
The Federal Duck Stamp

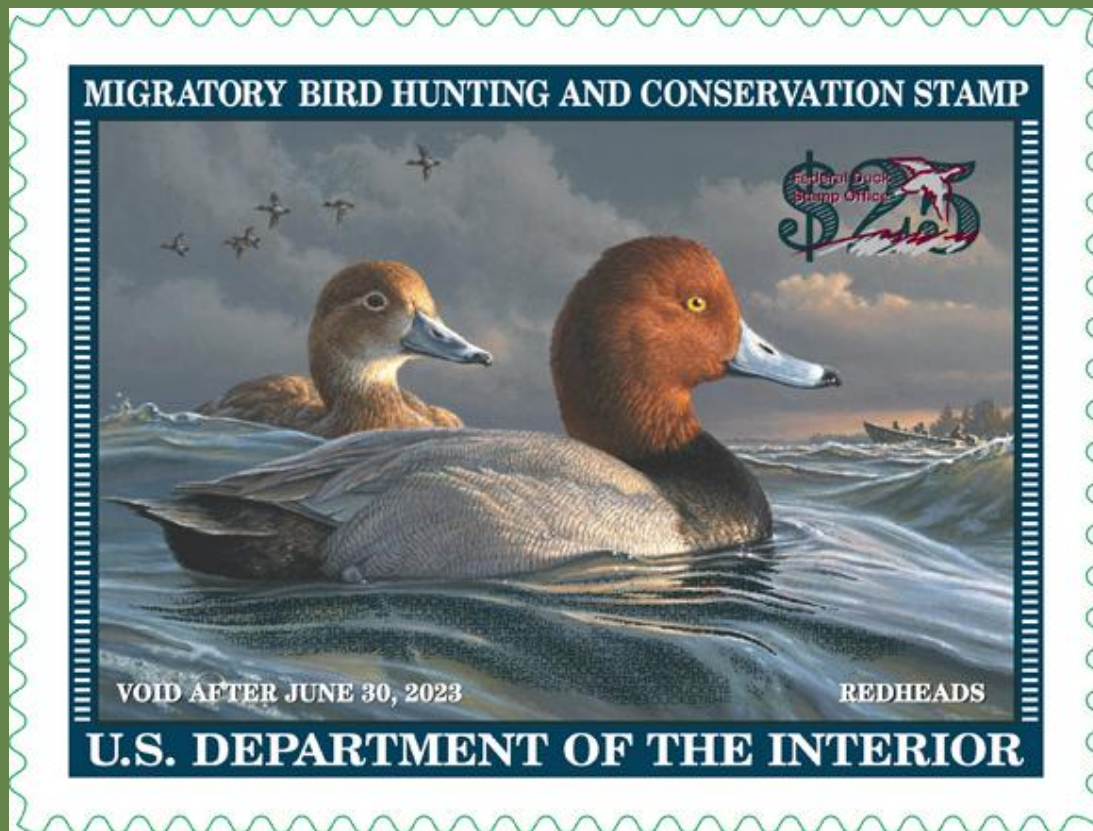
(The Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp)

98% for wildlife

David L. Gorsline, March 2024

What can you do...?

