



**TULANE INSTITUTE**  
ON WATER RESOURCES LAW & POLICY

National Wildlife Refuges in the Mississippi River Corridor <sup>1</sup>  
(bolded font indicates multistate refuge)

Refuge	Year Created	Location	Purposes of Refuge
<b>Minnesota</b>			
Agassiz National Wildlife Refuge	1937	Located in the upper northwest corner of the state above the beginning of the Mississippi River and mainly consists of wetlands	Serves breeding ground for numerous waterfowl and other bird species, and is noted for two resident packs of gray wolves, nesting bald eagles, occasional moose, and colonial nesting birds
Big Stone National Wildlife Refuge	1975	Minnesota-South Dakota border	Established to maintain and restore native prairie habitat while providing optimum nesting cover for waterfowl and other grassland nesting birds
Crane Meadows National Wildlife Refuge	1992	Central Minnesota along the Platte River and Skunk Lake; there are 14 land areas that form a combined wetland complex	Created to protect one of the largest, most intact wetland complexes in central Minnesota; refuge is a critical habitat for many species, including waterfowl, shorebirds, and sandhill cranes; home to healthy sedge meadow, shallow lake, oak, savanna, prairie, shrubland, and forest habitats

<sup>1</sup> Table does not include Wetland Management Districts. Inventory on individual refuges comes from U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service’s Facilities website: <https://www.fws.gov/our-facilities?type=%5B%22National%20Wildlife%20Refuge%22%5D> (detailed information on the U.S. FWS’s *About Us* page for individual refuges). Additional sources indicated by individual refuge.

Glacial Ridge National Wildlife Refuge	2004	Northwest corner of the state above the beginning of the Mississippi River	Authorized by Congress to protect prairie wetlands habitat for migratory birds, native plants, and wildlife
Hamden Slough National Wildlife Refuge	1989	Located in northwest Minnesota, adjacent to the White Earth Indian Reservation	Restoration efforts have attracted a very high concentration of waterfowl and shorebirds, and the refuge was designated an Important Bird Area by the Minnesota Audubon Society; refuge is home to 225 bird species
Mille Lacs National Wildlife Refuge	1915	Located in Millie Lacs Lake in central Minnesota, smallest NWR in the U.S. consisting of two islands covered by jumbled rock, boulders, and gravel	Established to protect lands used by colonial nesting species, including ring-billed gulls, herring gulls, double-crested cormorants, American white pelicans, and the state-threatened common tern
Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge	1976	Located in the southeast portion of the state along the Minnesota River	Established to protect habitat for migratory birds and other wildlife and to provide environmental education to citizens
Northern Tallgrass Prairie National Wildlife Refuge	2000	Located on the western Minnesota-South Dakota border along the Minnesota River	Established to preserve and enhance the remaining tracts of northern tallgrass prairie and aspen parkland habitats
Rice Lake National Wildlife Refuge	1935	Located in eastern Minnesota along the Rice River and Rice Lake	Designated as Globally Important Bird Area by the American Bird Conservancy due to the importance of the lake and its wild rice as a food source to migrating waterfowl, especially ring-necked ducks
Rydell National Wildlife Refuge	1992	Located in northwestern Minnesota above the beginning of the Mississippi River	Established to protect wildlife habitat and diversity, encourage waterfowl and other migratory bird production, and promote environmental education and recreation
Sherburne National Wildlife Refuge	1965	Located in the Mississippi Flyway in central Minnesota along the St Francis River	Established at the request of conservationists and hunters interested in restoring wildlife values of the St. Francis River Basin; hosts many migratory waterfowl, songbirds, and sandhill cranes in spring and fall along with a wide variety of breeding and resident bird species

Tamarac National Wildlife Refuge	1938	Located in northwestern Minnesota	Refuge and breeding ground for migratory birds and other wildlife
Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge	1924	Stretches 261 river miles from Wabasha, Minnesota to Rock Island, Illinois; protects over 240,000 acres of the Mississippi River floodplain	Designated as a Wetland of International Importance and a Globally Important Bird Area

