

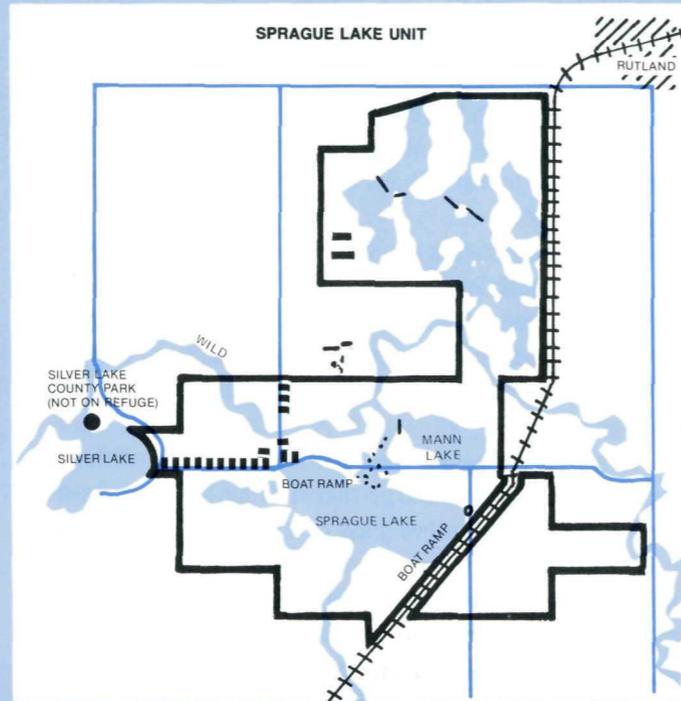
## VISITOR OPPORTUNITIES

Lake Tewaukon and Sprague Lake are open to fishing. Walleyes and northern pike are the main species. Only boat motors of 25 hp and smaller are permitted on the lakes. Limited public hunting is allowed—please check current regulations at refuge headquarters.