- to contribute to creating more habitat for wildlife
 - as easily as buying postage
 - to be a part of 90 years of wildlife art
 - with a free pass to visit wildlife refuges across the country
 - to earn a one-of-a-kind token of appreciation
 - to show your support for wildlife conservation
 - for the cost of a week's worth of fancy ☕
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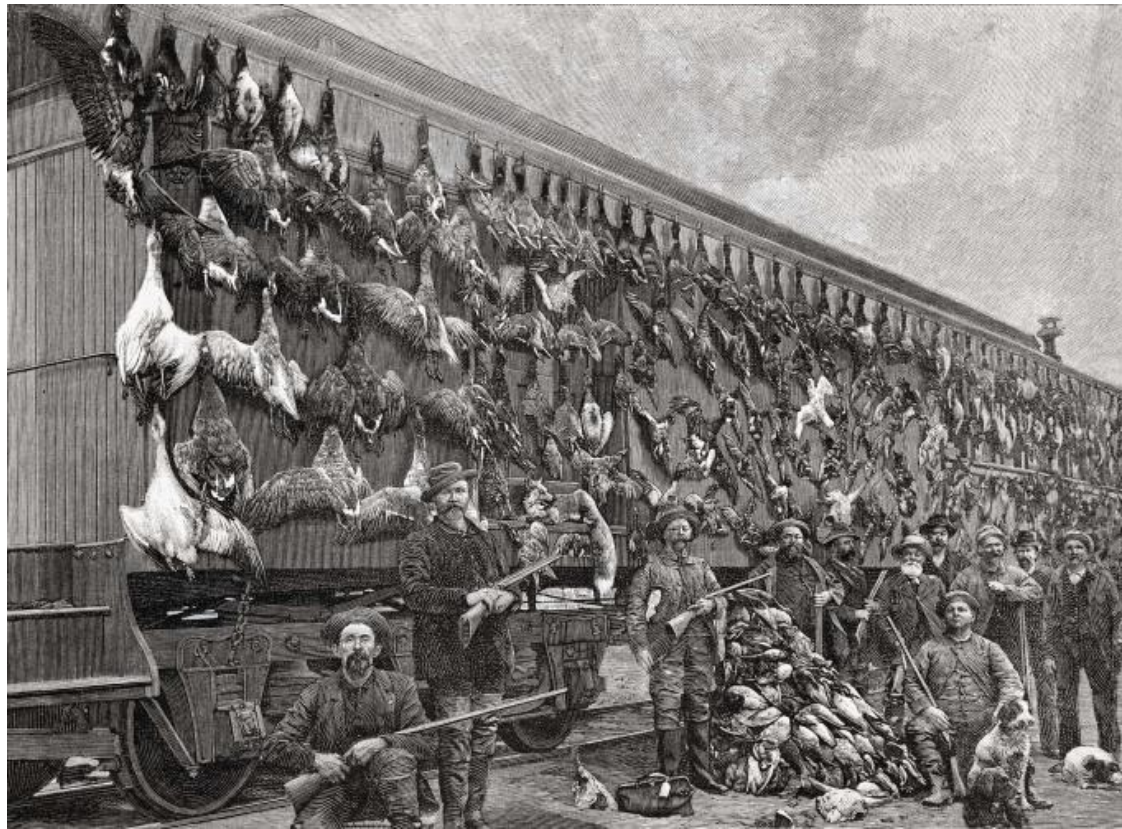


Buy a Duck Stamp!

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- Why is the Duck Stamp important?
 - 90 years of Stamps
 - The art contest
 - Stamp success stories
 - More info and How to buy a Stamp
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Why is the Duck Stamp important?

- Brief history of Federal bird conservation programs
 - Breakdown: Federal public lands
 - The National Wildlife Refuge System
 - The role of the Duck Stamp
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The bad old days: Unregulated market hunting

