

## Lostwood National Wildlife Refuge

If any of your forefathers homesteaded on the prairie, a stop at this Refuge is a must. Here, the graceful, wind-swept beauty of unbroken prairie can be fully appreciated. Scenes like these must have awed and struck fear in the hearts of early settlers, many of whom had spent their lives amidst the shelter and protection of forested areas. This is probably the best example of mid-grass prairie pothole lands remaining in the United States. Try to schedule a visit during the spring or early summer when both wildflowers and waterfowl are very visible.

## Waterfowl Productions Areas

As you travel from Refuge to Refuge, watch for Waterfowl Production Areas. These relatively small wildlife areas, purchased by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, are marked with green and white boundary signs illustrated with a canvasback duck and ducklings. They were preserved to protect and improve waterfowl habitat, particularly prairie nesting areas for ducks. Birdwatching, photography, and hunting are permitted. Information on Waterfowl Production Areas can be obtained at any of the Refuges.

Many Waterfowl Production Areas and National Wildlife Refuges have been bought with monies raised from the sale of Duck Stamps. Today, as in the last half century, your purchase of a Duck Stamp will aid waterfowl and other wildlife by protecting essential habitats.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service wants your visit to these Refuges and Waterfowl Production Areas to be a memorable experience. If you have any questions concerning a visit, please contact the appropriate Refuge Manager.

### Refuge Manager

J. Clark Salyer NWR  
Upham, North Dakota 58789  
701/768-2548

### Refuge Manager

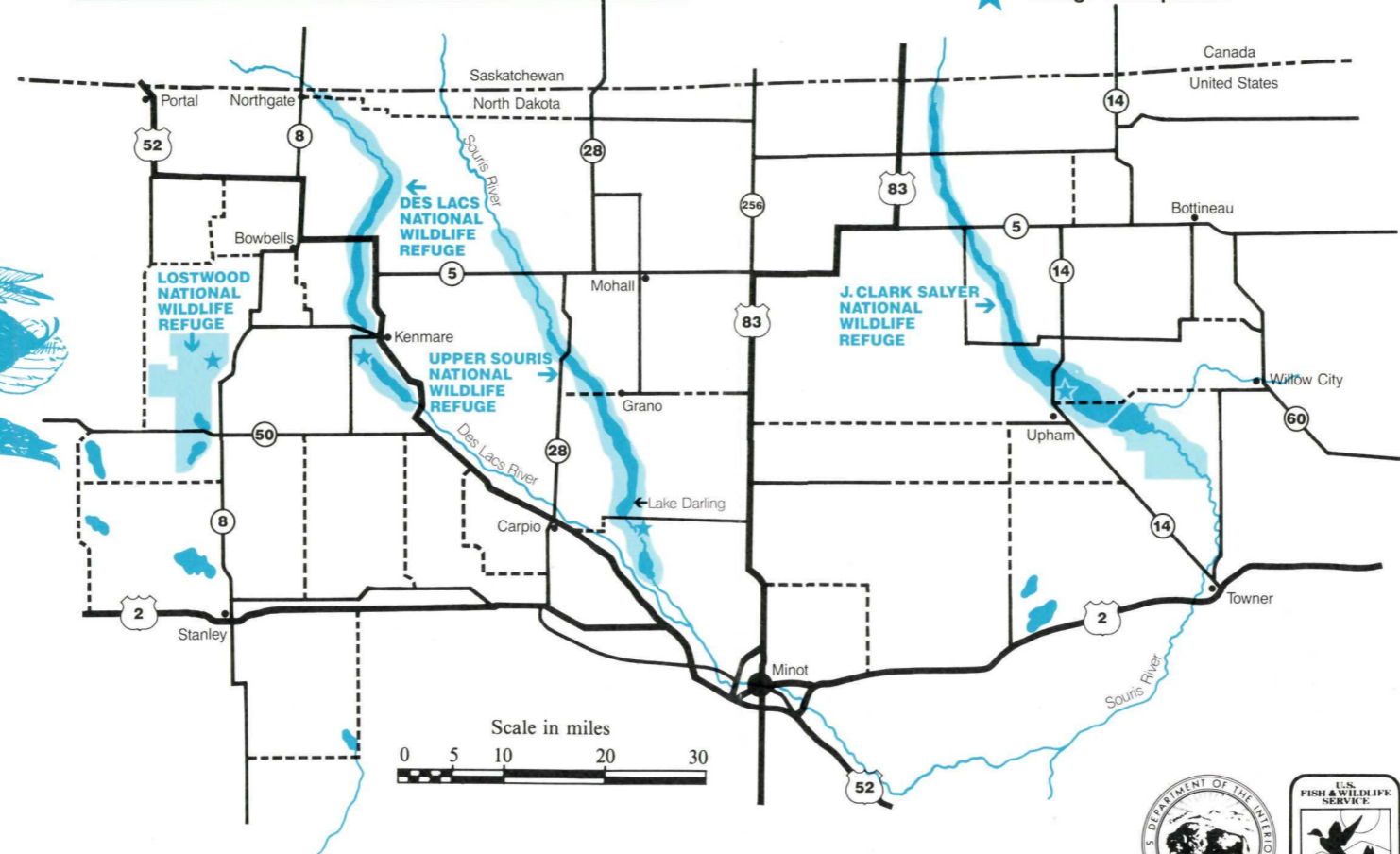
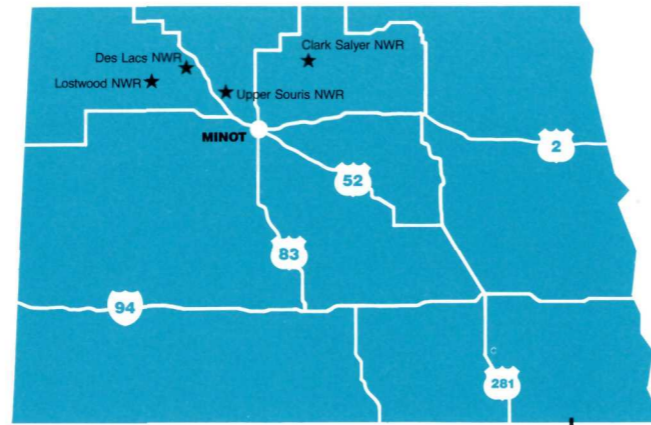
Des Lacs NWR  
P.O. Box 578  
Kenmare, North Dakota 58746  
701/385-4046

