



WINGTIPS

Friends of the Migratory Bird/Duck Stamp

First Day of Sale June 26



Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks
by Eddie LeRoy

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Duck Stamps Conserve Wildlife Habitat

Buying a Federal Duck Stamp (Stamp) is one of the most effective ways you can conserve wildlife. Approximately 98% of the \$25 Stamp directly funds land acquisition and easements that provide critical habitat for wildlife. These lands are part of the National Wildlife Refuge System and you can access many of them!

At the turn of the 20th century, America's wildlife was under immediate threats. Market shooting to supply restaurants; bounty hunting and unregulated sport hunting; and feather-collecting for the fashion industry contributed to the loss of millions of birds and other wildlife. Additionally, millions of acres of wetlands were drained for agriculture and development, greatly reducing waterfowl nesting habitat

By the 1930s, America had entered the Great Depression and many in the Great Plains regions suffered the added economic and ecological effects of the Dust Bowl. During this time President Herbert Hoover signed the Migratory Bird Conservation Act in 1929 to authorize the acquisition and preservation of wetlands as waterfowl habitat. Unfortunately, the law did not provide a permanent funding source to purchase and preserve these wetlands. In 1934, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed the Migratory Bird Hunting Stamp Act (or "Duck Stamp Act"), which did!

The Duck Stamp Act requires anyone 16 or older to purchase a Stamp for waterfowl hunting. But you don't have to be a waterfowl hunter to purchase a Federal Duck Stamp! If you care about wildlife and habitats they depend on, help conserve these critical lands by purchasing a Federal Duck Stamp!

Artists and stamp collectors are important stakeholders of the Stamp. In 1949, the first Federal Duck Stamp Art Contest was held. Today, 71 years later, the tradition of hosting a government-sponsored

nationwide contest continues. In 1989, Junior Duck Stamp Program was initiated to encourage education and participation for students Kindergarten through 12th-grade nationwide! Junior Duck Stamps are available for purchase for \$5.

In addition to serving as a license for waterfowl hunting, benefits for conservation, appeal to collectors and an opportunity for competing artists, the current Federal Duck Stamp also grants you free entrance into any National Wildlife Refuge that charges an entry fee!

Federal Duck Stamps are available [online](#), in [post offices](#), and in many sporting goods and large-scale retail stores that sell hunting and fishing licenses and equipment. Check your local refuge to see if they sell Federal Duck Stamps, as well. The Stamp is also available from [Amplex Corporation](#), and if you are interested in selling Federal Duck Stamps, they are the organization to contact.

The Migratory Bird Conservation Fund announced that the 2020-2021 Federal and Junior Duck Stamps will be available for purchase on Friday, June 26. These Stamps will feature the winning artwork of Eddie LeRoy of Eufaula, Alabama, and 13-year-old Madison Grimm of South Dakota, winners of the 2020 Federal Duck Stamp Art Contest and 2020 Junior Duck Stamp Contest, respectively. This year's First Day of Sale ceremony planned for Spanish Fort, AL have been canceled.

Please be a part of this American tradition, and more importantly, be a part in conserving America's future by purchasing a 2020-2021 Federal Duck Stamp.



GET STAMPED

**Be Part of an American Tradition, AND
Be Part of Conserving America's Future!!**

2020-2021 STAMPS AVAILABLE 6/26
www.duckstamp.com

>300 NWRs
created or expanded
from duck stamp revenue

1.8 million
stamps sold
each year

**98 % of
every \$1**
acquires managed
lands or protects
waterfowl habitat

\$1.1 billion
sales revenue
allocated for
conservation

6.5 million
acres of protected
& managed waterfowl
habitat

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE SYSTEM

FRIENDS of the
Migratory
Bird/Duck
Stamp

www.friendsofthestamp.org

JENNIFER CHIN JOINS DUCK STAMP OFFICE

Jennifer Chin was hired by the Service as a Program Assistant for the Duck Stamp Office. She will assist in planning logistics and preparing artwork for the Federal and Junior Duck Stamp contests. Jen is proficient with American Sign Language, and holds a BS in Environmental Science from the University of Maryland.

Jen's last position was a Refuge Assistant at the Patuxent Research Refuge in Maryland. She has worked at both Alcatraz Golden Gate National Recreation Area and Disney World.

Welcome, Jennifer!

Conservation Chat

Board Member Rebekah Knight writes:

In April I had the fun opportunity to be interviewed by [Cast and Blast Florida](#), a podcast centered around hunting and outdoor life in the southeastern region of the US. Travis Thompson (the host) was very fun and engaging, and asked some great questions. After the introductions and brief explanation of how I became an artist, the conversation became more in-depth and organically led to some great topics. We talked about my process for creating a piece of art, from obtaining reference photos to the finished piece; travel and all of the adventures and experiences that come with being a wildlife artist; and most importantly, the connection between art and conservation--particularly duck stamps and my involvement as a yearly competitor in the Federal Duck Stamp contest--as well as the importance of helping our future generations with conservation education through art and programs like the Junior Duck Stamp contest. Our chat could have continued for twice as long if we had the time. I'm happy to have had the chance to shine more light on such a great program as the Duck Stamp.

The podcast (released on April 24th), titled "[Conversations 2.7: Rebekah Knight](#)," can also be found on iTunes and Spotify.

CALENDAR and POSTPONEMENTS

- The First Day of Sale is scheduled for June 26, 2020. Unfortunately, the event planned for Bass Pro Shops in Spanish Fort, Alabama will not be held. Stamps will still go on sale nationwide as usual. The Duck Stamp Office is looking at alternatives to celebrate the artists and the conservation legacy. Watch the [DSO's events page](#) for details as they develop.
- The 2020 Duck Stamp Art Contest is slated for September 25 and 26 at Drake University in Des Moines, Iowa. Jay N. "Ding" Darling, a noted hunter and wildlife conservationist, was a nationally known political cartoonist for *The Des Moines Register*.
- The 50th annual [Easton Waterfowl Festival is postponed](#) until 2021.

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