

## The Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp

Annually, through the Federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation [Duck] Stamp, about \$24 million is collected and spent on securing wetland and grassland habitats.

The story of the stamp is a great one. Since 1934, the sales of Federal Duck Stamps have generated more than \$900 million, which has been used to purchase or lease over 5.5 million acres of waterfowl and wetland habitats in the National Wildlife Refuge System. **Ninety-eight cents of every dollar goes to land acquisition and immediately related costs.**

The National Wildlife Refuge System is America's best kept secret, under-appreciated and underfunded. This system of protected lands covers over 560 National Wildlife Refuges (NWRs) and over 200 Waterfowl Production Areas (WPAs). Of these, 252 NWRs have been created, in part or in whole, through Stamp dollars, and close to 99% of all WPAs have been secured through Stamp dollars. These include refuges from East to West: Monomoy (MA), Okefenokee (GA), Ottawa (OH), Horicon (WI), Santa Ana (TX), Quivira (KS), Bosque del Apache (NM), Sacramento (CA), and Nisqually (WA).



1971-1972 Stamp, showing Cinnamon Teal, by Maynard Reece, had the most sales ever ,2,445,977.

## What You Can Do

- **Purchase your Stamp for this year**
- Purchase one for someone else and tell them about the Stamp
- Join and support the Friends
- Encourage your organization to support the Stamp and Stamp sales
- **Use the resources on our website** [www.friendsofthestamp.org](http://www.friendsofthestamp.org) to learn more about the stamp and promote sales. Download posters, flyers, access Stamp news...
- Show your Stamp on your binoculars in a plastic holder, or stuck to your field guide or binoculars
- Join the mailing list for *Wingtips*, our newsletter, and forward it to fellow supporters of wildlife and habitat conservation
- Visit the Federal Duck Stamp Office website [www.fws.gov/duckstamps/](http://www.fws.gov/duckstamps/)
- For updates on the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission, (they decide how to spend Stamp dollars), visit [www.fws.gov/refuges/realty/mbcc.html](http://www.fws.gov/refuges/realty/mbcc.html)
- Encourage your local schools to engage in the Junior Duck Stamp Program and annual art contest –by visiting [www.fws.gov/juniorduck/](http://www.fws.gov/juniorduck/)
- Join us on Facebook

**Help us spread the word and increase sales!**

*Join and take our pledge!  
Pledge to buy TWO stamps per  
year, as we join with other  
organizations across the country in  
the effort to increase stamp sales  
that benefit habitat conservation!*



## Friends of the Migratory Bird/Duck Stamp

is dedicated to promoting sales of the Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp (commonly called the Duck Stamp) and understanding of the Duck Stamp program.

While outdoor activities, interest in the environment, and U.S. population have all increased over the past few decades, Stamp sales have fallen from a high in the mid-1980s when close to 2 million Stamps were sold.

As a national, independent nonprofit, we encourage all who value our great outdoors to buy Stamps. We bring together a diverse cross-section of those dedicated to supporting the Stamp and the refuge system - hunters and sportsmen, birders, artists, educators, photographers, stamp collectors and others.

Our organization fosters better understanding of the legacy of how this program conserves habitat and builds the National Wildlife Refuge System, benefiting wildlife and natural ecosystems. The Stamp and its associated art contest and education programs are a legacy that must be protected and preserved.

Our website, [www.friendsofthestamp.org](http://www.friendsofthestamp.org), features Stamp news and links, provides resources for promoting sales, a calendar of upcoming events and more.

## Benefits of the Stamp

For everyone who enjoys nature, a migratory bird stamp is a free pass for an entire year to all refuges that charge for admission.

Waterfowl hunters must buy a Stamp in order to hunt waterfowl anywhere in the U.S.

Many refuges across the Lower 48 have been acquired with Stamp funds. Visit our website for a map of these refuges. You can look up what percentage of any refuge was acquired with the help of Stamp funds.

Your purchase supports a tradition of wildlife art. Since 1949, the design of each year's Duck Stamp has been chosen in an open art contest.

The Junior Duck Stamp art contest and education programs reach thousands of children annually.



*The annual Duck Stamp art contest is an American tradition. This photo shows the 1951 contest. Photo from USFWS Digital Archives.*

You can buy the Stamp at many U.S. Post Offices, National Wildlife Refuges, and sporting goods stores or order the Stamp online. Each Stamp currently costs \$15.



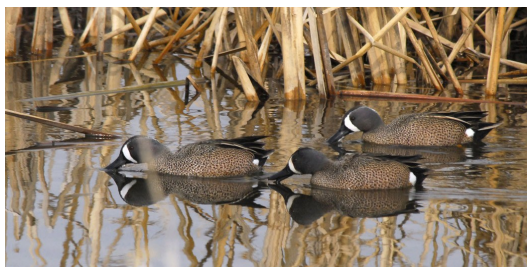
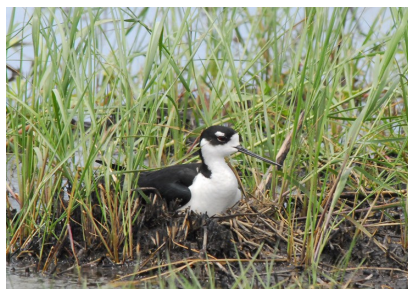
Photo by David Govatski

The purchase of a Stamp is something that benefits scores of species: ducks, shorebirds, long-legged waders, wetland and grassland songbirds and other birds which are dependent on habitat derived from Stamp purchases.

The Stamp also benefits reptiles, amphibians, fish, butterflies, and entire ecosystems; all flourish through stamp investments. Water quality is also improved.

Increasingly, the Stamp is purchased by wildlife and outdoor enthusiasts.

**JOIN US IN  
SECURING  
A FUTURE  
FOR OUR  
WILDLIFE  
AND WILD  
PLACES!**



Black-necked Stilt and Blue-winged Teal.  
Photos by Jim Williams

## Yes! I want to join the Friends of the Migratory Bird/Duck Stamp

- \_\_\_\_\_ Friend—\$15  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Supporting Friend—\$100  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Business/Organization —\$500  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Additional Contribution

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to the Friends of the Migratory Bird/ Duck Stamp and mail to:

Friends of the Migratory Bird/Duck Stamp  
 P.O. Box 2143  
 Columbia, MD 21045

The membership year runs from July 1 to June 30.

\*Contributions are tax-deductible. The Friends is a 501(c)3 organization, and contributions are fully tax-deductible.

Affiliate member, National Wildlife Refuge Association, a national nonprofit working to protect America's wildlife  
[www.refugenet.org](http://www.refugenet.org)

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