Wisconsin			
Driftless Area National Wildlife Refuge <sup>2</sup>	1989	Located in the state's southwestern corner along the Mississippi River	Established to protect the federally endangered Iowa Pleistocene snail and threatened northern monkshood plant; goal of this refuge is to recover endangered and threatened species
Fox River National Wildlife Refuge <sup>3</sup>	1979	Located in central Wisconsin along the Fox River	Established as a refuge for sandhill cranes; closed to the public, except for licensed deer hunters during designated time periods
Gravel Island National Wildlife Refuge	1913	Consists of two islands located in the northwestern corner of Lake Michigan	Established to preserve breeding habitat for colonial nesting birds such as herring gulls, cormorants, and Caspian terns; islands are closed to public visitation consistent with the conservation purpose of the refuge
Green Bay National Wildlife Refuge	1912	Consists of Islands located in northwestern Lake Michigan	Essential stopover habitats for birds, bats, and butterflies as they cross along the Niagara Escarpment

<sup>2</sup> Nat'l Park Serv., *Driftless Area National Wildlife Refuge*, available at <https://npshistory.com/brochures/nwr/driftless-area-2008.pdf>.

<sup>3</sup> Elizabeth Dohmes, *Greater Sandhill Crane Sanctuary Celebrates 40 Years*, WISC. PUB. RADIO (Apr. 22, 2019), <https://www.wpr.org/animals/greater-sandhill-crane-sanctuary-celebrates-40-years#:~:text=Fox%20River%20National%20Wildlife%20Refuge,acre%20wetland%20in%20Marquette%20County>.

Hackmatack National Wildlife Refuge	2012	Located in southeast Wisconsin on the Wisconsin-Illinois border and is composed of several pieces of previously separated conservation lands	Goal is to improve or restore over 11,000 acres of drained wetland basins, historic prairie, and forest habitats
Horicon National Wildlife Refuge	1941	Located in eastern Wisconsin	Established to provide an undisturbed sanctuary for migratory birds and waterfowl, including the redhead duck
Necedah National Wildlife Refuge	1939	Located in central Wisconsin along the Yellow River	Primary goal of the refuge is to provide resting, nesting, feeding, and wintering habitat for waterfowl and to provide habitat for endangered and threatened species
Trempealeau National Wildlife Refuge	1936	Located on the western border of Wisconsin on the Mississippi River; contains a lot of surface water that is cut off from the Mississippi River by a series of levees	Established to provide a habitat and resources for waterfowl
Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife Refuge	1924	Stretches 261 river miles from Wabasha, Minnesota to Rock Island, Illinois; protects over 240,000 acres of the Mississippi River floodplain	Designated as a Wetland of International Importance and a Globally Important Bird Area
Whittlesey Creek National Wildlife Refuge	1999	Part of a large coastal wetland complex on the south shore of Lake Superior in northwestern Wisconsin	Established to protect, restore, and manage coastal wetland and spring-fed stream habitat; high priority area for the refuge is restoration of coaster brook trout populations

Iowa			
DeSoto National Wildlife Refuge	1958	Located on the western border of Iowa along the Missouri River	Established with the dual intention of providing for the needs of migratory birds and creating public recreation to local communities; located in the migratory bird corridor of the Missouri River floodplain, providing habitat for resident, migratory, and endangered species
Driftless Area National Wildlife Refuge	1989	Located in the state's southwestern corner along the Mississippi River	Established to protect the federally endangered Iowa Pleistocene snail and threatened northern monkshood plant; goal of this refuge is to recover endangered and threatened species
Neal Smith National Wildlife Refuge	1990	Located in central Iowa, north of the Red Rock Wildlife Management Area	Established with the purpose to protect, restore, reconstruct, and manage native ecosystems of tallgrass prairie, oak savanna, and sedge meadow
Northern Tallgrass Prairie National Wildlife Refuge	2000	Located in northwestern Iowa	Established to address the loss of grasslands and the decline of grassland wildlife; purpose is to preserve and enhance the remaining tracts of northern tallgrass prairie and aspen parkland habitats
Port Louisa National Wildlife Refuge <sup>4</sup>	1958	Located in eastern Iowa along the Mississippi River	Created to protect migratory birds and other wildlife, as each year thousands of geese and ducks utilize the refuge to rest and refuel on their migration
Union Slough National Wildlife Refuge	1938	Located in northern Iowa on the Iowa-Minnesota border along the East Fork Des Moines River	Originally established as a migratory waterfowl refuge, and provides critical habitat for native prairie and wetland wildlife in a landscape dominated by intensive agriculture
Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge	1924	Stretches 261 river miles from Wabasha, Minnesota to Rock Island, Illinois; protects over 240,000 acres of the Mississippi River floodplain	Designated as a Wetland of International Importance and a Globally Important Bird Area

<sup>4</sup> The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service managed parts of the refuge beginning in the 1940s.

