

December 19, 2013



WINGTIPS

Friends of the Migratory Bird/Duck Stamp

A Stamp Success Story: Hatchie NWR



Photo: Dominic Sherony

Traveling south, down the Mississippi Flyway, we move on to Region 4 and Tennessee's [Hatchie National Wildlife Refuge](#). It is located four miles south of Brownsville, on the south floodplain of the state-designated Scenic Hatchie River. The refuge, established in 1964, is now made up of 11,556 acres, mostly bottomland hardwoods and moist soil units. More than 97 percent of this refuge was acquired through MBCF/Stamp dollars. The meandering Hatchie is the last unchannelized river of its type in the Lower Mississippi River Valley. Within the refuge, elevations gently slope from 240 to 230 feet above sea level.

Major areas of conservation concern on the Hatchie include clearing of forests, with the resulting fragmentation of what woods remain, and changes to flooding patterns, which has caused inordinate sediment deposition in the refuge's timberlands. To ensure wintering grounds for migrant waterfowl and warm weather nesting habitat for Wood Duck

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Did You Know?

1) Having a valid Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp is a legal requirement - for those 16 years of age or older - while hunting for waterfowl (geese, swans, ducks) but according to current law not for other migratory waterbirds (e.g., cranes, coots, and snipe).

2) The 1969-70 Stamp, the only one yet to portray a White-winged Scoter, was the first to raise more than \$6 million.

3) Some Stamp sales over the years:

In 1971-72, 2.45 million Stamps were sold.

In 2008-09, 1.38 million Stamps were sold.

4) The official name of the

and Hooded Merganser, refuge managers employ water control, prescribed burns, cooperative farming, and other tools. Dabbling ducks on the refuge in early winter can be impressive.

Hatchie NWR is also recognized as a designated [Important Bird Area](#), especially because of its significance for Mississippi Kites, Cerulean Warblers, and Swainson's Warblers. Prothonotary Warblers, American Redstarts, and Acadian Flycatchers also nest commonly on the refuge.

At least 97 native fish species and 35 species of mussels have been identified in the Hatchie River, making it one of the richest fish faunas of all west Tennessee rivers, according to the refuge's [Comprehensive Conservation Plan](#) (2006). The sloughs and wetlands provide ideal nursery conditions for juvenile aquatic denizens.

The archeological record of the valley shows human habitation as early as the late Archaic Period (ca. 3000 BCE). European explorers made contact with Chickasaw Nation in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. The Chickasaw ceded their lands to a growing young U.S. in 1818 and were removed to west of the Mississippi. In October 1862, Union forces under the command of Maj. Gen. Edward Ord won a minor victory over rebel soldiers led by Maj. Gen. Earl Van Dorn in the [Battle of Hatchie's Bridge](#).

Jim Baker has compiled an extensive photoset of [images of the refuge](#). The second annual [Hatchie BirdFest](#) is scheduled for next May. The focus of Hatchie's friends organization's efforts has been all-important [river cleanup](#); the refuge and the river are also supported by the [Tennessee Scenic Rivers Association](#).

Stamp changed from the "Migratory Bird Hunting Stamp" to the "Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp" in 1977 to better reflect the full impact of the program and to encourage non-hunters to buy the Stamp.

5) Only one animal other than a duck, goose, or swan has ever appeared on the Federal Stamp. No, it wasn't a Sandhill Crane, heron, shorebird, beaver, or frog. The animal was a dog: Labrador retriever and field trial champion, King Buck, appearing on the 1959-60 stamp.

6) There have been 13 artists, all men, whose art has appeared more than once on a Federal Duck Stamp.

7) Five artists have had their art appear more than twice on a Stamp: five times for Maynard Reece, four times each for Jim and Joe Hautman, and three times for Edward Bierly and Stanley Stearns.

8) The artwork for the first stamp, a pair of landing Mallards, was finished by "Ding" Darling in about an hour.

