



Duck Tracks™

Dedicated to Making a Difference

The Official Journal of the National Duck Stamp Collectors' Society

Spring 2005

Whole No. 42

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Federal Junior Duck Contest

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced that a pair of ring-necked ducks will be featured on the 2005-2006 Junior Duck Stamp. The design for the new stamp, painted by 17 year-old Kerissa Nelson of Grantsburg, Wisconsin, was chosen by a panel of judges on April 23 at the Federal Junior Duck Stamp Design Contest in Ocean City, Maryland.

This is the second year Nelson has entered the Wisconsin Junior Duck Stamp competition. Last year, she was runner-up in her state.

Melissa Chen of Gretna, Louisiana took second place with an oil painting depicting a redhead called "Redhead



The 2005 Federal Junior Contest winner.

on the Delta." The 14 year-old studies art at Greg's Gallery. Greg Chappell is her art teacher.

Third place went to Holly Cobb, of Sandy, Utah, for her rendition of a pair of Cinnamon teal done in colored

Continued on page 24



Second place by Melissa Chen.



Third place by Holly Cobb.

We're looking for a few good members ...

Nominations now being accepted for NDSCS Elections.

All positions are open. If you know of a willing candidate (including yourself), willing to serve the Society, send the nomination to Sec. Tony Monico, P.O. Box 43, Harleysville, PA 19348.

Deadline for nominations is May 31, 2005.

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Member Letters

I have been a Federal Duck Stamp collector for over twenty years, and I have just recently joined your organization. I have a complete collection of Federal Duck Stamps and enjoy the hobby a great deal. Bob Dumaine is my primary contact in the hobby, and I greatly appreciate his friendship.

My only regret is that there is no one I know off in the State of Idaho to share the pleasure I get from the stamps and the enjoyment I receive collecting them. Do you know of any one in Idaho?

The main purpose in writing this memo is to congratulate you and whom ever is responsible for the current web site for its great look, and for all of the information, both past and present, found there.

Thank you for the wonderful web site and for all the great effort that had to go into it!

Pat Casey
pcasey@cableone.net

**Don't miss the First Day Ceremony for the new
Federal and Junior duck stamps.**

10:00 a.m., Thursday, June 30, 2005.

**National Postal Museum
2 Massachusetts Ave., N.E.
Washington, DC 20002**

New Members

New Regular Members

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
N. C. Wildlife Resources Commission	Raleigh, N.C.
Howard L. James	Lake Bluff, Ill.
Johnny Anderson	Georgetown, Texas

New Life Members

Phil Reiland	Lakeville, Minn.
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<u>Membership Type</u>	<u>Active</u>
Charter-Life	29
Life	28
Associate, Charter-Regular, Regular, and Junior	313
Total Active Membership	370

April 29, 2005 Statistics.

NDS-CS Financial

Certificate of Deposit - the total value is now \$15,804.86.

The total in the checking account through March 31, 2005, is \$5,670.90

Duck Tracks™

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Duck Tracks is published by the National Duck Stamp Collectors Society. Subscriptions are included with membership, which is available by writing to the secretary. Submit articles, photographs and advertising materials to the editor.

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Advertising

Duck Tracks display advertising rates for camera-ready copy are:

Full page\$ 100.

Half page\$ 60.

Quarter page\$ 35.

Classified word ads are free to members.

Submit copy to **Duck Tracks** editor.

*President's
Corner*
by Ira Cotton

**Duck Stamps
of Canada**

This issue I'd like to begin to address the rest of the world. By that I mean that most of the focus of my articles have

been on duck stamps and related material of the US federal and state governments. Though duck stamps originated with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the United States has not been the only country to issue such stamps. Let's look at the stamp programs other countries, starting with Canada. I'm not a deep expert in these series, so I want to invite our members who may have more experience to help fill in some of the blanks I'm sure I will leave.

To my knowledge, the first conservation stamps picturing ducks by a government outside the USA were among the prairie provinces conservation stamps, issued in Alberta, Canada in 1942. The second stamp in this series pictured mallard ducks and the fourth stamp pictured, fittingly enough, Canada geese. The other stamps in the series (all 25c values) pictured a pheasant, Hungarian partridge, and (issued in 1943) Chukkar partridge.



Alberta's early Prairie Province stamps.

The only discussion of this series I have seen is contained in Canadian Revenues, Volume Four - The Prairie Provinces by Edward Zaluski (Napean, Ontario: Right Road Printing, 1991, ISBN: 0-921336-04-7). According to Zaluski, "the stated purpose of Alberta's 'Prairie Provinces Conservation' stamps was to promote wildlife research in the Prairie provinces by generating funds through voluntary purchases of these stamps." They were designed and produced by Dr. William Rowan, a noted zoologist at the University of Alberta. Though the stamps were not mandatory nor an official provincial issue, they were evidently distributed through Alberta's game department as a courtesy. Unfortunately, the stamps did not generate much revenue

and the British North American Philatelic Society (BNAPS) eventually remaindered them after Dr. Rowan's death. The stamps are listed in the van Dam Canadian Revenue Stamp Catalog and seem to be an accepted part of Canadian revenue philately.