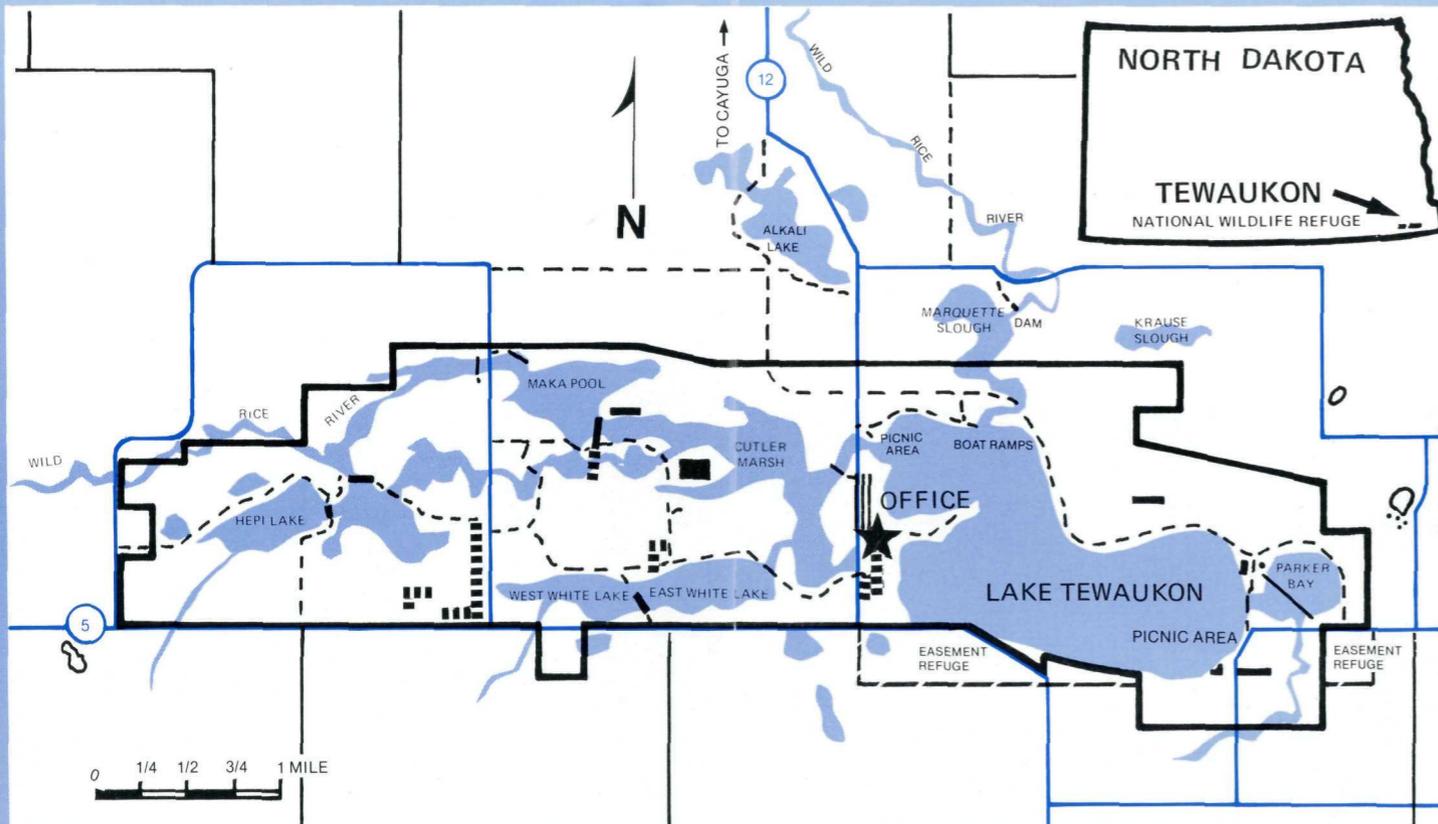
The area around Lake Tewaukon (east of County Road 12) is open to hiking, photography and bird watching. A picnic area with grills, tables, and toilets is available on the east shore of Lake Tewaukon. No camping or swimming is allowed on the refuge.