Illinois			
Chautauqua National Wildlife Refuge	1936	Located in Western Illinois along the Illinois River	Established to provide sanctuary for the millions of birds that migrate along the Illinois River; provides habitat and breeding ground for migratory birds, fish, and other wildlife; designated as an Important Bird Area, accepted into the Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network, and designated as a RAMSAR Wetland of International Importance
Crab Orchard National Wildlife Refuge	1947	Located in southern Illinois to the east of the Mississippi River	Established with four primary purposes: wildlife conservation, agriculture, industry, and recreation; aims to protect, enhance, and manage natural resources and the refuge landscape through an ecosystem approach that sustains optimum populations of migratory waterfowl, native fish and wildlife species, and threatened and endangered wildlife
Cypress Creek National Wildlife Refuge	1990	Located in southern Illinois north of the Ohio River	Managed to maintain and enhance wildlife habitat such as moist-soil management, land acquisition, cooperative agriculture, and invasive species control
Emiquon National Wildlife Refuge	1993	Located in western Illinois along the Illinois River	Established to restore and protect wetland habitats at the confluence of the Illinois and Spoon rivers and to help fulfill international obligations contained in various migratory bird treaties and conventions; in 2012, it was designated as a RAMSAR Wetland of International Importance
Great River National Wildlife Refuge	1958	Located on the Illinois-Missouri border along the Mississippi River	<b>Protects migratory birds and their habitats; designated as a globally important bird area due to its value to shorebirds, songbirds, and waterfowl</b>
Hackmatack National Wildlife Refuge	2012	Located in southeast Wisconsin and northeast Illinois on the Wisconsin-Illinois border	Established to improve or restore over 11,000 acres of drained wetland basins, historic prairie, and forest habitats

Kankakee National Wildlife Refuge	2016	Located in northeastern Illinois, south of Chicago	Established to protect, restore, and manage ecological processes within the Kankakee River Basin, benefitting many species of plants and animals
Meredosia National Wildlife Refuge	1973	Located in western Illinois along the Illinois River	Established to protect wetland and bottomland forest habitat in the Illinois River floodplain; although small, these intact habitats support great biodiversity and are home to threatened and endangered species
Middle Mississippi River National Wildlife Refuge	1973	Consists of seven island areas that lie within the uncontrolled portion of the Middle Mississippi River below the confluence with the Missouri River in southwestern Illinois on the Missouri border	River levels in this area are not regulated by the lock and dam system, so these lands provide access to the floodplain for native fish during high water stages and create a corridor of floodplain forest habitat for migratory birds and resident wildlife
Port Louisa National Wildlife Refuge	1958	Located in eastern Iowa along the Mississippi River	Created to protect migratory birds and other wildlife, as each year thousands of geese and ducks utilize the refuge to rest and refuel on their migration
Two Rivers National Wildlife Refuge	1958	Located between the Mississippi River and Illinois River in western Illinois	Established to protect and enhance habitat for migratory birds; encompasses 9,225 acres of riverine and floodplain habitat scattered around the confluence of the rivers
Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge	1924	Stretches 261 river miles from Wabasha, Minnesota to Rock Island, Illinois; protects over 240,000 acres of the Mississippi River floodplain	Designated as a Wetland of International Importance and a Globally Important Bird Area