The next Canadian issues, a pair of duck stamps issued in 1947 and 1948, continued the idea of voluntary contribution by sportsmen. A private Sportsman's Council in British Columbia to raise funds to feed ducks on the province's southern mainland that failed to migrate south sponsored these. According to Zalusky (Vol. 7), though these were not officially issued stamps, the B.C. government did condone such activities by incorporating within the province's 1946 Migratory Bird Act an option for private individuals or groups to feed migratory birds in need.

The first of these issues is a real rarity as individual copies on or off license, and especially as an unbroken booklet pane. The second issue is more common and readily affordable by collectors. After these two issues, the voluntary conservation series was continued with stamps picturing pheasants - though Zalusky gives no indication that the sportsman's group intended to feed hungry pheasants as well!



British Columbia's voluntary stamps.

With these issues, the principle of voluntary stamps (some would call "charity labels") was well established in Canada. The next issue was from the Winnipeg (Manitoba) Game and Fish Association and pictured a Canada goose. Neither Zalusky nor van Dam is able to cite the year it was issued. Lacking any indication of cost, it was evidently a voluntary stamp as well.



In 1964, the province of Alberta began a series of true hunting license stamps that continued through 1998. Among the stamps issued was one for "bird game, which in 1985 was changed to "game bird". From 1989 through 1997 these stamps pictured waterfowl and are collected as

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Secretary's Column

by

**Tony
Monico**

Spring is upon us and it has really sprung here on the East Coast. The returning flocks of mating Canada geese are searching for nesting areas, a pair of mallards have showed up in our neighborhood, and a lone small bird has chosen our house light as a nesting spot - what a pain it is for her since she leaves the nest every time the front door opens! Just think how difficult it would be to pick up and move whenever a threatening noise or movement happens. Lastly, our dog sniffed out a rabbit nest in our flower bed and hopefully didn't cost the baby rabbit its life by placing her scent on the nest. We'll check it out later in the season to see if the baby survived.

On the world news, we witnessed a historic event with the death and election of a new Roman Catholic Pope. As evidenced by the attention and attendance by many of the world leaders, these events captured the attention of more than just those directly affected. We are all experiencing a tough time with the economy still in flux. One thing about my duck stamp collection though - it never fluctuates in beauty and uniqueness - you all can probably say the same thing!

Another tradition that has stood the test of time is the Federal Duck Stamp program; keep up your enthusiasm

and support for this excellent way to preserve wetlands in the U.S. and obtain a magnificent miniature work of art for your collection as well.

The debut for the 2005 Federal Duck Stamp is right around the corner and Mark Anderson will become the reigning champion of the wildlife art contest for the year. As I write this article, the judging for the 2005 Federal Junior Duck Stamp is taking place and the results are presented elsewhere in this issue. As an aside, the Junior Stamps are becoming scarce in the market place and prices seem to be going up, from my collectors point of view.

For those that have access to the Internet, I stumbled across this sub-site of the Federal Duck Stamp Office a few weeks ago and found the Top 25 entries in the 2004 Contest to be overwhelming: fws.gov/duckstamps/federal/results/top25_2004.htm. I also thought that the newly designed FDSO site fws.gov/duckstamps has more information and content than it has had in several years - kudos to the new employees there for their hard work to make this site an interesting stop for collectors.

Check out our web site ndscs.org. Membership renewal by credit card and printing of membership forms for mail-in are available from this site. Our e-commerce affiliate website allows for secure credit card renewals and general donations. We continually try and update the site with useful information so make it a point to check it out at least monthly.

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Hogan named Acting Director of U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service



Interior Secretary Gale Norton has named Matthew Hogan to be acting director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service until a new director is nominated by President Bush and confirmed by the U.S. Senate.

Hogan has served as the Service's deputy director for the past three years. He will assume the duties of FWS Director Steve Williams, who announced his resignation to become president of the Wildlife Management Institute.

"Matt Hogan has played a major role in furthering the

President's commitment to cooperative conservation through partnerships with states, tribes, local communities, conservation groups and others," Norton said. "He will provide continuity and skillful leadership to the Service during the period of transition to a new director."

Before joining the Service in 2002, Hogan, 37, spent four years as conservation policy director of the Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation, serving as a liaison between the hunting, fishing and conservation communities and the Congressional Sportsmen's Caucus.

Prior to that, he was government affairs manager for Safari Club International and legislative director for Congressman Pete Geren of Texas.

Hogan graduated from LeMoyne College in Syracuse, New York in 1990.

Federal Contest – early dates, new location!

Break out the brushes! The Federal Duck Stamp contest dates are set, and they are much earlier than in previous years.

The official date to begin the submission of entries is June 1, 2005. All entries must be postmarked no later than **midnight, Monday, August 15, 2005**.

The public may first view the 2005 Federal Duck Stamp Contest entries on Monday, September 12 and Tuesday, September 13 from 10:00 to 2:00.

Judging will begin at 10:00 on Wednesday, September 14 and end on Thursday, September 15, 2005.

Another big change is that the contest will be held in Memphis, Tennessee at a location to be announced.

The Fish and Wildlife Service hopes that working with Ducks Unlimited (headquartered in Memphis) will garner more visibility for the program.

The eligible species for 2005 include brant, northern shoveler, Ross' goose, ruddy duck and Canada goose.

The entry form is available by calling 703-358-2000 or download at: duckstamps.fws.gov.