Tewaukon National Wildlife Refuge is open from dawn until 10:00 p.m. daily. Information on the refuge and various activities is available at refuge headquarters. Overnight lodging is available in Lidgerwood, Forman and Milnor, North Dakota, each about 18 miles from the refuge.

Additional information may be obtained by writing the Refuge Manager, Tewaukon National Wildlife Refuge, Cayuga, ND 58013. Telephone: (701) 724-3598.



## TEWAUKON NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE



## SOME SPECIFICS:

**Established:** 1945.

**Acres:** 8,438.

**River:** Wild Rice (western tributary of the Red River).

**Large ponds:** 9 areas totalling 2,100 acres.

**Smaller ponds:** 31, 5 to 20 acres each.

**Potholes:** 100 total.

**Native grasses:** bluestems, green needle, wheatgrass, Indian and switch.

**Non-native grasses:** sweet clover, alfalfa, brome, quack, bluegrass.



*Canada geese and snow geese use the refuge in large numbers. Photo by Herb Troester.*

U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

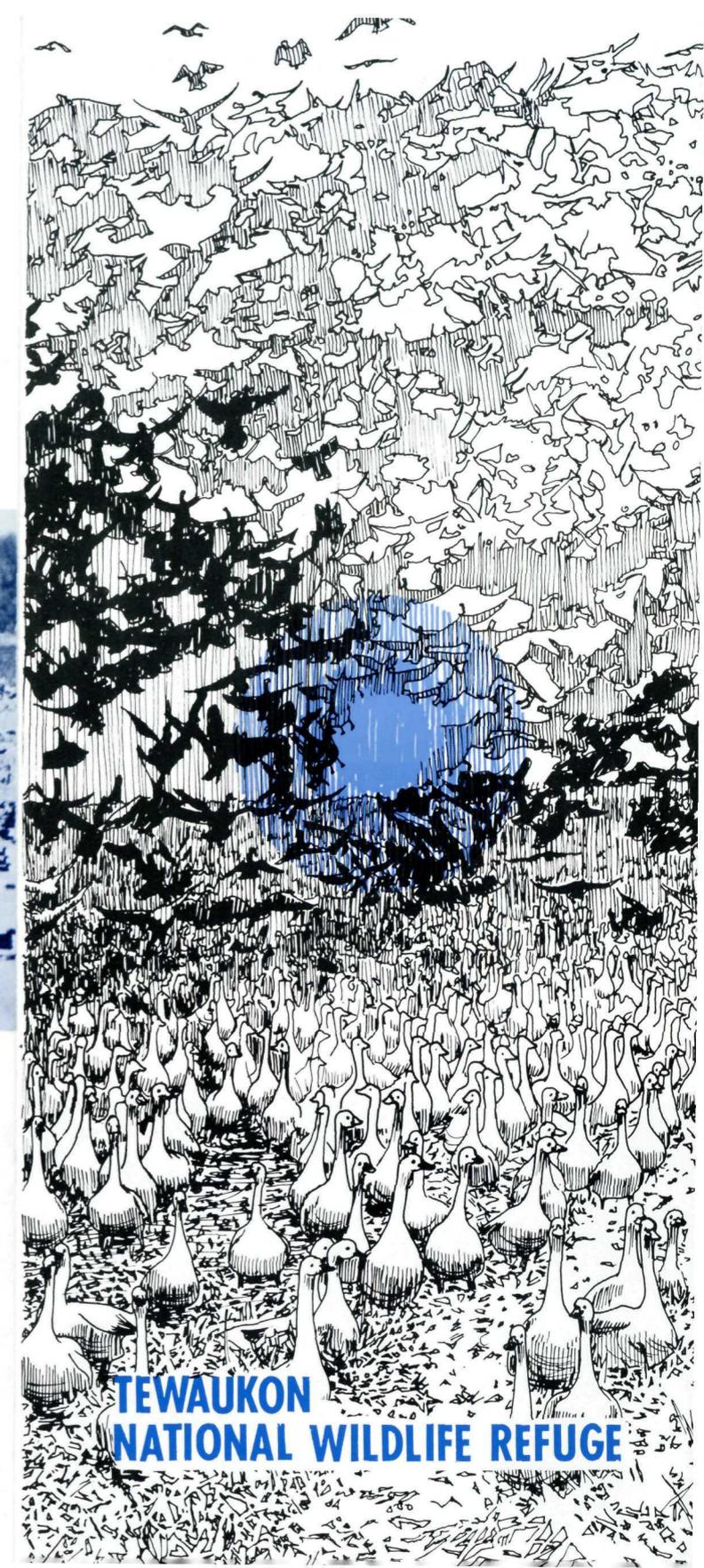


RF 62660-1



REPRINT JUNE 1988

\*U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1988-0-573-167/80003



TEWAUKON  
NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE



*Snow geese feeding in a refuge field. Photo by Dave Potter.*

## WELCOME TO TEWAUKON NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

Tewaukon National Wildlife Refuge is primarily a waterfowl nesting and migration area. The refuge was established in 1945 and is 8,438 acres in size. The Tewaukon Wetland Management District, established in 1960, is also managed from refuge headquarters. The District covers 11,893 acres of Waterfowl Production Areas (WPA's) and 32,000 acres of Waterfowl Production Easements, located in scattered tracts in Sargent, Ransom and Richland counties.

The refuge is located on the eastern edge of the Central Flyway and migrating waterfowl and strongly influenced by the James River corridor. Birds from the Mississippi Flyway, following the Lake Traverse-Minnesota River system, also use the refuge and wetland management district lands. As a result Tewaukon is a mixing point for birds associated with both the Central and Mississippi Flyways.

