

July 1, 2013



WINGTIPS

Friends of the Migratory Bird/Duck Stamp

New Stamp Just Released

Buy and show your stamp!

On 28 June, the new Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp for 2013-2014 was released. It shows a Common Goldeneye, an image painted by Robert Steiner.



All waterfowl hunters over the age of 16, of course, are required to buy a stamp in order to hunt, but there are other very compelling reasons - for hunters and non-hunters - to buy the stamp each and every year.

The migratory bird stamp helps waterfowl, other wetland and grassland birds, other animals (charismatic or not), plants, and water quality. Yes, it's not just ducks!

The \$15 cost is a small price to pay for new habitat acquisition - about the amount that someone might pay to donate by text message in response to a natural disaster. Remember, this isn't money just to keep the lights on for the refuge system; it's money to expand the system, money that doesn't have to be collected as taxes or fees.

Migratory birds often depend on a chain of refuges, a migratory network linking nesting, stopover, and wintering areas. No single wildlife refuge, no one local park or sanctuary, is sufficient in itself. What's needed is a network, a connected system of refuges.

We can all use the stamp for admission to NWRs that charge for entry. Whatever sort of outdoor recreation you're into - hiking, birding, hunting, wildlife photography, fishing, or just restoring your soul in communion with nature - a wildlife

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Did You Know?

- 1) Robert Steiner of California won the 1997 contest for the 1998-1999 stamp. He pictured a Barrow's Goldeneye. He also won last year's contest, and the 2013-2014 stamp now display his rendition of a Common Goldeneye.
- 2) John Ruthven's image of Redheads for the 1960-61 Stamp had a few errors: the drake was assisting the raising of the young, and the ducklings did not appear to have wings!
- 3) The highest number of stamps sold in California was in the 1952-1953 year when there were 214,456 stamps sold in the Golden State.
- 4) The official name of the stamp changed from the

refuge is a great place to do it, off the beaten track.

A stamp is a piece of art that fits in your pocket or can be displayed on your camera case, your binoculars, your backpack. It is detailed, colorful, closely observed, a scientifically accurate illustration of birdlife. Collecting stamps is like collecting baseball cards, but for lovers of nature.

Buy and proudly display the new Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp to show that you care about preserving and sharing wildlife and wild places!

"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 (e.g., photographers and birders) to buy the stamp.
5) There were 2,099 artwork submissions for the 1982-1983 stamp. This is the highest number of entries recorded.
6) On 3 July 1984, President Ronald Reagan proclaimed National Duck Stamp Week.

Protecting Currituck NWR

The Friends of the Migratory Bird/Duck Stamp recently signed on to a letter with other Friends groups, national conservation organizations, industry partners, and professional natural-resource societies that have serious concerns about H.R. 126, the Corolla Wild Horse Protection Act. The groups urged the Senate to oppose the bill's passage. The Corolla Wild Horses Protection Act would compel the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service into a mandatory agreement to manage for non-native horses on the Currituck National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) on the Outer Banks of North Carolina. This management agreement would come at the expense of native wildlife (and plants) including waterfowl, endangered loggerhead sea turtles, and endangered shorebirds such as Piping Plover. (Both the sea turtles and plovers need the refuge's beach habitat for their nests.)

Almost half (47.9%) of Currituck NWR has been acquired using proceeds from the Migratory Bird Conservation Fund, where Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp dollars are deposited. The refuge is managed for its wetland values for waterfowl and other wildlife. Congress has already designated a home for wild horses on some Bureau of Land Management and U.S. Forest Service lands. The signatories to the letter stated that there are critical places where horses should not be, and National Wildlife Refuge lands are among those places.

A Senate passage of this bill would be a bad precedent, putting more refuge lands in jeopardy.

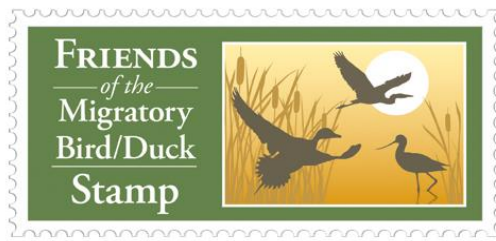
You can read the multi-organizational letter sent to the senators [here](#).

House Passes Electronic Stamp Act

The Permanent Electronic Duck Stamp Act of 2013 (H.R. 1206) passed the House of Representatives on June 3. In March, Representatives Robert Wittman (R-VA) and Ron Kind (D-WI) had introduced the bill to allow all states to sell Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation [Duck] Stamps online. This procedure had been tested in nine states that underwent a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service pilot study from 2007 to 2010. Under H.R. 1206, each state may charge a fee to process the electronic stamp and must also send an actual stamp to each individual who buys the electronic stamp.

H.R. 1206 has now been referred to the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works as S. 738.

About the Friends of the Migratory Bird/Duck Stamp



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

1. To increase promotional and educational efforts among various target audiences concerning the stamp and the National Wildlife Refuge system.
2. To increase the regular, voluntary purchase of stamp among hunters and non-hunters alike.

The purchase of a stamp is not something that will just benefit ducks, of course. Among the many other bird species, numerous species of shorebirds, long-legged waders, and wetland and grassland songbirds are dependent on habitats derived from Stamp purchases.

And it's not only birds that benefit from the stamp! 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!

WHAT YOU CAN DO RIGHT NOW: There are many ways you can help support the growth and appreciation of the Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation [Duck] Stamp. For starters, become familiar with the Stamp on the [Federal Duck Stamp Office website](#). You can review the content of our [Friends website](#). You can download our flyers and posters for distribution. You can also forward *Wingtips* to friends (See the forwarding tool on the very bottom of the page.) And if you know others who wish to receive this irregular *Wingtips* newsletter, have them ask to be added to our mailing list. See [here](#).

Of course, buy a Stamp - or two - and use/display it proudly. And become a Friend. To find out how to do so, you can visit our [website](#).

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."

[Become a Friend Today!](#)