The winning artwork will be pictured on RW73, which may become known as "the early duck." In addition to the early contest dates, the first day of issue will be moved to coincide with the Washington 2006 International Stamp Show, scheduled for May 27 to June 3, 2006, in Washington, D.C.

NDSCS Plans presence at Washington Show

WASHINGTON 2006 will host a World Philatelic Exhibition from May 27 to June 3, 2006, in the prestigious new Washington, D.C. Convention Center.

For stamp collectors an exhibition of this magnitude could best be equated to a combined World Series, Super Bowl and World Cup Competition and it is convened in the United States only once every 10 years!

The exhibition will feature a spectacular array of 3,800 display frames containing 60,000 pages from the stamp albums of the world's finest philatelic collections sent by collectors from over 50 countries.

Washington 2006 will additionally host a competitive exhibition of Philatelic Literature and present an exceptional 500-frame Court of Honor.

Philately, defined as the collection and study of postage stamps and related items, is a hobby that crosses all economic boundaries. It is a hobby that transcends age groups and social status, a passion for kids and adults, the pastime of commoners and kings. It is a rich and vibrant part of the cultural heritage of the world as stamps enable communications between people across countries, continents and oceans.

Washington 2006 will also include an international bourse of over 200 dealers in philatelic materials, national and overseas Postal Administrations, the Smithsonian Institution's National Postal Museum, and other government agencies. In addition, because of the crossover among hobbyists, dealers in ephemera, autographs and

manuscripts also are on the bourse, Both the U.S. Postal Service and the U.S. Mint also will play major roles. The exhibition is expected to include daily theme postmarks, special stamp releases and first day ceremonies. Many national and international philatelic societies will conduct meetings, workshops and conventions during the exhibition.

Stamp collections are as diverse as the imagination of collectors and may range from the postal history of the South during the Civil War to the carriage of mail by the famous Pony Express. From the flora and fauna of North America to mail carried by steamships on the Mississippi, history and art are captured in real documents that were part of the daily fabric of an earlier time. Postal history elevates the ordinary to the exceptional when viewed through the microscope of time.

NDSCS Vice President Wes Miller, is exploring the requirements for the society to have a booth at the show. More information will be provided in a future issue. If you plan to attend the show, set aside some time to meet with your fellow duck society members!

Information, as well as the link for hotel reservations can be found at: washington-2006.org or write: Washington 2006, P.O. Box 2006, Ashburn, VA 20146-2006.



Ohio Contest Features another group of stunning artwork

The artwork of a Northern pintail by Ohio native Gregory Clair won first place at the Ohio Wetlands Habitat Stamp design competition.

Clair's painting will appear on the Ohio wetlands stamp in the fall of 2006.

The winning entry was selected from a field of 28 original paintings submitted by artists in 14 states, including 11 entries from Ohio. The competition was held Saturday, February 26, at the annual Ducks Unlimited convention in Wilmington.

This was Clair's second win in the Ohio conservation stamp competition. In 1991, he was the winner with a painting of a greater scaup. He also placed fourth in the federal duck stamp competition in 2004. Clair was the 2005 artist of the year for Ohio Ducks Unlimited.

More than 35,000 wetland stamps are purchased every year, according to the Division of Wildlife. Proceeds from stamp sales help fund vital wetland habitat restoration projects in Ohio. Such habitats are important to many res-

ident wildlife species, including trumpeter swans, wetland birds, amphibians, and numerous migratory species such as ducks and shorebirds.

Second place honors went to Edward Suthoff for his rendering of snow geese. Third place went to Ron Lape for his portrait of wigeons. Semi-finalists included Ron Louque and Jeffrey Klinefelter.



Northern pintail by Gregory Clair



Snow geese by Edward Suthoff



Wigeons by Ron Lape

Minnesota artist wins stamp trifecta!

White-winged scoters will be featured on the 2005 Minnesota Migratory Waterfowl Stamp. The painting by David Chapman of Minnetonka was chosen as the winning design from among 25 entries in the stamp contest.

"I have wanted to win the Minnesota Duck Stamp contest for a long time," said Chapman, who entered his first Duck Stamp contest in 1987.



"I feel very fortunate and lucky. It's been fun and really exciting."

This is the third consecutive stamp contest in which



David Chapman's winning artwork for the 2005 Minnesota waterfowl, pheasant and turkey.

Chapman's artwork has been recognized by contest judges. He also won

the 2005 pheasant and turkey stamp contests. His turkey design was chosen from among 26 entries.

"I am honestly stunned," Chapman said, "It hasn't sunk in yet; I haven't really grasped what I've done. I probably won't until the stamp is made available for purchase and I start selling prints. But I will say, this is getting to be a nice habit."

An artist whose work is selected for a Minnesota fish or wildlife stamp receives no compensation from the DNR, but does retain reproduction and marketing rights.

Chapman is one of only a few artists to win more than one DNR stamp contest in the same year. In addition to his most recent contest wins, his artwork was also featured on the 1992 pheasant stamp and the 2002 wild turkey stamp. Chapman has never won or entered the DNR's trout and salmon stamp contest, but he said he plans on submitting a painting for consideration.

"I have only painted one fish in my life, which was a wall-eye 10 years ago," Chapman recalled. "I've gone this far, I'd like to see if I can make it four in a row to complete the grand slam." Judging for the trout and salmon stamp usually takes place in August.