*Environmental Education is important! Photo by Dave Potter*



## HISTORICAL TEWAUKON

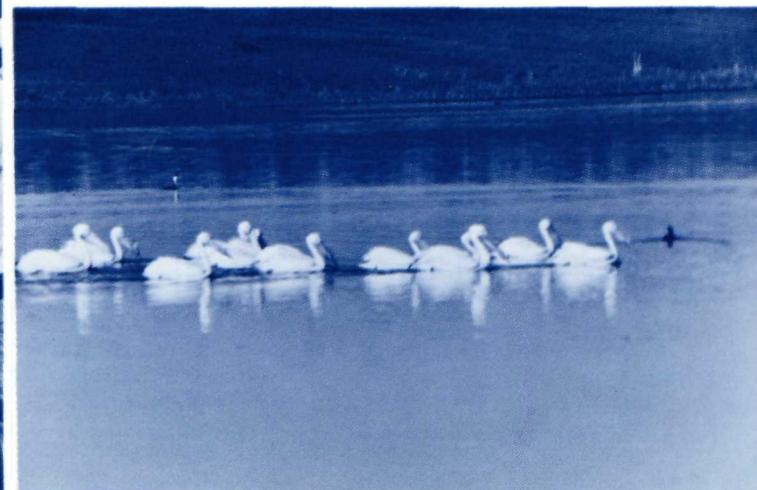
Tewaukon National Wildlife Refuge is located astride the Wild Rice River, which flows from west to east and then north out of Lake Tewaukon. Numerous pothole wetlands dot the gently rolling glacial till plain which forms the prairie. A mile or two to the south rise the beautiful hills of the Coteau, a glacial moraine.

Rich bird and animal life associated with the many lakes and marshes made the Lake Tewaukon area a heavily used hunting and living site for early man. Historian S.M. Thorfinnson writes in *Sargent County History*, that Lake Tewaukon was named for an ancient religious leader, the "Son of Heaven or the Great Khan, Te Wauk Kon," who directed the building of a temple on the high hill south of the lake. "Indians of many tribes had been here for hundreds of years before the white man came," says Thorfinnson.

The earliest known map of the area was completed in 1838 and named Lake Tewaukon "Pole Cat Lake." Later it was called "Skunk Lake," due, no doubt, to the smell of algae rotting in the summer sun. The county's first farm was started in 1878 on the east side of Lake Tewaukon.

For many years much of the area was farmed. Concern for wildlife by many local sportsmen resulted in authorization of the Tewaukon National Wildlife Refuge. Gradually, the land was purchased and habitat improvement projects were begun. Grass, trees, and shrubs were planted and wildlife food plots were established. In the 1960's four large dams were built to control the Wild Rice River resulting in hundreds of acres of lakes and marshes, and creating nesting and migration habitat for waterfowl.

*White pelicans are refuge "regulars." U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service photo.*



## THE REFUGE TODAY

Small tracts of native prairie forbs and grasses survived the plow and still exist on the refuge and on some WPA's. They are important living museums of the wild prairie. Periodic prescribed burning is used to maintain and improve this unique plant and animal community.

Water management is a prime focus of refuge efforts. Water levels in the 14 main impoundments and in over 30 other managed marshes are raised or lowered to provide the best possible nesting and feeding habitat for waterfowl. Four large dams and over 40 smaller water control structures are utilized in the water management program.

Farming is another intensive effort on the refuge. Although most of the original cropland purchased for the refuge has been seeded back to either native grass or tame grass-legume mixtures, about 900 acres are still farmed on shares by neighboring farmers. Under this program, a portion of the corn, barley, millet, milo or fall rye (for goose browse), is left in the fields as wildlife food. Additionally, several hundred acres of grassland are annually hayed by local farmers or prescribed burned to keep grasses tall and vigorous.

Many miles of tree and shrub shelterbelts have been planted, creating food and cover for a variety of wildlife. Whitetail deer are found on the refuge as are red fox, mink, raccoon, skunk, muskrats, beaver, badger and an occasional coyote. A wide range of small mammals, from weasels to shrews, mice, and ground squirrels live on Tewaukon. A total of 243 species of birds have been seen on the refuge. A Refuge bird list is available.

*A native prairie wildflower of the early spring—pasque flower (also known as crocus). Photo by Herb Troester.*



*Top: whitetail deer U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service photo. Above: a whitetail deer fawn. Photo by Marvin Lee.*

*Native prairie wildflowers—leadplant (left) and prairie coneflower. Photo by Herb Troester.*