Federal bird & wildlife conservation

- Lacey Act of 1900
 - 1916: Migratory Bird Treaty
 - 1918: Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA)
 - 1929: Migratory Bird Conservation Act
 - 1934: Migratory Bird Conservation and Hunting Stamp Act (“Duck Stamp Act”)
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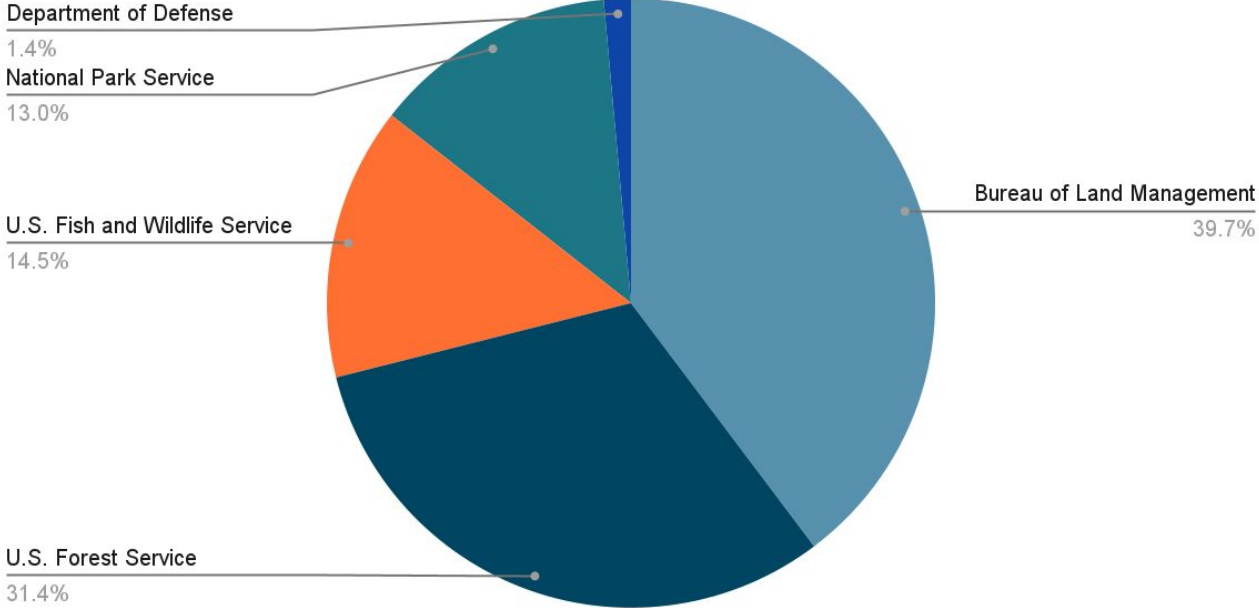
“Ding” Darling selling the first Duck Stamp

Federal bird & wildlife conservation

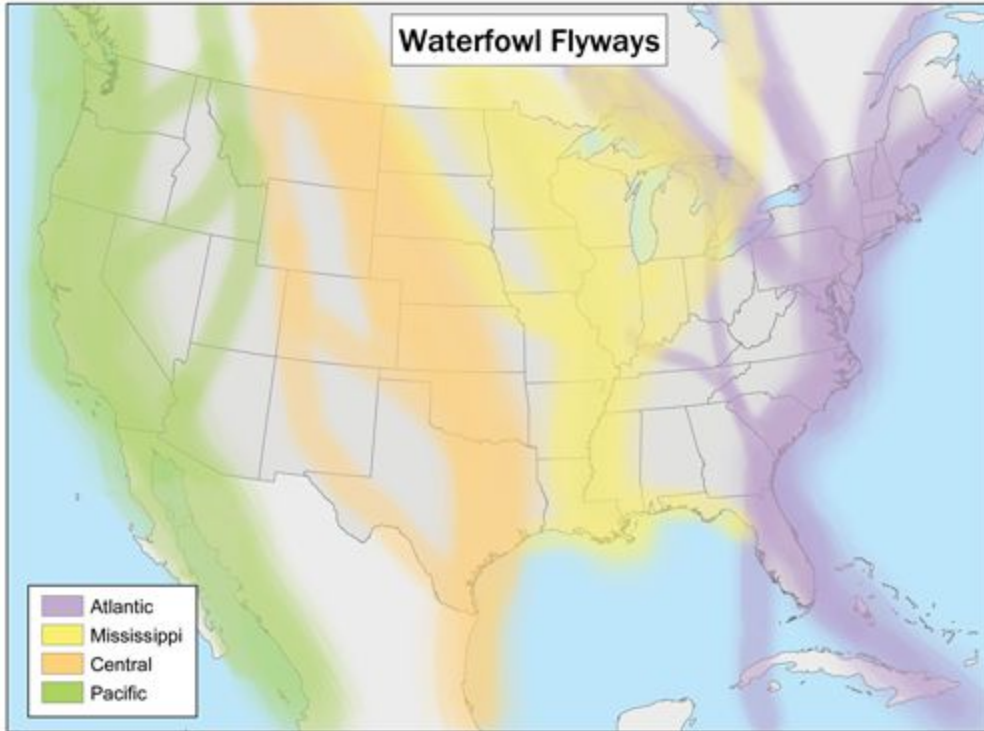
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 - 1916: Migratory Bird Treaty
 - 1918: Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA)
 - 1929: Migratory Bird Conservation Act
 - 1934: Migratory Bird Conservation and Hunting Stamp Act (“Duck Stamp Act”)
 - 1969: National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)
 - 1970: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) organized
 - 1973: Endangered Species Act (ESA)
 - 515 U.S. 687 (1995) affirms meaning of “take”
 - 2021: [FWS revokes short-lived rule](#); prohibits incidental take
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Acreage