N.C. Waterfowl Stamp Unveiled at East Carolina Arts Festival

More than 500 wildlife art lovers, outdoors enthusiasts and conservationists gathered at the Washington Civic Center in Beaufort County on Feb. 4, to view the unveiling of the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission's 2005 Waterfowl Stamp and Print portrait. The unveiling was held during a reception and show preview at the 10th Annual East Carolina Wildlife Arts Festival and Duck Carving Championships.

"Green-winged Teal at J. Morgan Futch Game Land," by Pennsylvania artist Gerald Putt, portrays a pair of brilliantly colored green-winged teal at rest on the popular waterfowl impoundment, which is located in Tyrrell County. The acrylic portrait is the fourth in a series of five paintings that reflects waterfowl hunting traditions on Commission-owned game lands and impoundments.

The N.C. Waterfowl Conservation Program

The N.C. Waterfowl Conservation Stamp and Print program, established in 1983 by the Wildlife Commission, generates revenue for waterfowl conservation in the state, including acquiring and improving habitat. Proceeds from the sale of stamps and prints are designated for the Commission's Waterfowl Fund, which has raised more than \$4.2 million since its inception.

J. Morgan Futch Game Land

Located approximately seven miles east of Columbia, J. Morgan Futch Game Land comprises almost 600 acres of habitat suitable for a variety of wildlife: 70 acres of shallow ponds managed for waterfowl, 60 acres of shrub-and-pine forest and 470 acres of diked and impounded agricultural fields.

Green-winged teal, like the ones featured on the stamp, are one of the more populous ducks found on the game land and are joined by significant numbers of other wintering waterfowl, such as wood ducks, mallards, blue-winged teal, black ducks, ring-neck ducks, swans and Canada geese.

The Artist - Gerald Putt

A nationally renowned waterfowl artist for more than 25 years, Gerald Putt enjoys a stellar reputation in the wildlife arts world, having compiled an impressive list of wins in wildlife art stamp competitions. In addition to being selected as North Carolina's duck stamp artist for 2005, he has won Pennsylvania's prestigious duck stamp contest for an unprecedented sixth time.

Putt's realistic portrayals of wildlife and their habitats have earned him Best of Show and People's Choice honors at other wildlife art shows, as well as state and national competitions.

Putt grew up in Boiling Springs, Pa., where a picturesque log building serves as his studio and wildlife gallery. The ducks on the lake in his hometown inspired him at a young age and later became one of his first subjects.

Putt is an avid waterfowl hunter and outdoorsman, often spending hours in the field capturing on film what he later paints on canvas. Although birds are his first love, he is equally adept at artistically representing other game animals, such as the elusive wild turkey, the white-tailed deer and the majestic elk of Yellowstone Park.

The East Carolina Wildlife Arts Festival

The East Carolina Wildlife Arts Festival and North Carolina Decoy Carving Championships are annual highlights for Washington, which sits on the scenic Pamlico River in northeastern North Carolina. The festival is sponsored by the East Carolina Wildfowl Guild, a 70-member group of local carvers and wildlife artists dedicated to providing educational activities associated with wildlife art and the preservation of eastern North Carolina's wildlife heritage.

With its thousands of attendees whose interests lie in the conservation and management of our state's wildlife resources, the festival has been an ideal venue for the Commission's waterfowl stamp unveiling since 1996. Each year, the unveiling occurs during the Friday evening corporate reception amid hundreds of onlookers.

In addition to the more than 100 wildlife art exhibitors, the festival featured many other wildlife-related events, including 11 duck-carving competition divisions, retriever demonstrations, wildlife art and decoy auctions, a children's decoy-painting contest and various waterfowl-calling contests.



Green-winged Teal at J. Morgan Futch Game Land by Gerald Putt.

New Federal Duck Error Certified

by Bob Dumaine

A newly discovered federal duck stamp error on RW57 has the reverse printing directly on the paper instead of over the gum. The stamp has been certified by the PSE as genuine.

Reverse printing was initiated to provide further protection against reuse, as well as a conservation message to hunters.

Beginning with RW13 the message was applied directly to the paper. In 1954, with RW21, the procedure was changed so the reverse writing was placed on top of the gum. The process continues through the issue of 2004. On this stamp, the back inscription was applied prior to the gum application, a reverse in printing procedure.

Certainly one reason for lack of discovery of other examples on mint stamps is the difficulty in determining if the writing is on top of, or beneath the gum.

However, when stamps are soaked to remove from the license, the writing quickly disappears. If a single drop of



The 1990 Federal Duck Stamp, RW57, with printing under the gum.

water hits the gum of a mint stamp's reverse, the writing immediately becomes smeared when printing is on top of the gum as intended. In some cases, a small portion of the writing bleeds through the gum, and "stains" the stamp, but can clearly be detected as not a direct printing on the paper.

A previously discovered error involving the absence of a back inscription is known as RW57a. This error has full gum, but void of any writing on the reverse, and is valued in the Scott Specialized Catalogue at \$375. Several hundred of these errors have been reported.

Bob Dumaine can be reached at: Bob@shduck.com.

Back Inscriptions and their plate number

by Bob Dumaine

A little known thing happened to duck stamps printed from 1946 through 1953. Beginning with RW13 in 1946, reverse writing first appeared on the federal duck stamp. The purpose was to inform hunters of the requirement to sign their stamps in ink on the face, ostensibly to prevent reuse by another hunter.

