

# Wingtips

Friends of the Migratory Bird/Duck Stamp



15 July 2022



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## Stamps on Sale, Contest Updates

The 2022-2023 Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp is now on sale.

Since 1934, sales of the Stamp have raised over \$1.1 billion that has conserved over 6 million acres of wetland habitat for birds and other wildlife. The Stamp sells for \$25 and raises approximately \$40 million in sales each year.

This year's Stamp features a pair of Redheads afloat in choppy water. Artist James Hautman of Chaska, Minnesota, has now won the Federal Duck Stamp Art Contest a record-breaking six times.

You can read the [press release](#) about this year's Stamp from U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service.

The 2022 Federal Duck Stamp Art Contest to select the 2022-2023 stamp will be held September 23 and 24 at the North Dakota Heritage Center and State Museum in Bismarck, North Dakota.

Eligible species for this year:

- Tundra (Whistling) Swan
- Mottled Duck
- American Green-winged Teal
- American Wigeon
- Barrow's Goldeneye

Entries must be postmarked between June 1 and August 15. See the [Contest Event page](#) for additional information.

## Beyond the Ducks

By Rebekah Knight, Friends of the Duck Stamp

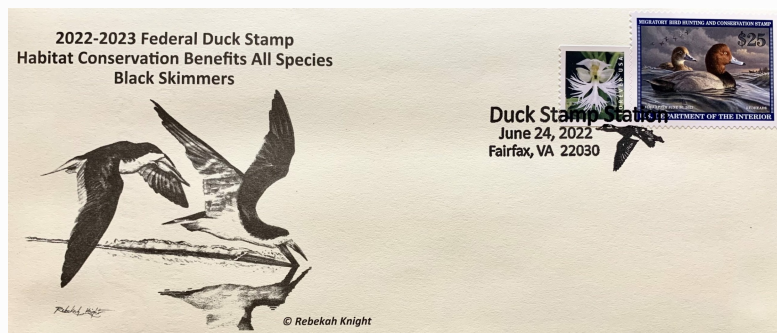
As a life-long wildlife artist I have submitted paintings to the Federal Duck Stamp contest year after year since high school, and have learned far more about waterfowl and wetland conservation than I ever anticipated. Drawing and painting is a form of study, so learning comes with the territory. Over the years I have developed a special place in my heart for waterfowl, but it wasn't until I was asked to donate a drawing for the Duck Stamp Companion Species that I expanded my passion to a broader scope of wildlife that benefits from the stamp.

The Companion Species is a simple black and white drawing printed on the back of the Federal Duck Stamp (the dollar-bill sized souvenir sheet). "This came about as a way to encourage folks to think about the greater conservation message behind the stamp," says Suzanne Fellows, chief of the Federal Duck Stamp Office. It also provides birders and non-hunters something to think about and appreciate. The Companion Species first appeared on the back of the 2015-2016 stamp and featured a Ridgway's Rail drawn by Richard Clifton. Almost half of U.S. endangered species (including Ridgway's Rail) are wetland dependent and were thus the primary push for the Companion Species campaign.

Out of the several choices I was given (each of which I knew little about), I chose to draw a pair of Black Skimmers. I found them incredibly intriguing, from the way they feed, to their fierce looks. Since I've never seen them in the wild, I had to research a decent amount of their habitat, feeding habits, anatomy, and plumage. The most unique and fascinating thing about these tern-like seabirds is the way they find food by flying low above the water and skimming the surface with their lower mandible to catch small fish, insects, and crustaceans. Unlike most birds, their lower mandible is longer than the upper to aid in this process. At hatching, the mandibles are equal length and rapidly become unequal during fledgling when they begin to start skimming for food. There are three skimmer species, and the Black Skimmer is the largest and the only species found in North America. Breeding adults have a black crown and upper body with white underparts. Their eyes are dark brown with a vertical catlike pupil which is unusual for a bird. I hope to catch a glimpse and maybe a photo or two of some skimmers next time I find myself on the shores of the Caribbean or Atlantic coast.

As much time and energy as I have poured into painting ducks, I am so grateful to have had the honor to draw this year's Companion Species and bring awareness to these amazing birds. Aside from its permanence in the National Archives, the Black Skimmer now has a place in the archives of my heart for migratory

birds. My drawing can be found on the reverse side of the 2022-2023 Federal Duck Stamp featuring Jim Hautman's Redheads. A special cachet with the skimmer drawing and cancelled First Day of Sale stamp on the front can be purchased on the United States Postal Service website, and I plan to offer prints of the drawing. While I am currently wrapping up the final touches on my Duck Stamp entry in my yearly effort to grace the front of the Duck Stamp with my work, I will never forget having the privilege bring light to the message *behind* the stamp and the many species beyond the ducks.



*Rebekah Knight is a wildlife artist and avid photographer. Winner of the Federal Junior Duck Stamp Contest in 2006, she's been drawing and painting since childhood.*

*You can see her art by following her on Instagram @reb.knight.art or visit her website <https://rebekahknight.com/>. Rebekah is a member of the board of the Friends of Migratory Bird/Duck Stamp and lives in Missouri.*

Where to Buy Junior Duck Stamps

According to the Duck Stamp Office, you can purchase Junior Duck Stamps from the United States Postal Service or from Amplex (if you call you should be able to get an individual stamp). Some National Wildlife Refuges have them for sale. You can also purchase a Junior Duck Stamp by sending a check for \$6 made out to USFWS to

Federal Duck Stamp Office  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
5275 Leesburg Pike MS:MB  
Falls Church, VA 22041



The Junior Stamp sells for \$5, and according to U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, is used to "support conservation education at the state and local level. Since the first Junior Duck Stamps went on sale in 1993, well over \$1 million has been raised, which has been re-invested in this unique conservation arts and science education program."

## New Security Feature on 2022-23 Stamp

The 2022-2023 Stamp features an engraved element.

"The part printed in intaglio is part of our security features," Suzanne Fellows, chief of the Federal Duck Stamp Office, told *Linn's Stamp News*. "It is in the water under the drake redhead and says 'DUCKSTAMP22/23.'"

This is the first time an engraved element has been used since 2006.

[More on this story](#) at *Linn's Stamp News*.

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