Missouri			
Big Muddy National Fish and Wildlife Refuge	1994	Sites are located throughout the Missouri River floodplain on the river's final 367 miles to its confluence with the Mississippi River	Created to protect fish and wildlife and manage and conserve natural resources
Clarence Canon National Wildlife Refuge	1964	Located in eastern Missouri along the Mississippi River	Established as a migratory bird refuge; the goal of the refuge is to provide resting, nesting, and breeding habitat for resident and migratory waterfowl
Great River National Wildlife Refuge	1958	Located on the Illinois-Missouri border along the Mississippi River	Protects migratory birds and their habitats; designated as a globally important bird area due to its value to shorebirds, songbirds, and waterfowl
Loess Bluffs National Wildlife Refuge	1935	Located in northwestern Missouri near the Missouri River	Established as a resting, feeding, and breeding ground for migratory birds and other wildlife; refuge is an Internationally Important Bird Area
Middle Mississippi River National Wildlife Refuge	1973	Consists of seven island areas that lie within the uncontrolled portion of the Middle Mississippi River below the confluence with the Missouri River in southwestern Illinois on the Missouri border	River levels in this area are not regulated by the lock and dam system, so these lands provide access to the floodplain for native fish during high water stages and create a corridor of floodplain forest habitat for migratory birds and resident wildlife
Mingo National Wildlife Refuge	1944	Located in southeastern Missouri near the Saint Francis River	Established under the authority of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act as a resting and wintering area for waterfowl and other migratory birds, and for the preservation of bottomland hardwood forest
Ozark Cavefish National Wildlife Refuge	1991	Located in southwestern Missouri	Established to ensure the biological integrity of a cave ecosystem; closed to the public because it exists to protect the Ozark cavefish which was listed as a federally threatened species in 1984



Pilot Knob National Wildlife Refuge	1987	Located in western Missouri approximately 80 miles from the Mississippi River	Established to protect site with abandoned iron mine shafts from the mid-1800s that have become a critical habitat for the federally endangered Indiana bat; refuge is closed to the public
Swan Lake National Wildlife Refuge	1937	Located in northern Missouri along the Grand River	Created to provide habitat and breeding grounds for migratory birds and other wildlife; area is an Important Bird Area for Missouri and focuses on wetland management
<b>Two Rivers National Wildlife Refuge</b>	<b>1958</b>	<b>Located between the Mississippi River and Illinois River in western Illinois</b>	<b>Established to protect and enhance habitat for migratory birds; encompasses 9,225 acres of riverine and floodplain habitat scattered around the confluence of the rivers</b>

Kentucky			
Clarks River National Wildlife Refuge	1998	Located in Western Kentucky adjacent to the Tennessee River	Established to protect, enhance, and manage the bottomland hardwood wetland ecosystem for waterfowl, neotropical migratory songbirds, forest wildlife, and riverine species
Green River National Wildlife Refuge	2019	Located in northwestern Kentucky near the confluence of the Ohio and Green Rivers	Established due to the presence of the bottomland hardwood forest ecosystem; this habitat supports migrating waterfowl, songbirds, fish, and other wildlife
Ohio River Islands National Wildlife Refuge	1990	Most of the refuge's land and waters are in West Virginia, but one refuge island is located in northeastern Kentucky along the Ohio River	Established to protect native wildlife in the local floodplain; migratory birds and endangered freshwater mussels are among the important wildlife emphasized for protection on the refuge

Tennessee			
Chickasaw National Wildlife Refuge	1985	Located in the Lower Mississippi River floodplain in western Tennessee	Established to protect migratory birds; refuge has the largest tract of bottomland hardwood forest in Tennessee
Cross Creeks National Wildlife Refuge	1962	Located in northwestern Tennessee along the Cumberland River	Purpose of this refuge is to provide feeding and resting habitat for migratory birds with an emphasis place on providing habitat for wintering waterfowl
Hatchie National Wildlife Refuge	1964	Located in western Tennessee along the Hatchie River	Established as an inviolate sanctuary for migratory birds; primary purpose of this refuge is to protect and enhance the river-driven bottomland hardwood ecosystem that supplies critical habitat needs for wintering waterfowl birds and other migratory birds
Lake Isom National Wildlife Refuge	1938	Located in northwestern Tennessee adjacent to the Mississippi River	Specifically authorized as a refuge and breeding ground for migratory birds and other wildlife; purpose of the refuge is to deliver optimum habitat for wintering waterfowl
Lower Hatchie National Wildlife Refuge	1980	Located at the confluence of the Hatchie and Mississippi Rivers in eastern Tennessee on the Tennessee-Arkansas border	Established as an inviolate sanctuary for migratory bird; purpose of the refuge is to deliver optimum habitat for wintering waterfowl
Paint Rock River National Wildlife Refuge	2023	Located in southern Tennessee on the Tennessee-Alabama border	Established to form a conservation partnership area to work with landowners and conservation partners to help protect aquatic resources and hardwood forests of the upper watershed; U.S. FWS will help protect and improve water quality, water quantity, and hydrology of the Paint Rock River, benefitting imperiled freshwater species and human communities