Top 5 agencies, 2018



Federal Public Lands



The network of NWRs provides:

- stopover points for migrating birds
 - breeding habitat in the Prairie Pothole Region
 - wintering habitat
-



National Wildlife Refuges in the Lower 48

Not just for ducks

Specific NWRs protect

- Pronghorn (Hart Mountain Natl Antelope Refuge, OR)
 - Florida Panther (Florida Panther NWR)
 - Ocelot (Laguna Atascosa NWR), TX
 - Wyoming Toad (Wyoming Toad Conservation Area)
 - New England Cottontail (Great Thicket NWR), New England, and other refuges
 - California Condor, 3 refuges in CA
 - Watercress Darter (Watercress Darter NWR), AL
-

**I thought we were talking
about stamps**

Follow the money

- A hunter (or other interested person) buys a Stamp for \$25.
 - The money goes directly into the Migratory Bird Conservation Fund (MBCF).
 - The Migratory Bird Conservation Commission (MBCC) spends Fund money to buy, lease or acquire easements for refuges.
 - 98% of that \$25 will expand the National Wildlife Refuge System. 6 million acres and growing!
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	MBCF PURCHASED ACRES	MBCF EASEMENT OR LEASE ACRES	TOTAL ACRES	MBCF PURCHASED AND LEASED/EASEMENT ACRES AS PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL ACRES
NEW MEXICO				
BITTER LAKE	10,753.66	0.00	24,608.64	43.7%
BOSQUE DEL APACHE	56,850.31	0.00	57,331.18	99.2%
LAS VEGAS	8,672.08	0.00	8,672.08	100.0%
MAXWELL	2,791.69	0.00	3,698.59	75.5%
4	79,067.74	0.00	94,310.49	83.8%
NEW YORK				
IROQUOIS	10,757.81	0.00	10,828.06	99.4%
MONTEZUMA	8,612.60	0.00	10,004.58	85.9%
WERTHEIM	188.70	0.00	2,687.79	7.0%
3	19,559.11	0.00	23,520.43	83.2%
NORTH CAROLINA				
CEDAR ISLAND	12,498.77	0.00	14,496.32	86.2%
CURRITUCK	3,762.61	225.76	8,323.89	47.9%
GREAT DISMAL SWAMP	2,790.60	0.00	27,602.40	10.1%
MACKAY ISLAND	6,370.24	0.00	7,385.80	86.2%
MATTAMUSKEET	252.04	0.00	50,173.93	0.5%
PEA ISLAND	5,787.97	0.00	5,834.37	99.2%
PEE DEE	8,438.19	0.75	8,466.60	99.7%
POCOSIN LAKES	12,350.35	0.00	110,106.64	11.2%
ROANOKE RIVER	15,692.43	0.00	20,562.43	76.3%
SWANQUARTER	15,492.76	0.00	16,411.09	94.4%
10	83,435.96	226.51	269,363.47	31.1%
NORTH DAKOTA				
ARDOCH	288.13	0.00	2,696.13	10.7%
ARROWWOOD	2,097.51	0.00	15,942.86	13.2%
CANFIELD LAKE	3.10	0.00	313.23	1.0%
CHASE LAKE	4,449.47	0.00	4,449.47	100.0%
DES LACS	631.63	2.70	19,547.14	3.2%
FLORENCE LAKE	1,468.40	0.00	1,888.20	77.8%
HALF-WAY LAKE	0.00	160.00	160.00	100.0%
HIDDENWOOD	0.00	568.35	568.35	100.0%
HOBART LAKE	236.49	0.00	2,077.10	11.4%
J. CLARK SALYER	21,643.29	50.52	59,354.46	36.5%
LAKE ALICE	8,027.86	8.00	12,095.54	66.4%
LAKE ILO	3,178.30	0.00	4,033.12	78.8%
LAKE NETTIE	2,420.60	0.00	3,054.90	79.2%
LAKE ZAHL	3,178.98	0.00	3,823.19	83.1%
LONG LAKE	12,578.82	217.35	22,498.50	56.9%
LOSTWOOD	3,148.01	0.00	27,588.58	11.4%
MCLEAN	344.00	0.00	760.00	45.3%
SHELL LAKE	710.20	0.00	1,835.10	38.7%
TEWAUKON	6,790.23	0.00	8,363.62	81.2%
UPPER SOURIS	2,939.17	3.76	32,302.25	9.1%

