

October 21, 2014



# WINGTIPS

Friends of the Migratory Bird/Duck Stamp

## Another Anniversary - 30 Years in Canada

This year, we have highlighted three important 80th anniversaries for the "Duck Stamp," harking back to the founding of the stamp, 1934:

- the Congressional passage of the original stamp bill
- the very first 'first day of sale' of the stamp
- the creation of the related "blue goose" sign and symbol

But there is also a related 30th anniversary this year, one focusing on Canada and their parallel stamp.

Our neighbors up north call it the Canadian Wildlife Habitat Conservation Stamp. After a series of discussions in the 1970s and 1980s, the Canadian federal government agreed that serious wetland and waterfowl issues had to be addressed.

Wildlife Habitat Canada (WHC) was created to oversee the emerging program. The stamp, costing \$8.50 was to be required by all hunters who pursue migratory birds, and once affixed to their Migratory Game Bird Hunting Permit, would be valid across Canada.

The program was created in 1984, and the first stamp was sold for the 1985 hunting season.

Each year, WHC holds a competition to select the artwork for the next year's stamp. The funds are used by WHC for conservation projects and grants. Unlike in the U.S., none of the money can be used to purchase land. This is a major difference in the two national stamp programs.

At least 80 percent of the total stamp funds in Canada must go to these on-the-ground projects, with the remaining 20 percent of stamp dollars going to operations. In 2012, 180,042 stamps were sold. To date, about \$50 million in grants,

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## Did You Know?

1) October 21 is Jay Norwood "Ding" Darling's birthday. He was born on this day in 1876.



Photo: USFWS

2) The first "certificates of appreciation" were sent to post-season purchasers of the 1959-1960 Stamp. This was to reward buyers who bought the stamp

connecting to over 1,500 conservation projects, have been made.

Despite efforts to end the Canadian stamp program, it continues, with hunters, collectors, naturalists, and others buying the stamp across the country.

Over the years, the artwork has proven to be attractive and even innovative. In the last 30 years, the famous Canadian artist, Robert Bateman, has had his art on three of the stamps (Mallard in 1985, Northern Pintail in 1988, and Lesser Scaup in 2009). There have even been two years when non-waterfowl - but huntable - species were chosen for the stamp: a Sandhill Crane by Ken Ferris for 2000 and a Wilson's Snipe by Nigel Shaw in 2007.

Three representative images are displayed below: the 1988 Northern Pintail by Robert Bateman, the 2006 Brant by Pierre Leduc, and the 2007 Wilson's Snipe by Nigel Shaw. You may also want to [view all the artwork](#) for the interesting and creative Canadian Wildlife Habitat Conservation Stamps over the years.

after the hunting season was over. This was at a time when severe droughts were devastating waterfowl populations. The certificate was a 5"x 7", printed in black and white on imitation parchment.

3) The last time the stamp price was raised was 1991, when it went up from \$12.50 to \$15. Measuring the power of the U.S. dollar over time, if you purchased an item in 1991 for \$15, today that same item would cost you approximately \$26.20.

4) There were at least four efforts in the 1920s to have "Duck Stamp" legislation passed by Congress - in the 67th, 68th, 69th, and 70th Congresses. It was the fifth or sixth try, this time in the 1930s, that was successful, with the Migratory Bird Hunting Stamp Act of 1934.

### Some Samples from the Canadian Wildlife Habitat Conservation Stamp



### The Most Recent MBCC Acquisitions

There were four National Wildlife Refuge acquisition projects that got approved by the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission (MBCC) on September 11, 2014. The projects for valuable wetland-associated habitats are as follows:

1. **Trinity River National Wildlife Refuge, Texas.** Boundary addition and price approval for the fee title acquisition of 475.93 acres, for the appraised value and recommended price of \$606,800 or \$1,275 per acre.
2. **Black Bayou Lake National Wildlife Refuge, Louisiana.** Price approval for the fee acquisition of 804 acres, for the appraised value and recommended price of \$2,010,350, or \$2,500 per acre.
3. **Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge, Maryland.** Price approval for the fee acquisition of 153.6 acres, for the appraised value and recommended price of \$490,000, or \$3,190 per acre.
4. **Turnbull National Wildlife Refuge, Washington.** Price approval for the fee acquisition of 303 acres, for the appraised value and recommended price of \$455,000 or \$1,502 per acre.



In summary, there were 1,736.53 acres acquired for these refuges, with a total expenditure of \$3,562,150. The money comes out of the Migratory Bird Conservation Fund (MBCF), where Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation [Duck] Stamp dollars are deposited.

Remember, if you bought a stamp last year, you helped make these vital acquisitions possible!

## About the Friends of the Migratory Bird/Duck Stamp

Our Friends Group is an independent, nonprofit organization dedicated to two basic goals:

1. To increase promotional and educational efforts among various target audiences concerning the Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation [Duck] Stamp and the National Wildlife Refuge System.
2. To increase the regular, voluntary purchase of the stamp among hunters and non-hunters alike.



The purchase of a stamp is, perhaps, *the easiest and most efficient thing you can do* to protect crucial wetland and grassland habitat in the U.S. Indeed, a 15-dollar purchase of a stamp goes a very long way!

Our "Regular Friend" fee is kept 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. Our "Friend's Year" also corresponds with the "year" of a valid Stamp - from July to July.

[Buy a Stamp. Join the Friends Group!](#)

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