It was necessary to apply this printing with a press, in this case an offset press, with an accompanying plate number. The writing was applied to these issues directly onto the stamp paper, which was then gummed. The stamp image itself was engraved, requiring a different plate number than the reverse writing, and appears on the front selvage.



RW13 block of six with reverse number

This mysterious plate number used on the RW13 through RW20 issues was #47510. All of these issues for eight years used the same plate to print the back

inscriptions. The number correctly appears on the reverse of the selvage on only one stamp per sheet of 112 stamps. This is position 24 of the upper right pane of 28 stamps.

The obscurity and scarcity of the number, (only one of these exists for every four plate blocks with conventional front selvage numbers) meant most collectors were totally unaware of their existence. The Durland Standard Plate Number Catalog notes their existence, but does not price the plate blocks. The 2005 Scott Specialized Catalog has a footnote over EW13 noting their existence.

Although plate #47510 was used from RW13 through RW20, only RW13 through RW17 have numbers present, while RW18-20 numbers were trimmed off. I have seen one misperforated RW18 which bears about 30% of the number, but no others.

A plate block of this issue would capture the plate number in the center, and be surrounded by two stamps above, one at left, and two on the bottom. Plates should have both right side and bottom selvage attached to be considered full plate blocks.

Recently, an advanced collector asked me about how

continued on page 18

2004 Duck Stamp Issues

Vote for your favorite!

The annual NDSCS poll is now open for voting!

The votes will be tabulated and published in the next issue of *Duck Tracks*.

Here you can view all state, federal, and foreign duck stamps issued in 2004. (Canada provinces not shown.)

Besides allowing NDSCS members the opportunity to choose their favorite, the poll will recognize outstanding duck stamp designs and the artist. It may even encourage some states to improve their programs!

Make your selection for best, worst, add any comments you want!

Deadline for ballots is June 30, 2005.



Alabama
Ring-necked duck by David Sellers.



Alaska
Lesser scaup by Cynthia Fisher.



Arizona
Lesser scaup by S. Russell Meline.



Arkansas
Mallard by Ralph McDonald.



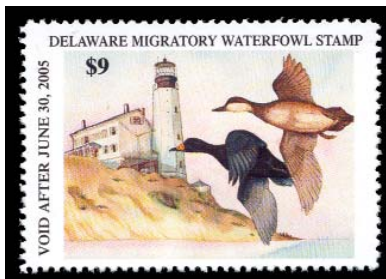
California
Cinnamon teal by Robert Steiner.



Colorado
Snow goose by Jeffrey Klinefelter.



Connecticut
Wood duck by Paul Fusco.



Delaware
Black scoter and Cape Henloren lighthouse by Bonnie Field.



Hawaii
Nene goose by Joy Keown.



Illinois
Wood duck by Gerald Putt.



Indiana
Wood duck by Ken Bucklew.



Iowa
Wood duck by Dietmar Krumrey.



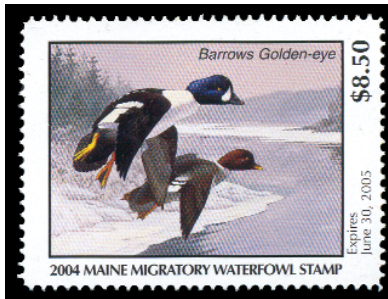
Kansas
Pintail by Dustin Teasley.



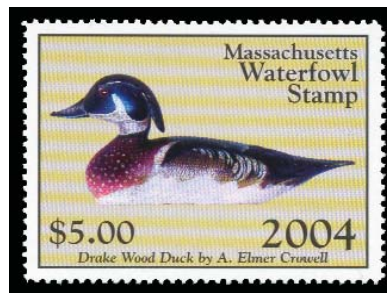
Kentucky
Black duck by Chris Walden.



Louisiana
Hooded merganser by J. Klinefelter.



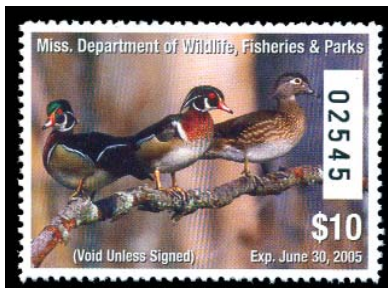
Maine
Barrow's goldeneye by Rick Alley.



Massachusetts
Wood duck by Larry Denton.



Michigan
Wood duck by Tim McDonald.



Mississippi
Wood duck by Joe Mac Hudspeth.



Nevada
Redhead by Louis Frisino.



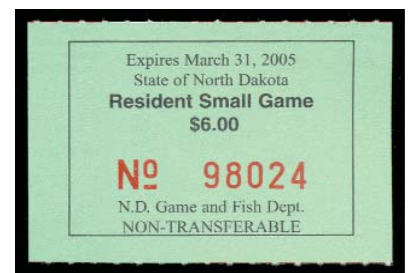
New Hampshire
Wood duck by Lindsey Rothe.



New Jersey
Hooded merganser, yellow lab and decoy by Phillip Crowe.



North Carolina
Mallard by Gerald Putt.



North Dakota



Oklahoma
Mallard by Scot Storm.



Oregon
Ross' goose by Robert Steiner.



Pennsylvania
Hooded merganser by Carl Clark.



