

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  
340 Smith Road  
Shirley, NY 11967  
631/286 0485**

*School group at Wertheim NWR*



J. Montalto

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

# Long Island *National Wildlife Refuge Complex*

Long Island National Wildlife  
Refuge Complex  
340 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  
<http://www.fws.gov>

April 2024



Osprey  
©E. Sambolin



*The Long Island National Wildlife Refuge Complex boasts ten of more than 571 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 nine national wildlife refuges and one wildlife management area, totaling more than 6,500 acres. These ten units protect many of the Long Island 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.

*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—a 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 bald eagle, 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.



*Eastern towhee*

## Management

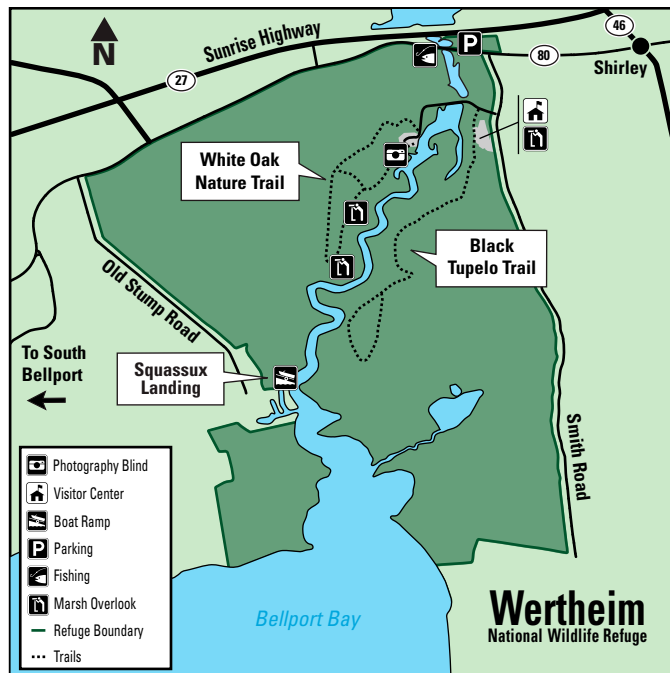
Wertheim is managed to protect the Carmans River estuary for use by migratory waterfowl (particularly black ducks, bufflehead, wood ducks, scaup and gadwalls) and other waterbirds. Refuge staff manage impoundments, wetlands and forests to maintain and enhance habitat, wildlife diversity and productivity.



*Yaphank Creek*



*Long Island NWRC Visitor Center*



## Visiting the Refuge

Wertheim offers more than six miles of hiking trails and some of the best canoeing on Long Island. You can also enjoy wildlife viewing, nature photography, fishing, environmental education, nature interpretation, and cross-country skiing on the refuge. 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! The Visitor Center showcases Long Island ecosystems, wildlife viewing, and other recreational opportunities. An information kiosk, wildlife observation blinds and public restrooms are provided along the trails for your convenience.



©T. Krman

*Blue flag iris*

## Target Rock National Wildlife Refuge



USFWS

*Prickly pear cactus*

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.

Target Rock provides excellent habitat for migratory birds due to its coastal location. Its diverse habitats of mature oak-hickory forest, wetlands and bay beach give food, shelter, water and space to many of Long Island's wildlife species. Waterfowl and other migratory birds use the refuge as nesting, feeding, breeding and stopover grounds. Some make the refuge a home year-round. Foxes, rabbits, squirrels, chipmunks, and bats make use of the forest and old fields at Target Rock, while spring peepers and other amphibians and reptiles abound in and around the wetlands.