Reelfoot National Wildlife Refuge	1941	Located in northwestern Tennessee on the Tennessee-Kentucky border, within 4 miles of the Mississippi River	Established to provide habitat for migratory birds; management priorities are catered toward providing quality wetland areas that are attractive to migratory birds
Tennessee National Wildlife Refuge	1945	Located around Kentucky Lake in northwest Tennessee; refuge's three units stretch for 65 miles along the Tennessee River	Provides feeding, resting, and nesting habitat for migratory birds

### Arkansas

Arkansas			
Bald Knob National Wildlife Refuge	1993	Located in central Arkansas along the White River	Acquired as part of the North American Waterfowl Management Plan to protect and provide feeding and resting areas for migrating waterfowl
Big Lake National Wildlife Refuge	1915	Located in northeastern Arkansas adjacent to the Mississippi River	Established by Executive Order of President Wilson to serve as a sanctuary, reserve, and breeding ground for native and migratory birds; management activities target water management, waterfowl, wetlands, forestry, wilderness stewardship, and compatible wildlife-dependent recreation
Cache River National Wildlife Refuge	1986	Located in Northeastern Arkansas	Created to protect significant wetland habitats and provide feeding and resting areas for migrating waterfowl; one of the few remaining areas in the Lower Mississippi River Valley not drastically altered by channelization and drainage, the Cache River basin contains a variety of wetland communities
Dale Bumpers White River National Wildlife Refuge	1935	Located in eastern Arkansas adjacent to the Mississippi River	Established to protect and conserve migratory birds and other wildlife resources; several wetland units have been developed on the refuge that allow for an annual drawdown and flooding up to benefit wintering waterfowl

Felsenthal National Wildlife Refuge	1975	Located in southeast Arkansas adjacent to the Louisiana-Arkansas border	Primary purpose is to mitigate the environmental impact of the Ouachita and Black Rivers Navigation Project of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, which entailed the construction of locks and dams along both rivers in order to facilitate river traffic and prevent flooding
Holla Bend National Wildlife Refuge	1958	Located in western Arkansas along the Arkansas River	Originally established for bird management and to support the bald eagle; area surrounding the refuge is a Migratory Bird Closure Zone
Logan Cave National Wildlife Refuge	1989	Located in northwestern Arkansas adjacent to the Arkansas-Oklahoma border	Created to protect a unique cave ecosystem in the Ozark Mountains and the threatened and endangered species that live there
Overflow National Wildlife Refuge	1980	Located in southeastern Arkansas on the Louisiana-Arkansas border	Established to protect one of the last bottomland hardwood forests considered vital for maintaining mallard, wood duck, and other waterfowl populations in the Mississippi Flyway
Pond Creek National Wildlife Refuge	1994	Located in southwest Arkansas near the Oklahoma-Arkansas border	Created to conserve bottomland hardwood forested wetlands
Wapanocca National Wildlife Refuge <sup>5</sup>	1961	Located four miles west of the Mississippi River in northeastern Arkansas	Established as a sanctuary for migratory waterfowl

<sup>5</sup> U.S. Fish & Wildlife Serv., *Wapannoca National Wildlife Refuge*, available at <https://www.fws.gov/sites/default/files/documents/WAP%20--%20General%20Brochure%20%2B%20Map.pdf>.

Mississippi			
Bogue Chitto National Wildlife Refuge	1980	Located in southern Mississippi along the Pearl River	Created for conservation of bottomland hardwood forest habitat; over 90% of the refuge can flood during winter and spring high river periods, creating areas of sloughs, bayous, and lakes
Coldwater River National Wildlife Refuge	2000	Located in northwest Mississippi	Created for the protection of migrating waterfowl, shorebirds, and wading birds; almost all the refuge forest land is flooded during the winter and spring by backwater flooding
Dahomey National Wildlife Refuge	1991	Located in western Mississippi along the Mississippi River	Established to provide habitat for migratory birds, with an emphasis on waterfowl and bottomland hardwoods
Grand Bay National Wildlife Refuge	1992	Located in southeastern Mississippi on the coast	Established to protect one of the largest remaining expanses of the Gulf Coast wet pine savanna habitat; includes maritime forest, tidal and non-tidal wetlands, salt marshes, salt pans, bays, and bayous
Hillside National Wildlife Refuge	1975	Located in western Mississippi	Established by the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act for the conservation, maintenance, and management of wildlife resources; activities include soil and water management, forest management, public hunting and fishing, invasive species control, research, monitoring, and education
Holt Collier National Wildlife Refuge	2004	Located in western Mississippi	Focuses on providing health forest ecosystems for migratory and resident wildlife
Mathews Brake National Wildlife Refuge	1980	Located in west-central Mississippi	Established via the Migratory Bird Conservation Act to provide habitat for wintering and resident waterfowl
Mississippi Sandhill Crane National Wildlife Refuge	1975	Located in southern Mississippi	Established to protect the critically endangered Mississippi sandhill cranes and their unique wet pine savanna habitat; recovery objective is to