Rhode Island
Canvasback by Robert Steiner.



South Carolina
Black lab and pintail by Eddie LeRoy.



Tennessee
Wood duck by Joshua Lester.



Texas
American Goldeneye by Scott and Stuart Gentling.



Vermont
Pintail by Richard Bishop.



Virginia
Am. Goldeneye by Carl Knuth.



Washington
Canada goose by Dan Smith.



Wisconsin
Pintail by Arthur Anderson.



Wyoming
Mountain lion by Dustin VanWechel.



Maryland
Pintail by David Turnbaugh.



South Dakota

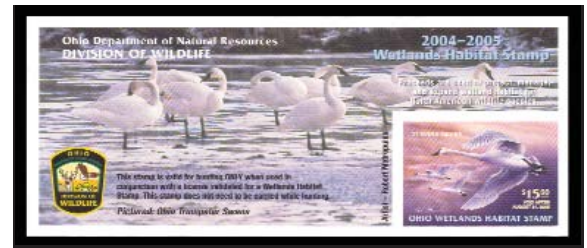
No stamp issued

- Florida
- Georgia
- Idaho
- Missouri
- Montana
- Nebraska*
- New Mexico
- New York
- Utah
- West Virginia

*Nebraska does issue a habitat stamp that is required for waterfowl hunting, similar to the Wyoming stamp that IS considered a duck stamp!



Minnesota
Common Merganser by Scot Storm.



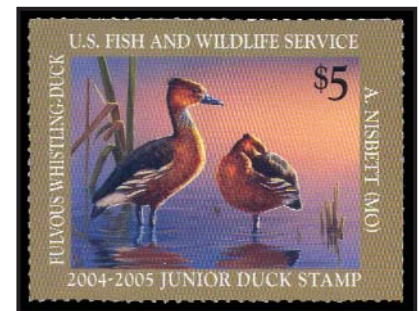
Ohio
Tundra swan by Robert Metropulos.



Federal
Redheads by Scot Storm.



Federal self-adhesive
Redheads by Scot Storm.



Junior
Fulvous whistling duck by Adam Nisbett



Canada
Mallards by Michele Clarkson.



Russia
Red-Billed Shelduck by Yuri Levinovsky.



United Kingdom
Snipe by Darren Rees.

Duck Stamp Ballot

My favorite stamp of 2004 is: _____

My favorite state duck of 2004 is: _____

I think the best 2004 design is: _____

I think the worst 2004 design is: _____

Feel free to comment on any program and we will forward your note to the correct agency.

Mail your ballot to: Rita Dumaine, P.O. Box 820087,
Houston, TX 77282 or e-mail ritadumaine@aol.com Results
will be published in the next edition of *Duck Tracks*.

Name _____
Member # _____
E-mail _____@_____

Without habitat, there is no wildlife. It's that simple!



Mallard Pair



Canvasbacks



Canada Geese



Pintails



Snow Geese



Wood Ducks



Black Duck



Common Eiders



Hooded Merganser



Ross' Geese



Back to the Pond



Golden Eyes



Gadwalls



At one with the morning



Bufflehead



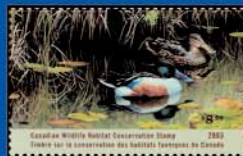
Change of Season



Harlequin



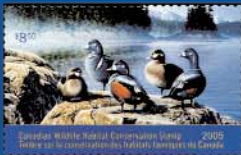
King Eiders



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Presidents Corner continued from page 3

duck stamps (though, according to Beals in his article in this issue, all these "bird" stamps were valid for duck hunting). These are true hunting revenue stamps issued by a government agency and mandatory to validate licenses.



1989 Alberta Game Bird.

In 1985, the federal government of Canada began a series of "Wildlife Habitat Conservation Stamps" that continues to this day. These stamps all picture waterfowl and are Canada's mandatory duck stamps, though it is not clear to me if they are used exclusively on waterfowl hunting licenses - and I would welcome clarification from knowledgeable hunters or collectors.



1985 Canada on license.

With the exception of the first stamp that was issued only as a single stamp sheetlet in a descriptive booklet, all the stamps in the series have been issued both in this booklet format as well as in sheets of 16 subjects. They are an attractive and well-designed and printed series. A copy of the first issue is pictured here on license.

Seeking to combine the success of the Canadian federal series in raising funds for conservation with the earlier background of voluntary stamps in the provinces, various conservation groups soon began issuing colorful non-mandatory wildlife habitat/conservation stamps, some of which have portrayed waterfowl species.

Quebec began its series in 1988, without identification of the sponsoring body. The second issue pictured black ducks, the third pictured common loons, and the third pictured common goldeneyes.



1989 Quebec.

Saskatchewan also began its series in 1988, though these are attributed to the Saskatchewan Wildlife Federation. The first issue pictured American widgeons, the fourth pictured mallards, and the fifth pictured wood ducks.



1990 Pitt Waterfowl.

In 1990, the Pitt (British Columbia) Waterfowl Management Association introduced a series of annual stamps

all picturing waterfowl decoys (reminiscent of the Massachusetts state series in the U.S.). These were issued in miniature sheets of four.

The Nova Scotia Wildlife Federation followed suit in 1992. Also printed in miniature sheets of four, the third issue pictured a wood duck.



