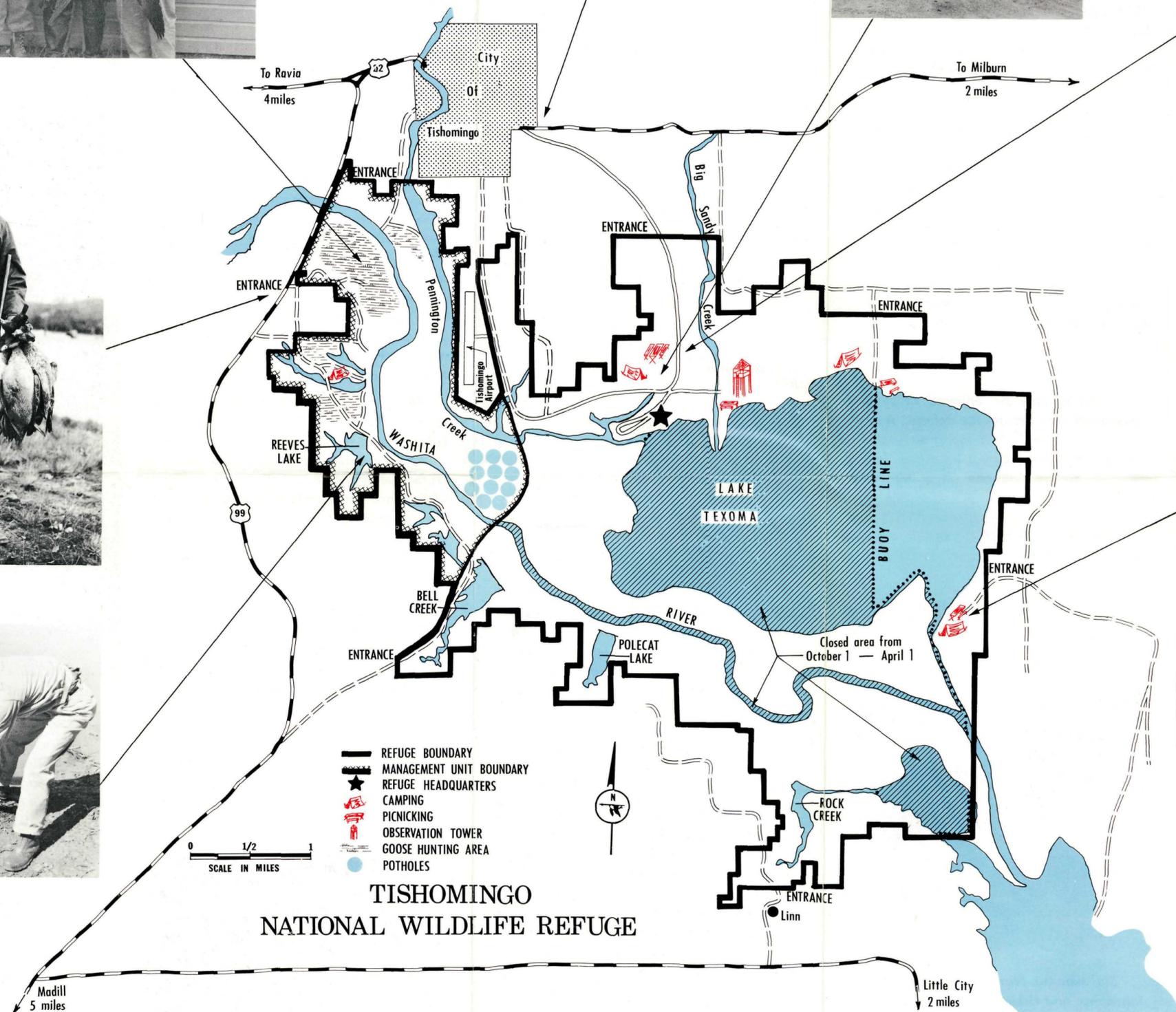
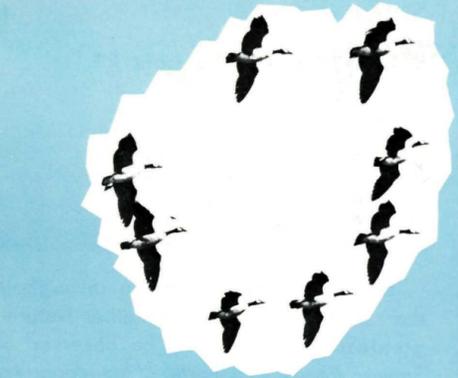
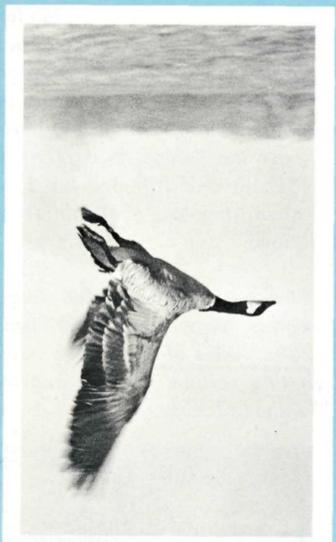




NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE
OKLAHOMA

TISHOMINGO



**TISHOMINGO
NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE**

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
BUREAU OF SPORT FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE
RL-30-R-2
May, 1969

Refuge Manager
Tishomingo National Wildlife Refuge
P. O. Box 248
Tishomingo, Oklahoma 73460



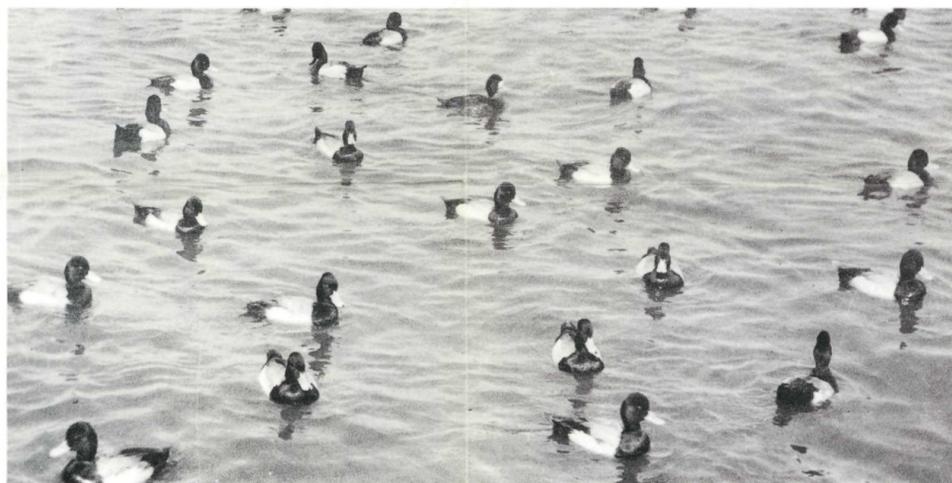
TISHOMINGO

National Wildlife Refuge

WILDLIFE

This 16,600-acre refuge serves the indispensable needs of migratory waterfowl winging their way along the Central Flyway by providing a resting and feeding area for up to 40,000 geese and 80,000 ducks. Four species of geese—the Canada, snow, blue and white-fronted—and twenty species of ducks—primarily mallard, pintail and blue-winged teal—use the Refuge during the fall migration. Spring and fall are the best months for observing the many different types of waterfowl.

Summer bird concentrations include large numbers of egrets, herons, and wood ibises. More than 200 species of birds have been recorded on this refuge and the nearby Hagerman Refuge in Texas.



Beaver activity is common throughout the refuge. The results of Mother Nature's greatest engineer may be observed on Spring Creek just north of headquarters. Beaver are trapped when they become too much of a nuisance in plugging water control structures and causing washouts on pond dikes.

Bobwhite Quail are abundant throughout the Refuge and Management Unit and can be seen in late evening feeding along the roadsides. During the hunting season, hunters and their dogs utilize the management unit in search of bobwhites.

White-tailed Deer are the only big game existing on the area, but due to the topography and general geological conditions the area will not support a large herd. In 1968, approximately 200 deer were living on the Refuge. Deer can be observed during the winter months in small herds feeding on

green wheat along refuge roads. The best time for seeing deer is in the late evening. Hunting of deer is allowed in season on the Management Unit.

RECREATION

There are two recreation areas adjacent to the headquarters site. The first, located just north of the main headquarters area, is a shaded area with concrete picnic tables, water, fireplaces, toilets, and a large pavilion. The second area with similar facilities, is located southwest of headquarters on a hill overlooking the lake.

Two other public use areas are Murray 23 and Nida Point. These areas are east of the headquarters along the lake. Murray 23 is furnished with fireplaces, toilets, fishing pier, and tables, while Nida Point has only toilets. Both have concrete launching ramps.

Fishing is part of the refuge's public use program, with closed portions of the refuge clearly posted. Fishing is permitted in all waters during the greater part of the year. Crappie and channel catfish are the most common of the game fish. Largemouth black bass are seldom taken from the main lake area, but the larger lakes in both the refuge proper and management unit ponds, have produced good catches.



Hunting, like fishing, is part of the refuge public use program. All hunting is done on the 3,170-acre Management Unit which provides good hunting opportunities for game birds and mammals in compliance with State and Federal laws. Information pertaining to hunting on the Unit is available at the refuge office.

Boating is permitted provided: (1) They are equipped with a Coast Guard approved life jacket for every occupant in the boat, (2) They are operated at safe speeds and in a manner that will not endanger the life or safety of any person, (3) All boats operating at night exhibit lights prescribed by law between the hours of sunset and sunrise, and (4) The person operating the boat is not under the influence of intoxicating liquor, narcotics, or tranquilizing drugs.

Swimming is not permitted.

Picnicking may be enjoyed at several developed sites around the Refuge. A large pavilion is provided in the area north of headquarters for group use such as family reunions and is available on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Camping is limited to seven days in designated areas.



Sightseeing, Nature Observation, Photography, and Hiking are encouraged on all areas open to the public. An observation post has been constructed on top of an abandoned concrete house. It is often possible during winter months to observe large gatherings of ducks and geese at close range. A refuge bird list is available at the refuge office.



