

July 17, 2013



WINGTIPS

Friends of the Migratory Bird/Duck Stamp

Appreciating the Latest Stamp

As you probably know, on 28 June, the new Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp for 2013-2014 was unveiled. It shows a male 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 a stamp each and every year.



The \$15 cost for the stamp is a small price to pay for new Refuge System habitat acquisition.

There are many ways you can help support the growth and appreciation of the Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation [Duck] Stamp. And below, we have presented some ideas for you to consider.

For starters, become familiar with the Stamp on the [Federal Duck Stamp Office website](#).

You can review the content of our own [Friends website](#). Here you can download the [flyers](#) and [posters](#) for we have on the website for distribution. You can also forward *Wingtips* to friends (see the forwarding tool on the very bottom of this message).

Familiarity with the stamp's purpose, history, and art is valuable. You can see a wonderful display with a dozen representative stamps presented on 25 June by *The New York Times* [here](#).

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Did You Know?

1) In April 1921, Frederic C. Walcott of Connecticut wrote an article for the *Bulletin of the American Game Protective Association* (AGPA) advocating a \$1 hunter stamp with proceeds to be used to secure waterfowl habitat. His article was accompanied by a model stamp-like sketch (by Belmore Browne) showing a flying Canada Goose. This is the first recorded effort to establish such a federal stamp.

2) Later, the bill to establish the stamp was championed by Senators Peter Norbeck (D-ND) and Frederic C. Walcott (R-CT). In the House, Congressman Richard Kleberg (D-TX) took the lead. It was signed into law by FDR on March 16, 1934.

In the last few weeks there have also been multiple organizations that boosted the importance of the stamp. Here are three examples, each appealing to slightly different audiences. They are from the following organizations:

- [The National Wildlife Refuge Association](#)
- [Ducks Unlimited](#)
- [The Cornell Lab of Ornithology](#)

And if you know others who wish to receive this *Wingtips* newsletter, with regular stamp announcements and news, have them ask to be added to our *Wingtips* mailing list. See [here](#).

Of course, buy a Stamp - or two - and use/display it proudly. (Many non-hunters display the stamp on their backpacks, field guides, binoculars, and camera-cases.) Also become an official Friend! To find out how to do so, you can visit our [website](#).



3) For some time (e.g., the 1940s) the Law Enforcement section of the USFWS handled matters related to the Duck Stamp.

4) The 1982 contest for the stamp was the first one to require an entry fee. It was \$20.

5) There were 2,099 artwork submissions for the 1982-1983 stamp. This is the highest number of entries recorded.

6) In 1994, Robert Hautman's image of a Canada Goose finished second in the stamp contest. In 1996 he submitted a very similar image, but this time he added marshland in the background. It made the difference; he won the contest.

7) In 1977, the official name of the stamp changed from the "Migratory Bird Hunting Stamp" to the "Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp" to better reflect reach of the program and to appeal to non-hunters.

Top Ten Reasons to Buy a Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp

It's time to buy and show your Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation [Duck] Stamp! All waterfowl hunters over the age of 16 are required to buy a stamp in order to hunt, but there are other compelling reasons to buy the stamp every year. Here are 10 top reasons to consider:

Reason #1: Over \$850 million in Stamp funds have been collected, protecting 5.5+ million acres of wetlands and grasslands for the Refuge System.

Reason #2: A \$15 Stamp purchase is the easiest thing to do for wetland and grassland birds, with 98 cents of each dollar going to secure habitat.

Reason #3: Support small wetlands acquisition (WPAs) through the Stamp, and respond to the draining of valuable wetlands.

Reason #4: Support Refuge System grassland acquisition to save prairie nesting birds. Buy a Migratory Bird Stamp.

Reason #5: Buying a stamp doesn't just benefit ducks. Shorebirds, big waders, raptors, songbirds all need stamp investment.

Reason #6: Buying a stamp also helps other wildlife - *not only birds* - and also helps water quality.

Reason #7: There are 252 wildlife-rich refuges across the lower-48 that have been acquired - all or in part - through stamp funds.

Reason #8: A Migratory Bird Stamp is a "free pass" for an entire year for refuges that charge for admission. It's a bargain!

Reason #9: The stamp is a collectible with a fine tradition of waterfowl art: detailed, colorful, and a beautiful illustration of wildlife.

Reason #10: The Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp is the best-kept secret in bird conservation. Get in on the secret: buy a stamp and help spread the word!

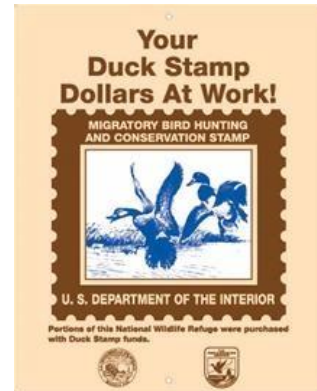
You can find a thorough listing of these 10 reasons - with more supporting details - [here](#). They are presented in a WORD document so that your and your organization can reproduce or edit the contents to suit your needs.

Where Do Stamp Dollars Go?

The funds for the sale of the Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp are deposited into the Migratory Bird Conservation Fund (MBCF) dollars. The MBCF is where stamp dollars are held prior to investment for Wildlife Refuge System property decided upon by the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission (MBCC).

You can access an invaluable listing of every National Wildlife Refuge that has received funding through Stamp dollars [here](#). This involves 252 refuges in the lower 48 states. From this list you can also find the percentage of property paid for by Migratory Bird Conservation Fund dollars, where Stamp funds are held.

Also, the fine folks at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology developed a highly informative map to show the same sort of information. We placed it on our website, and it's found [here](#).



Don't Forget the Junior Duck Stamp

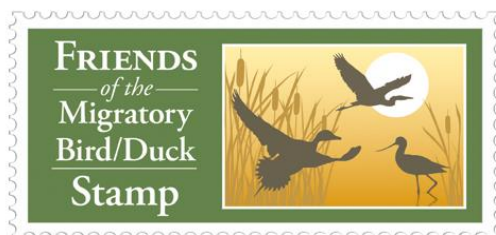
Also released two weeks ago was the new Junior Duck Stamp. This program is part of a creative year-long conservation program used by educators across the nation. Students learn about wetlands and waterfowl conservation, explore their natural world, and create a painting or drawing of a duck, goose, or swan as their "visual term paper." This year, more than 29,000 students participated in individual state Junior Duck Stamp competitions.

A male Canvasback painted by Madison Grimm, 6, of Burbank, South Dakota, graces the 2013-2014 Junior Duck Stamp. She is the youngest winner of the Jr. Duck Stamp Art Contest, and her art was chosen from among 54 best-of-show winners. You can see her art and get more information [here](#).

A very useful curriculum is also available to help guide educators and students in their endeavors. The curriculum is found [online](#).

Junior Duck Stamps sell for \$5, and the funds go to support awards and environmental education for students who participate in the program, as well as for efforts to promote the Junior Duck Stamp.

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!

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. Our "Friend's Year" also corresponds with the "year" of a valid Stamp - from July to July. It's time to make that contribution!

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

[Become a Friend Today!](#)