1994 Nova Scotia.

The Ontario Federation of Anglers



1996 Ontario.

and Hunters issued its first stamp in 1993 and the fourth issue pictured blue-winged teal. Again, the miniature sheet of four format was used.

The Manitoba Wildlife Federation, the New Brunswick Conservation Fund, and the Newfoundland and Labrador Conservation Fund all followed in 1994. In 1995, a series of stamps titled Atlantic Waterfowl Conservation began. All pictured waterfowl species and neither the sponsor nor province(s) were identified. The Prince Edward Island Wildlife Federation also introduced its stamp series in 1995.

These were followed by stamp series from the Yukon Territories Wildlife Conservation Fund in 1996, the Northwest Territories Conservation Fund in 1997, and the Nunavut Territories Conservation Fund, rounding out the provinces, in 1999.



2000 Nunavut.

All of these provincial stamps are beautifully designed and printed to appeal to conservationists and collectors. To my knowledge, only the Alberta provincial issues are true mandatory license stamps - all the others are voluntary. Some might argue they are so pretty as to be designed solely to separate collectors from their money - which might be true, but they are still collectable, not particularly expensive individually, and all listed in the van Dam Canadian Revenue Catalog.

So north of the U.S. border, we find voluntary forerunners, including a true rarity, mandatory waterfowl license stamps from the federal government and one province, and a highly attractive series of voluntary conservation stamps - some of which picture waterfowl - from all the other provinces. Sounds to me that extending your collecting interests across the border might be worthwhile.

NDSCS Fundraiser



RW46 Remarque

This beautiful remarque on RW46 featuring a yellow lab by Ken Michaelsen has been donated by Society Founder Bob Dumaine.

The remarque will be auctioned as a fundraiser for NDSCS. Bidding on the stamp will close at 6:00 Eastern time on June 15. Beginning bid is \$25, estimate is \$300-\$400. **The opening bid will be posted on the web site NDSCS.ORG.**

Bids should be sent to: Rita Dumaine, P.O. Box 820087, Houston, TX 77282. Bids can also be sent via e-mail to: ritadumaine@aol.com. In the case of a tie, the winning bid will be awarded to the earliest received.

The winner will be notified after June 15. Please include your name, address, telephone and e-mail address when submitting your bid.

Rita Dumaine, Licensed and Bonded Auctioneer. TX #14049

Upcoming Stamp Shows & Events

CALIFORNIA

July 22-24 – ASDA POSTAGE STAMP SHOW
Santa Clara Convention Center, Santa Clara, CA.
e-mail asda@erols.com; 516-759-7000; asdaonline.com.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

June 30 – Federal Duck Stamp First Day of Sale Ceremony
National Postal Museum, Washington, DC.
Federal Duck Stamp Office 703-358-2000; duckstamps.fws.gov.

ILLINOIS

May 27-29 – COMPEX, Forest View Ed. Center, Arlington Hts.
Randall Sherman, shermanrandall@hotmail.com; 773-744-8839.

MICHIGAN

August 4-7 – STAMPSHOW, American Philatelic Society,
DeVos Center, Grand Rapids.
Ken Martin, stampshow@stamps.org; 814-933-3803; stamps.org.

MINNESOTA

July 22-24 – Minnesota Stamp Expo, Crystal Community Ctr., Crystal.
Tom Eckers, teckers@earthlink.net; 763-533-1860;
stampsmnnesota.com.

NEW JERSEY

May 28-30 – NOJEX, Crown Plaza, Meadowlands
Robert G. Rose, rose@pitneyhardin.com; 973-966-8070.

OREGON

May 27-29 – PIPEX, Monarch Hotel, Portland.
Len Lukens, llukens@easystreet.com; 503-254-8303.

SOUTH DAKOTA

July Artist Hometown Event, Sioux Falls
605-367-3055; e-mail markanderson@sio.midco.net;
markandersonwildlife.com

VIRGINIA

June 3-5 – NAPEX, McLean Hilton at Tyson's Corner, McLean.
Stephen L. Shupack, sshupack@rci-us.com; 703-849-8638; napex.org.

WISCONSIN

June 17-19 – National Topical Stamp Show, Four Points Sheraton
Milwaukee. Bob Mather, burrobb@wi.rr.com; 262-968-2392.
americantopicalassn.org.

Plan now to participate!

WANTED

Digital images of interesting duck stamp items.

NDSCS is planning participation in Washington 2006, and we hope to have several screens highlighting duck stamps. Also we would like exhibits of duck stamps. Anyone have digital sound of ducks or duck calls?

In addition, we seek assistance in manning the booth. Three or four hour shifts would really help the cause, but any time you have available would be appreciated.

It is our goal to provide education and information about the fantastic hobby of collecting duck stamps.

If you plan on attending Washington 2006 or have any of the items above, please contact Washington 2006 Chairperson, Wes Miller at 727-215-3998 or e-mail wesmiller3@aol.com.

See you at the big show!



Ron Louque - The Spiritual Duck Stamp Artist

by Wes Miller

In 1988, it was my great pleasure to receive the Virginia First of State duck stamp print by Ron Louque as a gift.

At that time, I had no knowledge of duck stamps. I was really interested in the art work and immediately began to collect duck stamp prints focusing on mallards and works of Ron Louque. The biography included with the Virginia print was the first of many I was to read over the coming years. I soon realized that when collecting prints, one quickly runs out of wall space. That realization instigated my collection of duck stamps. However, I continued to collect Ron Louque prints.