REFUGE STORY

Tishomingo National Wildlife Refuge was acquired in 1946 by agreement with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the builders of Denison Dam which created Lake Texoma. Since this date, it has been administered by the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in the Department of the Interior.

As the Nation's principal conservation agency, the Department of the Interior has basic responsibilities for water, fish, wildlife, mineral, land, park, and recreational resources. Indian and Territorial affairs are other major concerns of America's "Department of Natural Resources."

The Department works to assure the wisest choice in managing all our resources so each will make its full contribution to a better United States—now and in the future.



Many acres of water are an important part of the refuge's wildlife and recreation program. The upper Washita Arm of Lake Texoma, some 4,000 acres in size, provides many hours of fishing and boating during the summer. In the winter, it is the resting area for thousands of waterfowl. Numerous small lakes such as Dick's Pond, Reeves' Ravine, Muel Lake, Whiskey Creek Pond, Teller Pond and Lost Lake provide hours of fishing and bird watching.

Prior to Government acquisition of the area, there were 53 residences, a combination store and utility building, a large concrete barn, a chicken hatchery, fourteen concrete silos, and numerous other buildings, including a church and school. These were constructed as part of a cooperative farming project by the former owner of the land. Many of these buildings are still standing.

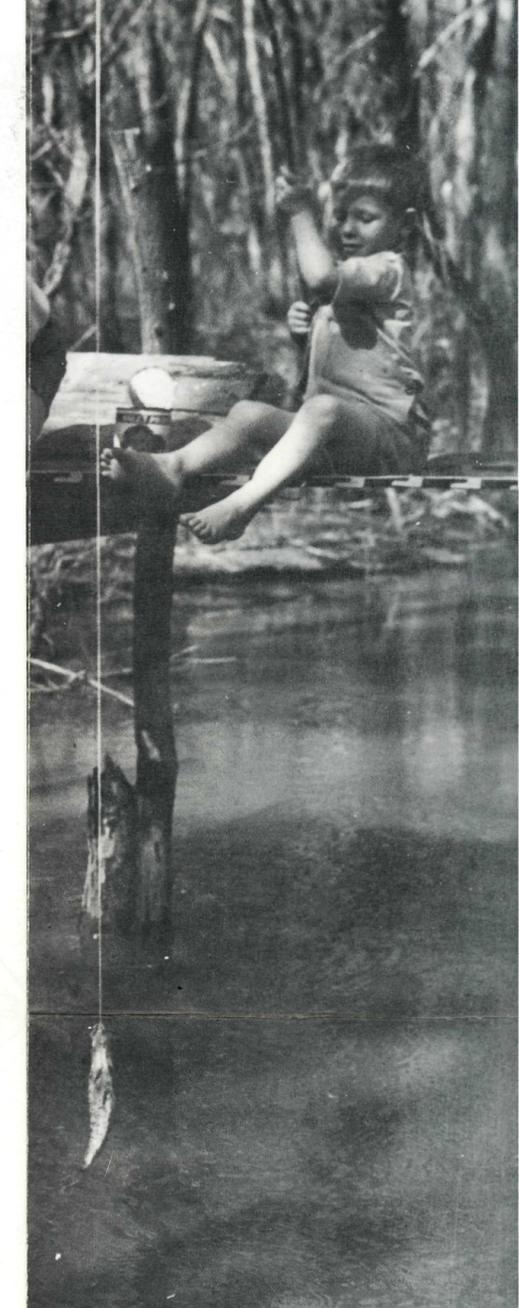
The refuge is named for the City of Tishomingo, a hundred-year-old town, which derived its name from a former war chief of the Chickasaw Indian Tribe. Lands in the refuge were at one time owned by the Choctaw-Chickasaw Nations whose old tribal capital is still used as the County Courthouse in Tishomingo.

In 1957, 3,170 acres immediately adjacent to the refuge on the west were added for use as a hunting management unit. This area, called the Tishomingo Wildlife Management Unit, was developed through joint efforts of the U.S. Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife and the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation. In addition to the hunting provided, the Management Unit is used extensively during the spring and summer months by the public for pleasure driving through the countryside.

Designated areas of the refuge are open to visitors the year around. A section of the Lake Texoma portion is closed from October to April, to minimize human disturbance of waterfowl. Also, as a safety measure, other visitors are not permitted in certain parts of the Management Unit when hunting is in progress.

AGRICULTURE

Approximately 600 acres of refuge lands are under cultivation to provide grain and forage crops for waterfowl. These lands are farmed by the refuge staff. Corn is the choice grain crop while wheat is the choice forage crop.



General Rules and Regulations

- (1) Firearms of any kind are prohibited on the Refuge. Shotguns are allowed on the Management Unit during State approved hunting seasons.
- (2) Please limit your speed to the posted limits.
- (3) No intoxicated person shall enter or remain on the Refuge.
- (4) Please do not gather fruits, flowers, trees or shrubs, nuts or any natural product found on the area.
- (5) Prevent wildfires by every means possible.
- (6) Observe all posted regulations. They are there to make your visit to the Refuge safer and more enjoyable.