

April 20, 2015



WINGTIPS

Friends of the Migratory Bird/Duck Stamp

Stamp Success Story: St. Vincent NWR

We often speak of the units of the National Wildlife Refuge System as islands of protected habitat in a sea of development, but in the case of Florida's [St. Vincent NWR](#) (Region 4), the refuge is literally an island. The property consists of the entirety of St. Vincent Island (12,300 acres), a triangular barrier island (part of a chain protecting Appalachicola Bay), along with the much smaller Pig Island and a small mainland parcel.

Europeans first made contact with Native Americans on the island in 1528. Franciscan missionaries in the 17th century gave the island the name we use today. In the century and a half leading up to its acquisition by USFWS in 1968, the property changed hands fourteen times. Its owners built roads, ranched it for cattle, logged its forests, and stocked it with exotic wildlife for big game hunters. The land's price escalated with each real estate transaction: what George Hatch paid \$3,000 for in 1868, the Nature Conservancy paid \$2.2 million for in 1968. Using MBCF funds to repay the Conservancy, USFWS made the island part of Refuge System that same year. All told, 98.9% of the acreage was purchased with Duck Stamp dollars.

At least 10 different habitat types can be distinguished on the island, among them tidal marsh, freshwater lakes, scrub oak, dunes dominated by live oak, and four different slash pine communities. This Gulf of Mexico island is an important stopover point for [Neotropical migrant birds](#); surveys have identified 277 species. The nine miles of Gulf beaches can be particularly good for viewing shorebirds (during late spring and early fall), gulls, terns, and fish-eating raptors (e.g., Bald Eagles and Ospreys). Waterfowl are most easily seen from

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Did You Know?

1) The eligible species for the 2016-2017 stamp contest - to be held in September - are Brant, Northern Shoveler, Canada Goose, Red-breasted Merganser, and Steller's Eider.

2) It was 94 years ago, April 1921, when Frederic C. Walcott of Connecticut wrote an article in the "Bulletin of the American Game Protective Association" (AGPA) promoting a \$1 hunter stamp with proceeds to be used to secure waterfowl habitat. Along with the article was a



Wood Stork In Flight by Carole Robertson

November through late December. Wood Storks are known to use the island year-round, although breeding activity has not been documented. St. Vincent Island hosts four of Florida's five sea

turtle species. A captive breeding program for red wolf is ongoing; the refuge may prove suitable for reintroduction of eastern indigo snake, North America's largest nonvenomous snake. The October 2012 [Comprehensive Conservation Plan](#) has identified the eradication of feral hogs as an important management goal.

Interested in paying this special place a visit? You'll need to hire a boat, as there are no roads linking this island to the mainland. Check in with the [Supporters of St. Vincent NWR](#) for more information before you go. Or you can take a tour [by video](#) with refuge manager Shelley Staies, in a piece from 2009 by WFSU (public media through Florida State University).

model stamp-like sketch (by Belmore Browne) showing a flying Canada Goose. This is the first recorded effort to create such a federal stamp.

3) In the 1950s, Ding Darling, who hadn't served in government in 20 years, was vigorously complaining over moves in Congress to repeal the Stamp Act and over some Congressional actions impounding the existing funds. The issues would not be resolved until the Act was revised and strengthened in 1958.

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

5) The first Federal Duck Stamp Art Contest open to the general public was in 1966. The winning image that year was of a trio of flying Canvasbacks, a black-and-white wash drawing by Ron Jenkins.

New Junior Duck Stamp Winners Chosen

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced last week that an image of a pair of Wood Ducks was selected to appear on the 2015-2016 Federal Junior Duck Stamp. The artwork for the new stamp was painted by 17-year-old Andrew Kneeland of Rock Springs, Wyoming. It was chosen by a panel of judges at the national Junior Duck Stamp Art Contest, held at the National Conservation Training Center in Shepherdstown, West Virginia.

This year, a total of more than 24,000 entries were submitted to the 53 state Junior Duck Stamp contests. Proceeds from sales of the \$5 Junior Duck Stamp support environmental education.

"After 22 years, the Junior Duck Stamp Program remains one of the Service's hallmark efforts to connect youth with nature and inspire budding wildlife artists," remarked Dan Ashe, USFWS Director.

Isabelle Kapoian, 16, of Bedford, New Hampshire, took second place with an oil painting depicting a Tundra Swan. Third place went to Bradley Gray, 16, of North Ogden, Utah, for his depiction of a pair of Green-winged Teal.

You can view images of all the "Best of Show" entries [here](#).