### Refuge Manager

Upper Souris NWR  
Foxholm, North Dakota 58738  
701/468-5467

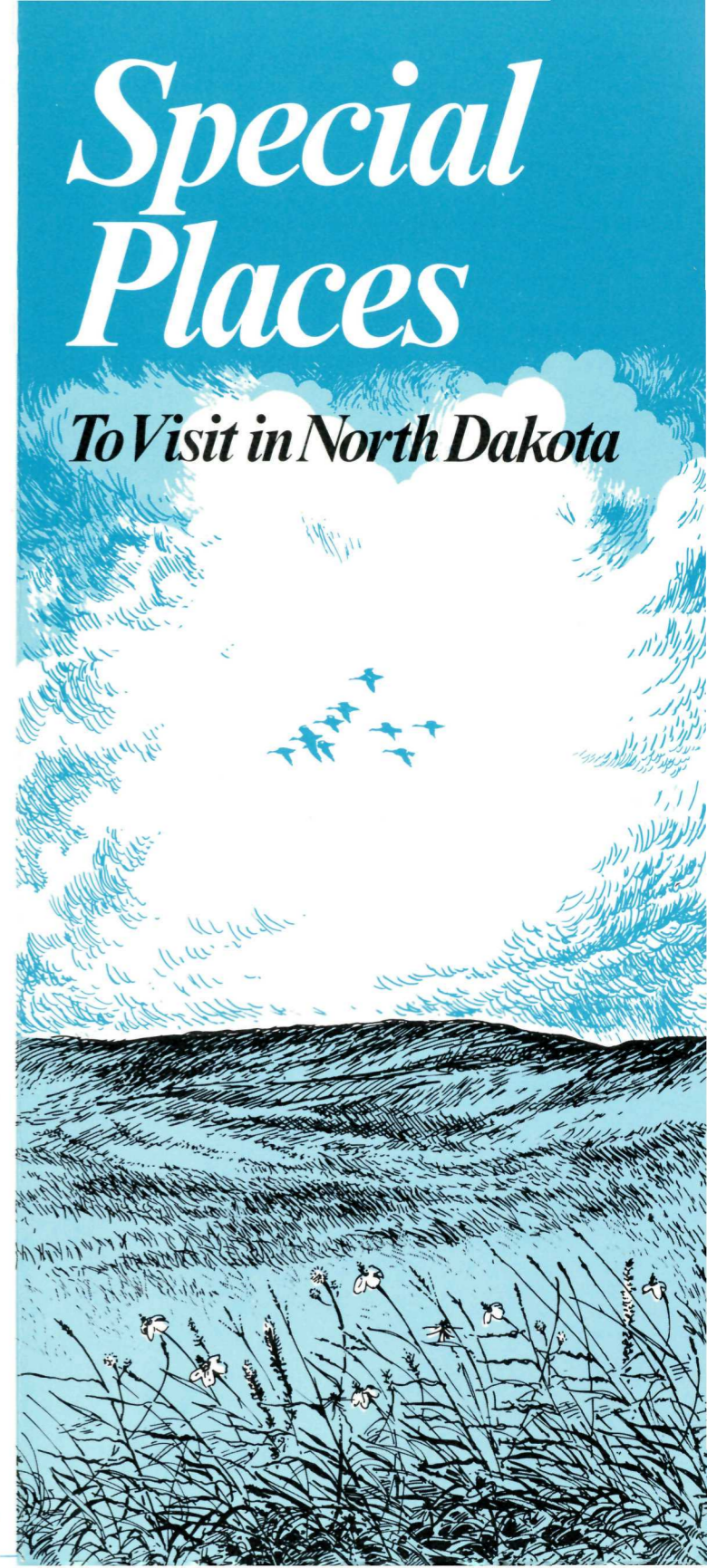
### Refuge Manager

Lostwood NWR  
Rural Route #2  
Kenmare, North Dakota 58746  
701/848-2722



# Special Places

## To Visit in North Dakota



# A Prairie Legacy

A potpourri of unique experiences await the public at four National Wildlife Refuges in northwestern North Dakota. The Refuges, J. Clark Salyer, Upper Souris, Des Lacs, and Lostwood are all located on or near the Souris River, each within an hour's drive of Minot.

These are special places to see wildlife, particularly early and late in the day when wildlife is most active. Fishing and hunting may also be permitted. Visitation is denied only when human presence unduly disturbs wildlife. Visitors may witness scenes deeply etched in the minds of early settlers. Unbroken prairies ablaze with wildflowers; long, wavering lines of wild geese pressing north, the frantic, exuberant courtship of prairie grouse; or a meadowlark in full song on a warm, spring day.

## An Unhurried Pace

Here, visitors can set a relaxed pace while enjoying the sights and sounds of the natural world — a welcome change from the hectic pace of the twentieth century. Each of the four Refuges is unique in its own right, making a visit to each very worthwhile. A tour of all four would be far too much for one day. Schedule one or two during a day, or possibly all four in a weekend.

Maps, bird lists, and other pertinent information are available at each Refuge headquarters and their use will make a visit more pleasurable. Remember to bring binoculars, a camera, and most importantly, a sense of discovery.



J. Clark Salyer NWR Photo by Ed Bry

## J. Clark Salyer National Wildlife Refuge

This eastern most Refuge of the group lies astride the lower reaches of the Souris River loop. Here, the river valley broadens forming shallow basins that create some of the largest freshwater marshes in America. Unsuccessfully drained and later restored, the marshes stand as a tribute to the foresight of early conservationists who created the Refuge.