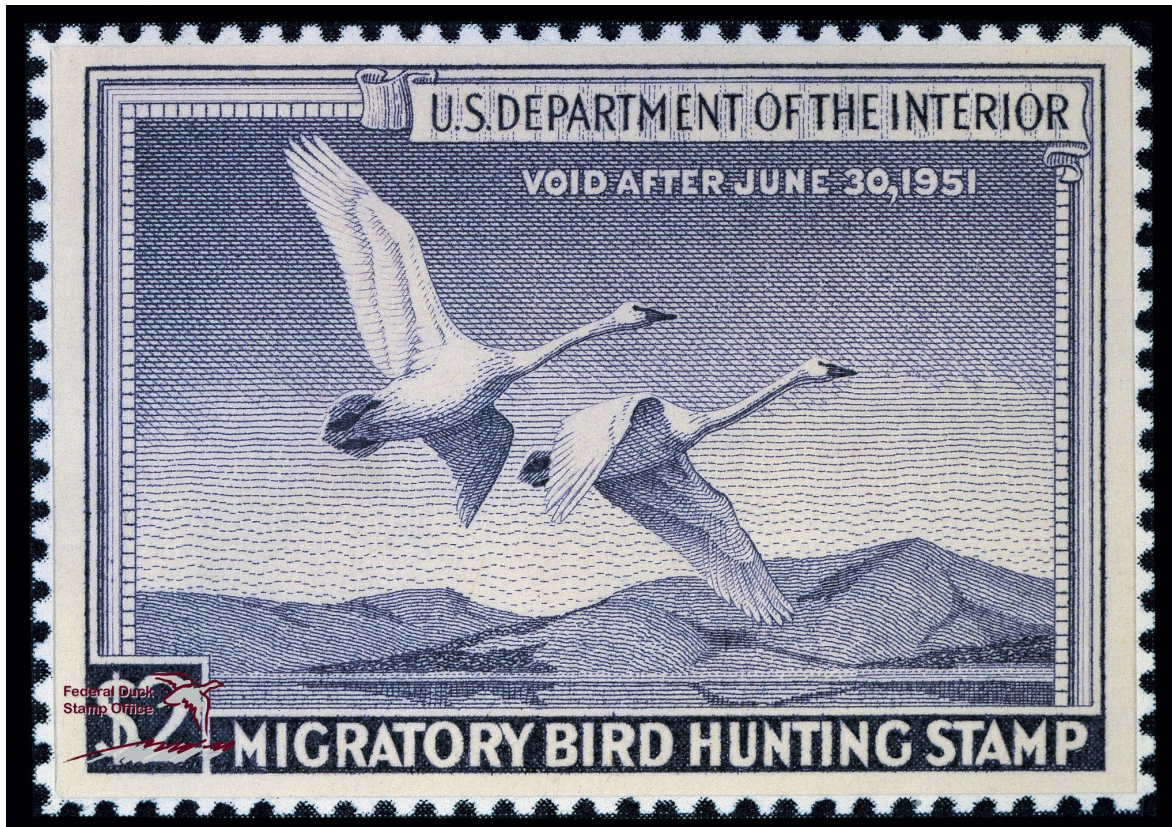
source: USFWS, MBCF REFUGES (as of 9/30/2016) [archived copy](#)