			maintain a genetically viable, stable, self-sustaining, free-living Mississippi sandhill crane population
Morgan Brake National Wildlife Refuge	1977	Located in west-central Mississippi	Established via the Migratory Bird Conservation Act and the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act for the conservation, maintenance and management of migratory waterfowl, and their habitat, in the lower Mississippi River Delta
Panther Swamp National Wildlife Refuge	1978	Located in west-central Mississippi	Established to support migratory bird conservation
Sam D. Hamilton Noxubee National Wildlife Refuge	1940	Located in eastern Mississippi	Established to support migratory bird and waterfowl conservation
St. Catherine Creek National Wildlife Refuge	1990	Located in southwestern Mississippi along the Mississippi River	Provides an important wintering habitat for migratory waterfowl and seasonal habitat for other migratory wildlife; management of the refuge aims to conserve the integrity of the dynamic bottomland hardwood forest ecosystem in the Lower Mississippi River Valley
Tallahatchie National Wildlife Refuge	1991	Located in northwest Mississippi	Established to provide habitat needs for migratory birds, with an emphasis on waterfowl
Theodore Roosevelt National Wildlife Refuge	2004	Located in west-central Mississippi	Created to protect migratory bird passage
Yazoo National Wildlife Refuge	1936	Located in west-central Mississippi, five miles east of the Mississippi River	Acts as a link in a chain of refuges that provide for the wintering needs of ducks and geese in the Mississippi Flyway

Louisiana			
Bogue Chitto National Wildlife Refuge	1980	Located in southern Mississippi along the Pearl River	Created for conservation of bottomland hardwood forest habitat; over 90% of the refuge can flood during winter and spring high river periods, creating areas of sloughs, bayous, and lakes
Atchafalaya National Wildlife Refuge	1984	Located outside of Baton Rouge along the Atchafalaya River	Conserves over 15,000 acres of lower Mississippi bottomland hardwood forest and bald cypress tupelo swamps but formed to benefit waterfowl
Bayou Cocodrie National Wildlife Refuge	1990	Located in Eastern Louisiana along the Louisiana-Mississippi border, adjacent to the Mississippi River	Established in 1990 to conserve some of the last remaining, least disturbed, and largest stands of bottomland hardwoods in the Lower Mississippi Valley; refuge was designated as a critical habitat and serves as a corridor for the Louisiana black bear
Bayou Sauvage National Wildlife Refuge	1990	Located in southeastern Louisiana adjacent to Lake Pontchartrain	Established to enhance the populations of migratory, shore, and wading birds within the refuge and protect threatened and endangered species; most refuge land located inside hurricane protection levees; the levees interrupt the natural water flow, so a network of pumps and flap gates regulates seasonal water levels
Bayou Teche National Wildlife Refuge	2001	Located in central-southeastern Louisiana	Supports the Louisiana black bear by restoring and managing bottomland hardwood forests, cypress-tupelo swamps, bayous, and marshes to ensure high quality, diverse habitat
Big Branch Marsh National Wildlife Refuge	1994	Located on the north shore of Lake Pontchartrain	Supports freshwater and marine fish, shorebirds, wading birds, seventeen species of wintering migratory waterfowl, neotropical songbird migrants, and the endangered red-cockaded woodpecker
Black Bayou Lake National Wildlife Refuge	1997	Located in northern Louisiana	Established to conserve wetlands and provide habitat for native species; central feature is the lake, which has about 1,500 acres of shallow water