Playa Lakes Joint Venture Promoting the Stamp on the Radio

The Playa Lakes Joint Venture is a regional partnership of different government wildlife agencies, conservation groups, and private industry, all dedicated to delivering on-the-ground bird habitat conservation across much of the western Great Plains - portions of Colorado, Kansas, Nebraska, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas. The PLJV has been focusing some of its recent communications efforts on promoting the Stamp. One of the tools the PLJV uses is their "Playa Country" radio show, a weekly five-minute show that is heard on various farm and public radio stations throughout the six-state PLJV region. A series of episodes about the Duck Stamp and has recently been released. These episodes are not limited to the PLJV region, by the way. Readers of

Wingtips may be interested in listening to these short broadcasts and sharing them with other like-minded people.



[Duck Stamp: Not Just for Hunters](#)

If you think the Stamp is just for waterfowl hunters, think again!

[Seven Reasons to Buy a Migratory Bird/Duck Stamp](#)

If you want to contribute to wetland and grassland conservation, here are seven motivations.

[Hunters and Birders, Not Mutually Exclusive](#)

Hunters and birders have more in common than might be assumed.

"Million Dollar Duck" Reaches Initial Funding Goal

Readers may remember [our coverage](#) of the "Kickstarter" effort to raise funding for a documentary on the Stamp. That Kickstarter effort was successful, and with the \$24,000 raised from the campaign the film crew will be able to travel the country and film the scenes and interviews necessary for any film on the Federal Duck Stamp. Although the Kickstarter is over, an additional [tax-exempt funding effort](#) continues.

Currently, Brian Davis and his colleagues are lining up key interviews focusing on the collection side of the Stamp, planning for the official First Day of Sale, meeting new wildlife and waterfowl artists, and delving into the conservation aspect of the Stamp.

They hope to have a creative product ready for film festivals by the end of September, 2014. In the meantime, they will be posting updates on the film's progress through the [project's Facebook page](#).

Hines Exhibit at RTPI Starts in January

The Roger Tory Peterson Institute of Natural History is hosting an exhibition of the works of Bob Hines (1912-1994), one of the great wildlife artists of the 20th century and a contemporary of Roger Tory Peterson. The exhibit, "Bob Hines: National Wildlife Artist," will run from 7 January to 25 May in Jamestown, New York.



Female Mallard ID artwork
by Bob Hines - USFWS

RTPI is working closely with Hines biographer and authority, Dr. John Juriga, to assemble a fine collection of works that span Hines' impressive career. Hines received virtually no formal training as a young artist, yet he rose to become one of the greatest interpreters of our natural heritage through his art, particularly through his work with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Federal Duck Stamp program.

[This show](#) is intended to appeal to a wide audience of sporting art and wildlife art lovers, duck stamp collectors, waterfowl hunters, birders, and anyone else interested in the history of the wildlife conservation movement in the United States.

From the Friends of the Migratory Bird/Duck Stamp



SEASON'S GREETINGS!

Our Friends Group wishes you a wonderful holiday season and New Year. We also want to take this opportunity to remind you that a Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp is another thoughtful gift to give to a family member or friend.

In fact, the purchase and display of a Stamp is, perhaps, *the easiest thing you can do* to show that you care about protecting crucial wetland and grassland habitat in the U.S.

Of course, buying a stamp is not something that will just benefit ducks. Among the many other bird species, there are shorebirds, long-legged waders, rails, raptors, and wetland and grassland songbirds that are dependent on habitats derived from Stamp purchases. And reptiles, amphibians, fish, butterflies, all flourish through Stamp investments. Water quality is also strengthened.

A 15-dollar purchase of a stamp goes a very long way!

Our "Regular Friend" fee is modest, equal to the cost of one current Stamp (\$15), but all Friends are also asked to pledge to buy *two* stamps per year, joining with other individuals and organizations across the country with that promotional effort.

You can also become a "Supporting Friend" by contributing \$100 or more.

[Become a Friend Today!](#)