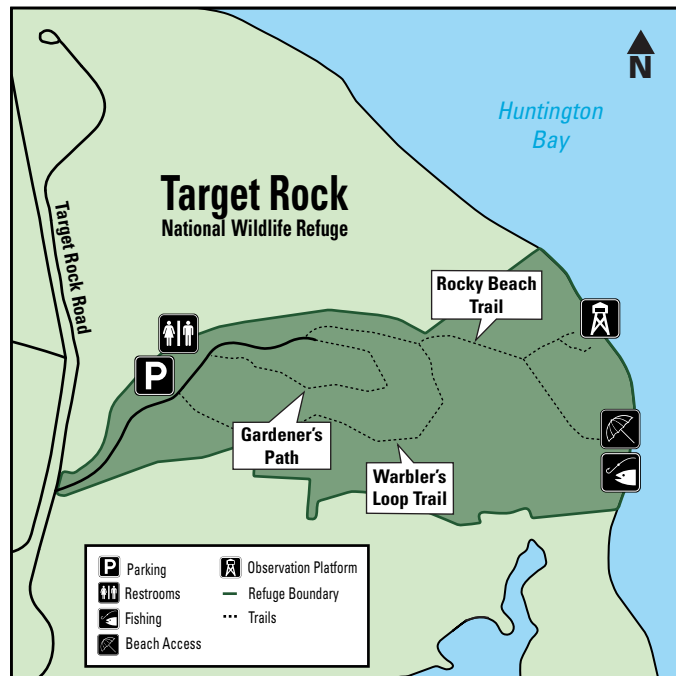
G. Aponick

*Great egret*

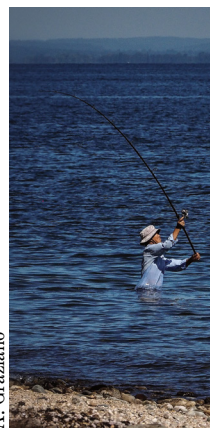


L. Giris

*Target Rock with osprey nest*



## Visiting the Refuge



A. Graziano

*Target Rock angler*

The nature trail at Target Rock winds through hardwood forest, past seasonal ponds and along 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 maintain the refuge trails and facilities.



## Elizabeth A. Morton National Wildlife Refuge

Morton, 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 long-tailed duck and white-winged scoter, are common during the cold months, while shorebirds, particularly piping plover, use the beach in the warmer months.



A. Stewart/USFWS

*Looking for  
wildlife sign*

## Visiting the Refuge

The nature trail at Morton passes through upland areas and onto the beach. You can then follow the peninsula for 1.5 miles to the brackish pond or hike the entire peninsula round trip for 7 miles. Saltwater fishing from shore is permitted (state regulations apply). Enjoy nature photography and observation, hiking, nature interpretation and environmental education. A visitor contact station is staffed and open during the summer months. A picnic table and restrooms are provided for your convenience.

An entrance fee is required; collected funds help maintain refuge trails and facilities.

*Piping plover*

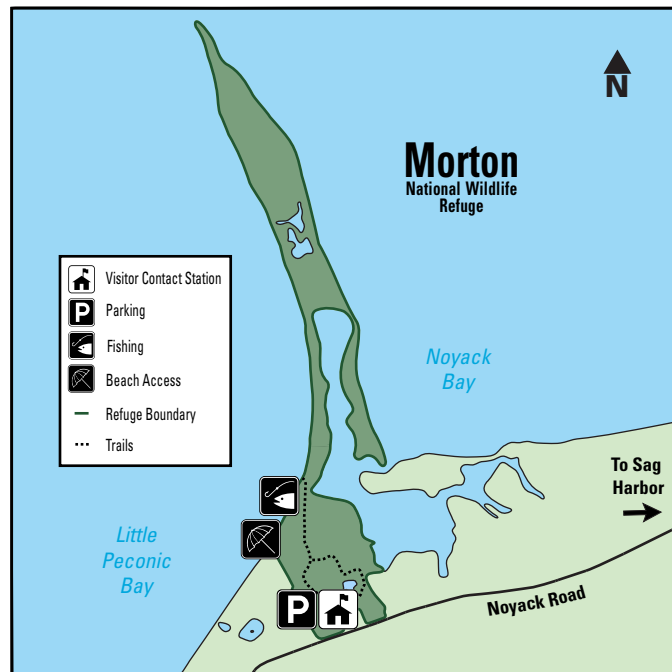


C. Comber

*Tufted titmouse*



USFWS



## Management

Morton is managed to protect a unique natural area for migratory birds. Endangered and threatened species such as piping plover, least tern, American oystercatcher 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). During the nesting season, refuge staff monitor productivity and study annual trends. Refuge staff also manage wetlands to enhance waterfowl use, while grasslands are maintained for habitat diversity and migratory birds.

*Morton Beach,  
Little Peconic Bay*



A. Graziano

## Congressman Lester Wolff Oyster Bay

National Wildlife Refuge



## Congressman Lester Wolff 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 during one waterfowl survey. Wintering waterfowl include black ducks, greater scaup, bufflehead, canvasback and long-tailed duck. Terns and cormorants, as well as eastern diamondback terrapins and harbor seals, inhabit Congressman Lester Wolff Oyster Bay National Wildlife Refuge. Management activities include wetland restoration and protection of the natural shoreline and vegetation. Enjoy fishing, wildlife observation, photography and environmental education at this refuge.

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

*Sanderling*



USFWS

## Amagansett National Wildlife Refuge

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.