Duck Stamp Form 3333 - a treasured find among collectors

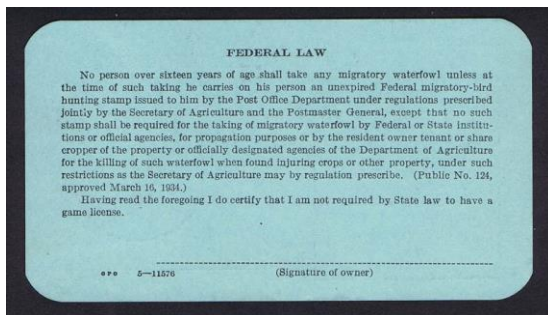
By David Govatski



What is the Duck Stamp Form 3333, and what story does it tell?

The first federal duck stamp, of course, was issued in 1934. At the time, some states and areas did not have state game licenses. The 1934 law required waterfowl hunters to have a federal duck stamp and "each stamp shall, at the time of issuance, be fixed adhesively to the game license issued to the applicant under state law... or if the applicant is not required to have a State License,

to a certificate provided by the Post Office Department at the time of issuance of such stamp."



Form 3333 was issued to hunters in states or areas that did not have a state game license. The certificate was blue in color and produced by the Government Printing Office on card stock. The card was 2.5" x 4.5" in size and was often trimmed down or folded and placed in wallets.

Form 3333s are rare and, according to a study by Robert Schoen in 1954 (Dolin and Dumaine, page 93), only 3,175 Form 3333s were issued out of 635,001 stamps sold. Perhaps as many as 90% of

the original 3,175 certificates were simply tossed away or lost over the years. Form 3333 was intended to be used only for the first federal duck stamp, and later issues are even scarcer. The last known Form 3333 was issued in remote Hyder, Alaska in 1955 and is now on display at the Smithsonian National Postal Museum.

Close examination of the Form 3333 in the illustration tells us at least the following:

- The 1934 stamp has a plate block number attached indicating it was likely purchased by a collector and not a hunter. Plate number 129199 was one of four plates used to produce the 1934 issue.
- The legendary Ding Darling designed the 1934 stamp and the US Department of Agriculture was the administering agency. For the first five years, stamps were issued by the US Department of Agriculture. On July 1, 1939 a Presidential order handed over responsibility to the US Department of the Interior.
- The postmark from Laureldale, Pennsylvania, is June 17, 1935, just about six weeks before the 1934 stamp was set to expire. This late purchase, mint condition with no signature on the back, further suggests that it was a collector who purchased it. The MOB in the postmark means "Money Order Broker."

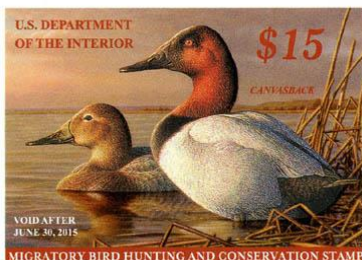
Collectors of Duck Stamps are important, if sometimes overlooked, supporters of the duck stamp program. The Federal Duck Stamp program has recognized the value of collectors and marketed additional value added products to raise more money. At present there is no accurate way to determine what proportion of duck stamps are sold to collectors, birders or hunters. In some cases the purchaser fits all the categories.

Readers interested in learning more about the history of the Duck Stamp program are encouraged

to read [*The Duck Stamp Story: Art, Conservation and History*](#) by Eric Dolan and Bob Dumaine, published by Krause Publications in 2000. Duck Stamp Form 3333s are often available from Duck Stamp collectors and on auction sites such as eBay. The current value of a mint-condition Form 333 can be \$500 or more.

T-shirts and Posters Available

The Friends of the Migratory Bird/Duck Stamp has created and sold a number of t-shirts with the 2014-2015 image of the Stamp. The shirt stamp image, reproduced here, shows a pair of Canvasbacks painted by Adam Grimm.



Through the t-shirt, we wish to spread the word about the unique role that the Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation [Duck] Stamp provides. The t-shirts have sold well.

Our remaining t-shirts come in five sizes (S, M, L, XL, and XXL), and two colors (Cardinal Red and Dark Chocolate). The cost is \$23.49 (any size and including shipping anywhere in the U.S.).

You can find more details (including limited availability), and you can order your own t-shirts by [using this form](#).

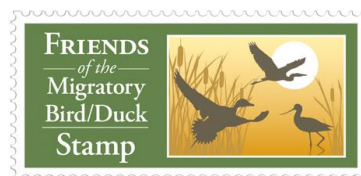
By using the 2014-2015 stamp image on this t-shirt, our Friends acts as a Nonexclusive Licensee of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, with the Stamp design the property of the United States Government. Also, as part of our use of the stamp image, five percent (5%) of the price of this t-shirt is deposited into the Migratory Bird Conservation Fund, the fund where Duck Stamp dollars are sent for acquisition of wetland, bottomland, and grassland habitats in the National Wildlife Refuge System. Yes, by buying a t-shirt you will also help secure actual refuge habitat!

We also have an interesting [poster](#) available, displaying all the Federal stamps from 1934 to 2013. We have a small supply of these laminated posters. If you want one, simply send the Friends (address on the very bottom of this *Wingtips*) a check for \$15 with a note that you want a poster.

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.



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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