"Ding" Darling, 1934



Bob Hines



Walter A. Weber, 1950



Maynard Reece, 1959



Edward J. Bierly, 1970



Arthur G. Anderson, 1987



James Hautman, 1990

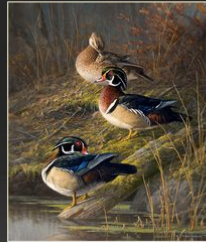
HAUTMAN BROTHERS

• Wildlife Art •



Welcome to the website of award winning artists [Joe](#), [Robert](#), and [Jim Hautman](#).

JIM HAUTMAN



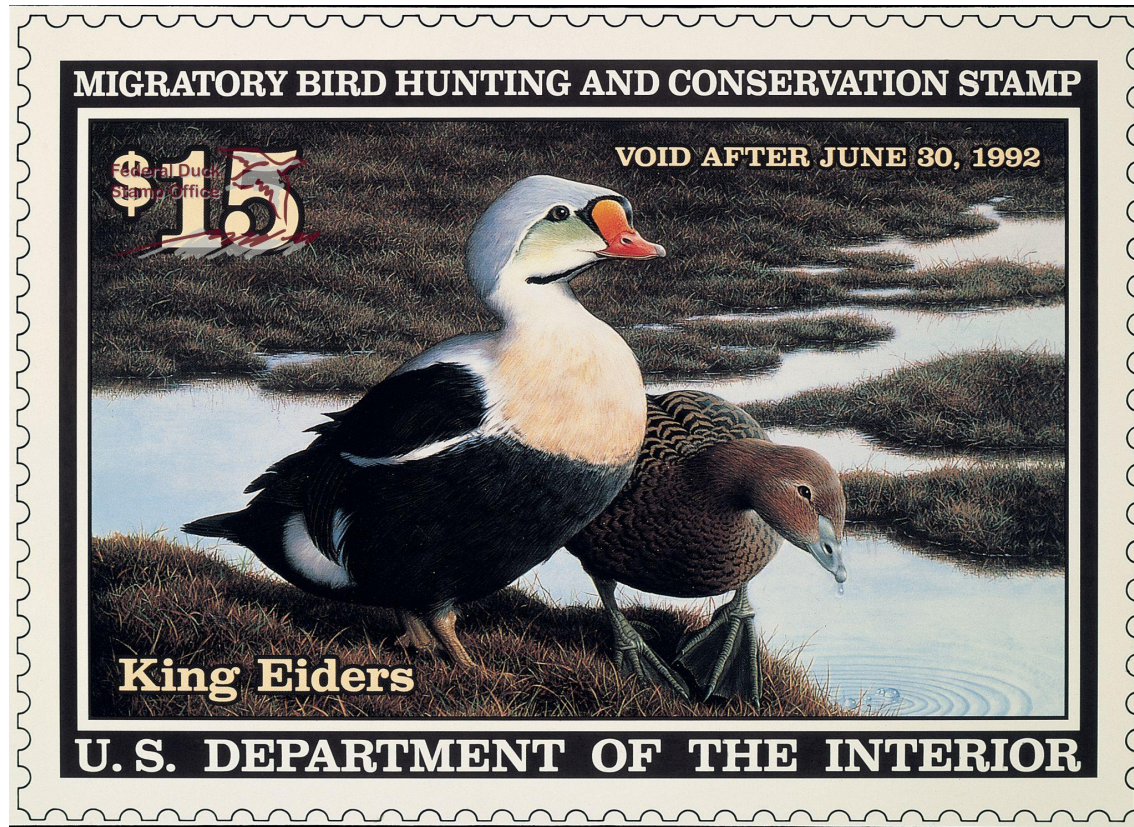
ROBERT HAUTMAN



JOE HAUTMAN



[Hautman Brothers](#)