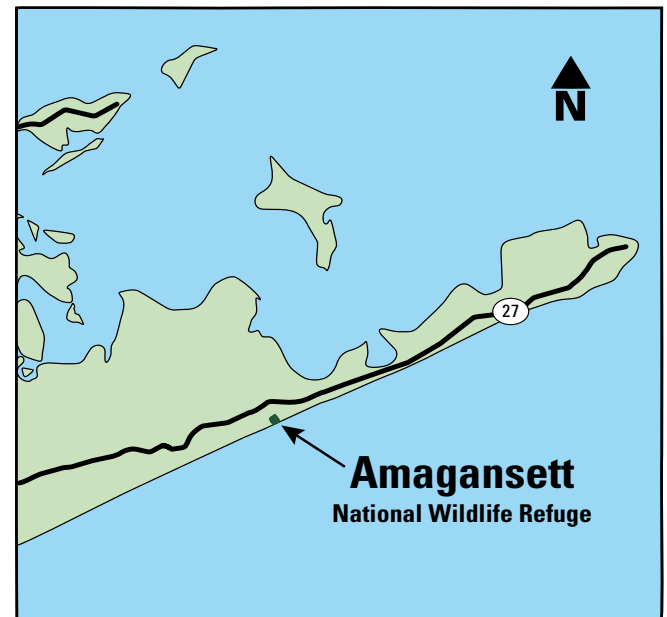
The refuge is adjacent to Atlantic Avenue, off Route 27 in Amagansett. Visitors can enjoy a walk on the beach to watch, study, and photograph wildlife, or fish from the shore. Watch for migrating birds in April–May and September–October!

From approximately April 1 through August 31, a portion of Amagansett's beach is closed to public use to provide undisturbed nesting and feeding habitat for shorebirds like the piping plover and the least tern. We appreciate your respect of the beach closures to protect the nation's wildlife for present and future generations!



©E. Sambolin

*Willet*



**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. 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. Kman

**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.

*American  
black  
duck*



©E. Sambolin

**Seatuck National  
Wildlife Refuge\***

This 209-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. Seaturck is actively managed for migratory birds, particularly for nesting osprey and waterbirds, and to maintain habitat diversity.

*\*Open to limited public use activities only by special use permit. Call 631/286 0485.*

*White-tailed deer*



©E. Sambolin



## Sayville Unit

Sayville's habitats of oak-pitch pine forest and grassland 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.

## Gardiners Point Island\*

Gardiners Point Island is a disjunct sub-unit of Wertheim NWR. It is located between the north and south forks of eastern Long Island in Gardiners Bay, north of Gardiners Island. Gardiners Point Island was obtained by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service in 2009 from the Department of Defense, U.S. Navy. The island is approximately two acres in size, and contains rocky, gravel substrate with sparse vegetation among the ruins of Fort Tyler, a former military bombing target and radar targeting range. The island lies on the Atlantic Flyway and provides important habitat for migratory birds, such as common terns and the American oystercatcher. Roseate terns also historically nested on the island.

\*Gardiners Point Island is closed to the public; unexploded ordnance are present on the island and are a major safety concern.

## Gardiners Point Island



Kessler

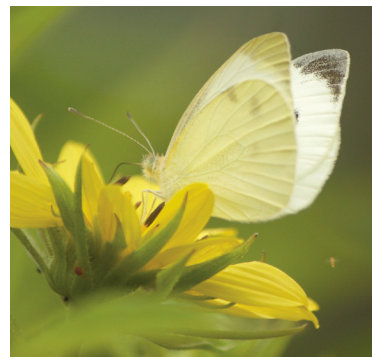
## Common Wildlife on Long Island Refuges

*"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

*Rose-breasted grosbeak*



C. Comber

*Cabbage moth*



©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 wildlife and plants 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 between the Northern and Southern Hemispheres 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

*Rose Mallow Cattail & Bulrush*



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 tern. 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.



©T. Kman

*Pitch pine*



©S. Pollack

*Saw-whet owl*

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.

*Tidal wetland*



USFWS

## 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.



*Bat surveys*

### *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

### *Grassland restoration*



C. Comber

*Marsh restoration*



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

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

### *Partnerships*



USFWS



## Things to Enjoy at the Refuges

Morton, Target Rock, Amagansett, and Wertheim National Wildlife Refuges are open during daylight hours. The Complex Visitor Center at Wertheim is open Monday through Saturday from 9am to 4pm. There are many activities for you to enjoy during your visit.

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

<sup>†</sup>*By appointment*

<sup>‡</sup>*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



J. Montalto



R. W. Parris/USFWS

*Piping plover eggs*

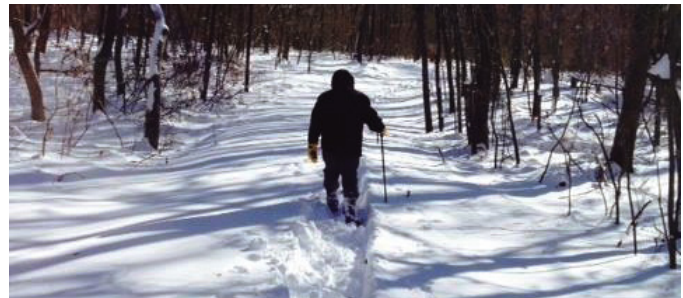
## Help Protect Wildlife

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. Jogging is not allowed on refuges. 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.

## Hiking on a snowy nature trail



S. Paskowitz



CONNECTICUT

NEW YORK



# Long Island National Wildlife Refuge Complex

