

May 6, 2014



# WINGTIPS

Friends of the Migratory Bird/Duck Stamp

## Jr. Duck Stamp Contest

On Friday, 18 April, the image for the 2014-15 Jr. Duck Stamp was chosen by a panel of judges at the national Junior Duck Stamp Art Contest, held at the USFWS National Conservation Training Center in Shepherdstown, West Virginia.

The Federal Jr. Duck Stamp Art Contest is the culmination of a year-long Junior Duck Stamp (JDS) conservation program used by concerned educators across the country. It is also the outgrowth of a small army of volunteer judges from coast to coast. This year, more than 29,000 students participated in state Junior Duck Stamp competitions in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Proceeds from sales of the \$5 Junior Duck Stamps support environmental education.



The winning artwork by 16-year-old Si Youn Kim, of Tenafly, New Jersey, is of a male King Eider. About three weeks previously, at the end of March, Kim had won the state-based New Jersey JDS competition, besting the artwork of nearly 175 other young artists from

all over the state.

Andrew Kneeland, 16, of Rock Springs, Wyoming, took second place at the national competition with an acrylic painting depicting a Trumpeter Swan with cygnets. Third place went to Jiahe Qu, 15, of Chandler, Arizona, for her rendition of a Hooded Merganser.

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## Did you Know?

1) Bob Hines (1912-1994) created the original rules for a Federal Duck Stamp Art Contest and managed the competition for over three decades.

2) The 1950-1951 stamp was the first one to be chosen by an open art competition.

3) The first year for self-adhesive stamp - as well as the traditional gummed stamp - was the 1998-1999 stamp (Barrow's Goldeneye, by Robert Steiner).

4) The first national Jr. Duck Stamp contest began with 8 states participating in 1993.

5) Each of the last two times that the price of the stamp went up, 1989-1990 and 1991-1992, there actually were increases in

"The Junior Duck Stamp Program is a great way for young people to use their creative talents to express an appreciation for nature and the world around them. This contest is an entry point into a career in conservation, as well," said Fish and Wildlife Service Director Dan Ashe. "Children can see the results of their hard work and how their art plays a role in conservation -- something that will be with them for a lifetime."

You can find more information on the recent contest and the winners [here](#).

The JDS program has proven to be a great success since its launch in the early 1990s, and it deserves a bright future, educating and exciting youth.

the total numbers of stamps sold. The first time, the sales went up from 1,403,005 to 1,415,882 stamps; the second time, the sales went from 1,408,373 to 1,423,374 stamps. 6) Rep. John D. Dingell (D - MI) has been the longest-serving member of the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission, having started in 1969, and he is still serving. He will end his run this year, since he is ending his long service in the U.S. House of Representatives.

## NAWMP and Human Dimensions

First signed in 1986 between the U.S. and Canada (with Mexico joining in 1994), the North American Waterfowl Management Plan (NAWMP) has long been a leading model for international bird conservation plans. Just two years ago, in late May 2012, then Interior Secretary Ken Salazar signed the 2012 Revision of NAWMP.

This ambitious revised plan has set forth three overarching goals for waterfowl conservation:

- 1) maintain abundant and resilient waterfowl populations to support hunting and other uses without imperiling habitat;
- 2) support wetlands and related habitats sufficient to sustain waterfowl populations at desired levels, while providing places to recreate and ecological services that benefit society; and
- 3) increase the number of North American citizens who enjoy and actively support waterfowl and wetlands conservation.



*North American Waterfowl  
Management Plan*

The first two goals have always been part of the NAWMP. The third goal is new and exciting, and it underscores the importance of people to the success of waterfowl and wetlands conservation. In fact, the NAWMP revision went on to elaborate on the issue (page 9):

*The number of people who make a dedicated effort to view waterfowl is now ten times the number of waterfowl hunters, and their numbers continue to grow. This phenomenon creates an opportunity to increase support for conservation as well as a responsibility to ensure the needs of this growing clientele are being addressed.*

Clearly, waterfowl-watchers and avitourists are becoming increasingly important for thoughtful waterfowl conservationists.

To follow the recommendations of the revised NAWMP, a "Human Dimensions Working Group" was also formed. Addressing the human dimensions issue will require a concerted effort to better

understand popular interest in wetlands, waterfowl, and where the areas of intersections can be expanded with creative management. The approach is a "natural," insofar as the most popular group of watched birds, according to the recent [USFWS survey](#) on the demographics and economics of bird watching, was waterfowl.

The other "intersection" between waterfowl interest and the resource concerns the awareness that wetland conservation does not only impact waterfowl. Wetland conservation is crucial for other birds: shorebirds, long-legged waders, raptors, and songbirds. And the impact certainly goes beyond birds to reptiles, amphibians, mammals, and even dragonflies and butterflies!

These concerns are all in harmony with the mission of our Friends of the Migratory Bird/Duck Stamp.

In fact, in terms of conserving wetlands and waterfowl for the future, the champions of NAWMP and the members of the Human Dimensions Working Group might consider this question: "What better way is there to measure public support for the resource than to get non-waterfowl-hunters to commit to buying an annual Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation [Duck] Stamp?"

### First Day of Sales: Then and Now



It was August 1934 when the very first Federal Duck Stamp was sold. That's just about 80 ago. Indeed, the rush for production and implementation was quick: The law was passed and signed in March, and the first Stamps were sold in August. The image on the left shows the head of the Bureau of Biological Survey, Ding Darling, buying the stamps on that First Day of Sale. Of course, Darling was also the artist whose work graces the 1934-35 Stamp.

This August will present another opportunity to celebrate the Stamp, this time the 80th anniversary of the First Day of Sale.

There were 635,000 of those stamps sold in 1934-35, and the proceeds went to much-needed wetlands conservation. Since then, the Stamp has topped two million sold annually over 20 times. As such, the Stamp has proven itself to be a highly effective fund-raising mechanism for wetland, riparian, and, increasingly, grassland conservation for the National Wildlife Refuge System.

Meanwhile, the price of these wetland, riparian, and grassland areas targeted by the USFWS for preservation continues to increase. At its current price of \$15, the land-buying power of the Stamp has *never been lower*. Moreover, Stamp sales have not topped two million sold since 1980-81. This presents a dual challenge.

Clearly, if more habitat is to be secured, both an appropriate increase in the price of the Stamp *and* more sales of the Stamp - beyond the regular buyers - are required.

The next round of sales will start on the last days of June. The First Day of Sale Ceremony for the 2014-2015 Federal and Junior Duck Stamps will be held on June 27 at the Department of the Interior building in Washington, D.C. (The ceremony is free and open to the public. Both the

Federal and Junior Duck Stamp artists will be available to sign stamps, and the U.S. Postal Service will have a special cancellation for collectors.)

Most importantly, the new Stamp will begin to be available at that time at Post Offices and other vendors across the country and across the Internet.

### 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. Indeed, 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.

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