

November 19, 2013



WINGTIPS

Friends of the Migratory Bird/Duck Stamp

Pro-Stamp Public Service Announcements

A Birding Equipment Checklist:

- ✓ *Binoculars*
- ✓ *Field Guide*
- ✓ *Scope*
- ✓ *Camera*
- ✓ *Cell phone*

Migratory Bird Stamp?



YES! Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamps have gone to fund the acquisition of over 5.5 million acres of habitat for our National Wildlife Refuge System. These lands, almost always open to birding, provide essential habitat for waterfowl, shorebirds, raptors, songbirds, and many more species.

Buy and show your stamp!
Found at Post Offices, National Wildlife Refuges, and sporting goods stores.

A Public Service Announcement in Support of the Stamp

Our PSA Model - Medium-sized

For a while, the Friends of the Migratory Bird/Duck Stamp has had a number of high-quality Public Service Announcements (PSAs) promoting the Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp. Interested colleagues and organizations have been free to use them in their magazines, newsletters, blogs, websites, or Facebook to promote the Stamp.

You can view and download some of these excellent generic PSAs [here](#).

We now have some newer specific PSAs for bird watchers. They come in four different sizes, again available for print and electronic use. One version - our medium-sized model - is shown above. You can view them all [here](#).

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KIP KOSS, RIP

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Did You Know?

1) Santa Ana National Wildlife Refuge has had 94.9% of its land purchased through Stamp/MBCF dollars. The refuge, located along the Rio Grande in southernmost Texas, is well-known for its birds of Mexican character (e.g., Great Kiskadee, Chachalaca, White-tipped Dove, Clay-colored Thrush, and Long-billed Thrasher).

2) The funds from the Stamp not only go to refuges. Since 1958, the funds also go to acquire smaller wetland and grassland habitats within the Prairie Pothole Region of the upper Midwest and northern Great Plains. Through the Small Wetlands Acquisition Program (SWAP), the USFWS has protected over 3 million acres of

These PSAs are modeled after the excellent ones that Pheasants Forever developed in their magazine, aiming to appeal to hunters who are *not required* to buy a Duck Stamp.

Voluntary buyers of the Stamp need to be convinced that buying a Stamp is an appropriate, indeed a virtuous, conservation-oriented thing to do for wildlife, crucial habitat, and the Refuge System.

These voluntary buyers include waterfowl hunters who buy extra stamps or other hunters who are not required to buy a Duck Stamp at all!

The voluntary buyers can also be birders, hikers, wildlife photographers, anglers, canoeists, campers, and general conservationists. The new PSAs we are announcing here are aimed to address the first of these groups, the birders.

If the Stamp is to continue as a vibrant funding mechanism for wetland and grassland habitats in the Refuge System, then the number of voluntary buyers surely needs to increase. This is one of the main tenets of our Friends Group, as explained at the bottom of this issue of *Wingtips*.

If you are interested in adjusting or personalizing these birder PSAs in any way - including background color, organizational identification, or altering the text - contact Devin M. Lang at CHS_Yearbook_2014@yahoo.com. You can also call him at (734) 341-3702. He stands ready to help.

wetland and grassland habitat for the Refuge System. These units are commonly referred to as Waterfowl Production Areas or WPAs, but they don't simply benefit waterfowl! These WPAs, protect many other wetland and grassland birds and other wildlife.

3) The Stamp is usually released on or about the start of July of each year. One exception, however, was for the 1949-1950 Stamp, when it was released on the first of September 1949, due to delays caused by Congress deliberating on raising the stamp price from \$1 to \$2.

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

5) The 1996-97 stamp, showing two Surf Scoters and Barnegat Lighthouse, was based on an oil painting by Wilhelm Goebel, and it was the very first stamp to raise more than \$23 million for refuge habitat.

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

Duck Stamp Documentary in the Works

Currently, there is a documentary being filmed about the Federal Duck Stamp Program. At the center of this documentary are the artists and the competition that exposes the ambitious nature of the participants. The conservation consequences, of course, are also being emphasized.

The creative production team, led by Brian Davis, is filled with award-winning talent, people dedicated to getting the story of the Stamp out into the world. According to Davis, "The best way to continue this vital conservation program is to create a new, wider audience for the stamp. My hope is to create an entertaining film that illuminates this great tradition and exposes it to a broader audience."

Davis and his team have released a preview of the film and are raising money through a "Kickstarter" effort. We will have more information on this project in our next *Wingtips*, but in the meantime, you can find out more [here](#).

Obituary: Kip Koss

Christopher "Kip" Darling Koss (b. 1935) spent years preserving the legacy of his grandfather, the conservationist, artist, and political cartoonist Jay N. "Ding" Darling. His grandfather, of course, was the head of the Bureau of Biological Survey, the predecessor of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, when the Duck Stamp program was launched in the mid-1930s. Ding Darling also designed the very first stamp, shown here.

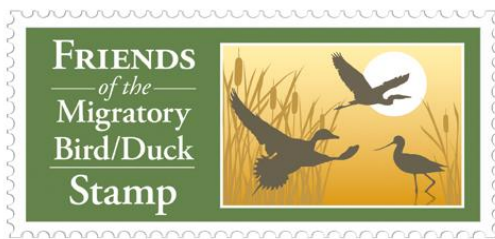


Darling's 1934-35 Stamp

Kip's visions were grand, exemplified by his dedication to Ding Darling's legacy and artwork. Compiling and cataloging nearly 7,000 of his Pulitzer Prize-winning grandfather's editorial cartoons onto a searchable CD took over a decade. This was at a time when scanners were a really new technology, and when most computers still used floppy disks.

Kip Koss passed away earlier this month. His dedication, discipline, and service will be missed by all stamp supporters and conservationists. You can read a full obituary from *The Miami Herald* [here](#).

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 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 thing you can* do to protect crucial wetland and grassland habitat in the U.S.

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.

[Become a Friend Today!](#)