A 22-mile long auto tour route threads its way through marshlands, grasslands, sandy hills, and forested areas. Anticipate seeing a variety of wildlife among these markedly different plant communities.

Designated as a unit of the National Canoe Trail System, a 13-mile stretch of the River offers opportunities for exploration by canoe. The slow, meandering waters enfold great blue heron, muskrat, wild ducks, and other wildlife.



Great Blue Heron

Sprague's Pipit



## Upper Souris National Wildlife Refuge

Located west and upstream from J. Clark Salyer Wildlife Refuge, Upper Souris furnishes a striking, panoramic view of the river valley. This can be seen from an auto trail that rides the crest of hills west of an earthen dam.

If you are lucky during spring and fall migrations, you may see tundra swans circling below in a wide arc preparing to land in valley marshlands. Hawks and many other species of birds commonly use the valley corridor during migration. Ardent birdwatchers should be on the alert for Baird's, LeConte's, and sharp-tailed sparrows, as well as Sprague's pipit.

The earthen dam separates valley marshlands from the lake formed behind the dam. Named after the famed conservationist and cartoonist, J.N. "Ding" Darling, Lake Darling is a favorite fishing ground for North Dakotans. Canoe trails are open to the public above and below the dam giving canoeists an intimate view of Souris River habitats and marsh wildlife.

Schedule a visit in the spring or when fall colors are at their peak. The colorful, fall blend of prairie grasses — red, yellows, and browns are surprisingly beautiful.

## Des Lacs National Wildlife Refuge

Straddling the Des Lacs River, a western tributary of the Souris, the Refuge encompasses a 25-mile long corridor of river valley and bordering uplands. The 7-mile long "old lake" road, south of Kenmare, is a good vantage point for viewing Refuge marshlands. This is a good place to see western grebes perform their courtship antics in the spring. Pied billed, red-necked, horned and eared grebes also nest in this area. White pelicans summer in the marshlands and LeConte's sparrow, a rare prize for birdwatchers, may be seen.

A photo blind is located near the dancing grounds of sharp-tailed grouse. Please contact the refuge staff for details.