refuges is as diverse as the nation itself.

The Service also manages National Fish Hatcheries and provides federal leadership in habitat protection, fish and wildlife research, technical assistance, and the conservation and protection of migratory birds, certain marine mammals and threatened and endangered species.

More Information

If you would like more information about the Long Island National Wildlife Refuge Complex, the National Wildlife Refuge System, or if you would like to volunteer, please contact:

Refuge Manager
Long Island NWR Complex
P.O. Box 21, 360 Smith Road
Shirley, NY 11967
631/286 0485

*School group at
 Elizabeth A.
 Morton NWR*



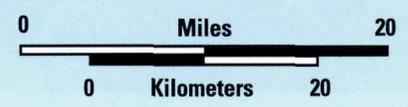


CONNECTICUT

NEW YORK



Long Island National Wildlife Refuge Complex



ATLANTIC OCEAN

Long Island National Wildlife
Refuge Complex
P.O. Box 21, 360 Smith Rd.
Shirley, NY 11967
631/286 0485
1 800/662 1220 TDD
1 800/421 1220 voice

Federal Relay Service
for the deaf and hard-of-hearing
1 800/877 8339

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
1 800/344 WILD
<http://www.fws.gov>

August 2001



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Long Island *National Wildlife Refuge Complex*