Nancy Howe, 1991



Robert Steiner, 1998



Richard Clifton, 2007



Scot Storm, 2019

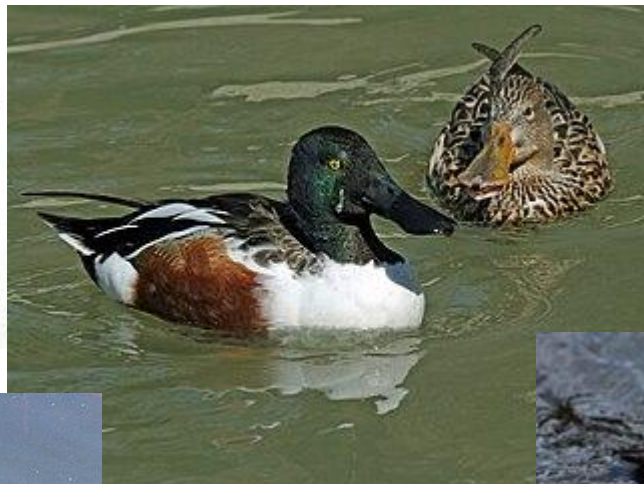




[Junior Duck Stamp contest entries](#) (in part)



Brant



Northern Shoveler

Hooded Merganser



Greater Scaup



Spectacled Eider

Eligible species for 2024 contest



Eddie LeRoy, 2020

David demurs



Public viewing/judging at the contest



A perfect 25

Stamp Success Stories



73.0%

Blackwater NWR, MD



99.2%

Bosque del Apache NWR, NM



Silvio O. Conte National Fish and Wildlife Refuge, NH-VT-MA-CT



20%

Hart Mountain National Antelope Refuge, OR



3800
ac

Merced NWR, CA



3M ac

Prairie Pothole Region, northern Great Plains

More info

- [America's Public Lands Explained](#)
 - [List of National Wildlife Refuges established for endangered species](#)
 - [The Million Dollar Duck \(2016\)](#) documentary
 - [Friends of the Stamp](#) (active ca. 2012-2022)
 - Eric Jay Dolin and Bob Dumaine, *The Duck Stamp Story* (2000) Krause Publications
 - Michael W. Geise, *A Federal Foundation for Wildlife Conservation: The Evolution of the National Wildlife Refuge System, 1920-1968* (2008) Ph.D. diss.
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How & where to buy a Stamp

- [U.S. Postal Service](https://usps.com/), usps.com/
 - search “Federal Duck Stamps”
 - [Amplex](https://duckstamp.com/), duckstamp.com/
 - [American Birding Association](https://www.aba.org/stamp/), www.aba.org/stamp/
 - [All the options](#) from the Duck Stamp Office
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Credits and sources

- Market hunting: American Museum of Natural History via Missouri Dept. of Conservation
- Federal public lands: [Vincent et al., *Federal Land Ownership: Overview and Data*, Congressional Research Service \(2020\)](#)
- Map, Stamp images: USFWS
- Bob Hines: Walter Lauffer
- Velázquez, *Las Meninas* (detail): public domain
- Brant, Greater Scaup: public domain
- Northern Shoveler: [Dick Daniels CC BY-SA 3.0 Deed](#)
- Hooded Merganser: [Footwarrior CC BY-SA 3.0 Deed](#)
- Spectacled Eider: [Olaf Oliviero Riemer CC BY-SA 3.0 Deed](#)
- At the contest: Paul J. Baicich
- Perfect 25: University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point
- Blackwater NWR: John and Karen Hollingsworth
- Sandhill Cranes: John Fowler
- Silvio O. Conte NFWR: David Govatski
- Greater Sage-Grouse: USFWS
- Ross's and Snow Geese: USFWS/Richard Albers
- Prairie Pothole Region: USFWS

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