Breton National Wildlife Refuge	1904	Consists of low islands located in Breton sound off the southeast coast of Louisiana	Established to provide breeding habitat for colonies of wading birds and seabirds and wintering habitat for shorebirds and waterfowl
Cameron Prairie National Wildlife Refuge	1988	Located in southwestern Louisiana, 25 miles southeast of Lake Charles	Established to preserve and protect wintering waterfowl and their habitat; this was the first refuge created under the North American Waterfowl Management Plan
Cat Island National Wildlife Refuge	2000	Located in southeastern Louisiana along the Mississippi River, north of Baton Rouge	Created to benefit migratory populations and conserve their habitat; refuge is periodically flooded by the Mississippi and may remain flooded for several months of the year, with flooding typically starting in December and ending by June
Catahoula National Wildlife Refuge	1958	Located in east central Louisiana	Created to benefit waterfowl; designated as a Globally Important Bird Area, and Catahoula Lake is recognized as a Wetland of International Importance
D'Arbonne National Wildlife Refuge	1975	Located in northern Louisiana	Established as mitigation for a large U.S. Army Corps of Engineers navigation project on the Ouachita River; protects bottomland hardwood forest and provide wintering habitat for migratory waterfowl
Delta National Wildlife Refuge	1935	Located in southeastern Louisiana at the southern terminus of the Mississippi Flyway	Serves as a refuge and breeding ground for migratory birds and other wildlife; refuge is home to lush marshes that are a habitat for diverse wildlife species
Grand Cote National Wildlife Refuge	1989	Located in central Louisiana	Established in to provide valuable waterfowl habitat in the Mississippi and Red River floodplains as part of the North American Waterfowl Management Plan; influenced by both the Mississippi and Central Flyways and the vast shallow wetlands draw a diversity of waterfowl species



Handy Brake National Wildlife Refuge	1988	Located in northeastern Louisiana	Provides habitat for wintering waterfowl, wading birds, and many other wetland dependent species
Lacassine National Wildlife Refuge	1937	Located in southwest Louisiana where higher agricultural land and the coastal marshes meet	Established to provide a wintering habitat for waterfowl; aims to conserve and restore desirable habitat and maintain a desirable water depth and open water ratio
Lake Ophelia National Wildlife Refuge	2000	Located in east central Louisiana, adjacent to the Red River	Established to conserve and restore habitat for migratory birds, aquatic resources, and endangered plants and animals
Mandalay National Wildlife Refuge <sup>6</sup>	1996	Located in south central Louisiana; intersected with levees and man-made canals and bisected by the Gulf Intercoastal Waterway	Conserves and protects freshwater marshes which attract thousands of migratory waterfowl
Red River National Wildlife Refuge	2000	Located in northwest Louisiana along the Red River	Established by the Red River National Wildlife Refuge Act to provide for the restoration and conservation of native plants and animal communities on suitable sites in the Red River basin and to provide habitat for migratory birds
Sabine National Wildlife Refuge	1937	Located in southwestern Louisiana on the Louisiana-Texas border	Established to provide habitat for migratory waterfowl and to preserve and enhance coastal marshes; staff manages petroleum infrastructure and activities on the refuge to protect wildlife habitat, water resources, wintering migratory birds, nesting birds, and fisheries
Shell Keys National Wildlife Refuge	1907	Island in the Gulf of Mexico off the coast of southwest Louisiana	Originally established as a lighthouse reservation and later as a breeding ground for native birds

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<sup>6</sup> U.S. FISH & WILDLIFE SERV., MANDALAY NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE HUNTING AND FISHING REGULATIONS 2020-2021, (2020), available at <https://npshistory.com/brochures/nwr/mandalay-hunting-fishing-2020.pdf>.

Tensas River National Wildlife Refuge	1980	Located in northeast Louisiana along the Mississippi River	Established in to preserve one of the largest privately owned tracts of bottomland hardwoods remaining in the Mississippi Delta
Upper Ouachita National Wildlife Refuge	1978	Located in northern Louisiana on the Louisiana-Arkansas border	Established in to provide habitat for migratory birds and for the protection of wetlands; the refuge is bisected by 18 miles of the Ouachita River, which is in the Louisiana Natural and Scenic Rivers System, and is the drainage for numerous creeks, sloughs, and oxbow lakes