In 1999, I attended my first Federal Duck Stamp Contest. I was immediately intrigued and impressed by everything. The art, venue, judging process, judges and the duck stamp artists and collectors. To this day I have been impressed by every duck stamp artist I have met. The Hautman brothers are all gentlemen and unique in their own individual way. Ernest Simmons from Florida is a very nice gentleman, and Gerald Putt is a fine fellow who I expect will soon be listed among the Federal winners. The enthusiasm of the unpublished artists is refreshing. I am continually amazed how they are willing to help another artist and share their knowledge and technique. The little that I know of duck stamp art has been learned at the Duck Stamp Contest over the past few years.

In 2002, I arrived early on the viewing day and was able to view all the entries almost in solitude. It was almost like being out in the marsh. The quality of the art gave me the feeling of being right among the waterfowl. One pair of snow geese particularly caught my eye. I was convinced that it was painted by Dan Smith. The lighting was so familiar to his 1988 federal work and his 1989 New Jersey

snow geese.

As the crowd arrived, I met old acquaintances and we viewed the entries and again, I gained a wealth of knowledge from my friends. I was

particularly impressed by the knowledge of a tall blond fellow who seem to be able to identify the well published artists at a glance. On occasion he would even point out a particular painting of the artist and explain the unique technique of that artist. I asked him when he saw the "Dan Smith" on the other side of the room to let me know what he thought of that work.

Sitting in a spot where it was easy to observe the "Smith" painting, I watched the crowd stop and ponder over this work. It became apparent this was the popular piece in the contest and I was not alone in my appreciation of this magnificent painting. When the blond fellow passed this piece up without a glance, I had to ask him what he thought of the "Smith" piece. He retorted, "That is not Dan

Smith! That is my entry!." I was quite chagrined when he identified himself as Ron Louque. I told him that I was a big fan and a how I got

into collecting prints and stamps. Ron and I hit off after that and we went through the exhibits again, and I learned an immense amount about brush strokes and technique.

Ron, as he was leaving said he would not be at the judging on the following day because his nerves could not take the judging process. At the end of the next days judging I called Ron and advised him he had made it to the finals and it was still my opinion that he was the winner. I implored him to return to the contest. Ron agreed to return to the final judging. It was my pleasure to be sitting next to Ron Louque when it was announced that he was the winner of the 2003 Federal Duck Stamp Contest. The humility in his acceptance speech is a true and appealing part of his character Ron is a very spiritual person with a profound belief in God.

Since that initial meeting Ron and I have become good friends and continue to stay in contact. In a recent conversation he was lamenting because he had not been able to paint seriously. He said he finally realized that he had been putting other things before God in his life and he could only paint if he put God first in his life.

When one reflects on his 2003 snow geese his spirituality and belief in God shines right off the geese, the water and the clouds, if you allow it.

Wes Miller can be reached at: WesMiller3@aol.com



Ron Louque's winning duck stamp entry.

Delaware duck stamp stars merganser



Three male common mergansers plus the Fenwick Island Lighthouse will adorn the 2005 Delaware duck stamp, the state's 26th issue.

Joanna Rivera of Richland, N.J., won the contest with a softly contrasted painting of common mergansers blazing past an illuminated Fenwick lighthouse. The purple first-place ribbon assigned to her creation came with a \$2,500 prize.

Rivera, who won an honorable mention in last year's contest, is a long-time wildlife and landscape artist but has only been entering stamp design contests, including the Federal Duck Stamp Contest, for two years.

"This is my first win and I am thrilled," she said. "Especially since it was so hard to find photographic references of common mergansers to study."

This marks the second year to combine ducks and historic lighthouses. The merganser is described by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as usually among the first to head north in spring, and the last to migrate south in fall.

The stamps are required in Delaware when hunting migratory waterfowl species. They stamps go on sale July 1.

Black lab on 2005 Arkansas



Larry Chandler has been commissioned to design the 2005 Arkansas Duck stamp.

SC celebrates 25 years of duck stamps



South Carolina's 25th anniversary duck stamp will feature the work of wildlife artist Rodney Huckaby, making him the only four-time winner of the annual competition.

Huckaby's painting of a pair of canvasback ducks flying over the ocean with a shrimp boat pulling its trawl nets in the background was judged the winner of South Carolina's 25th annual State Duck Stamp Contest.

Huckaby, 56, said he painted the canvasback ducks in a position that he had seen some geese flying in while watching a television program on waterfowl migrations. "I had a picture taken at the beach a few years ago of a shrimp boat, and I thought that looked like South Carolina," Huckaby said. "I had a picture of the ocean with the light like that, and I had painted canvasbacks three or four times before for duck stamp competitions, so I kind of know what they look like."

Huckaby previously won the South Carolina duck stamp contest in 1995, 1997 and 2002. His 2002 painting featured a pair of wigeons flying over a South Carolina coastal scene with a chocolate lab superimposed on the left half of the picture. That was Huckaby's first attempt at painting a dog. At the time, he noted that the top two or three entries in recent years had featured dogs, "so I decided just to give it a try." Currently he is trying some other wildlife art and said he is working on a painting of an elephant.

Other top winners in the duck stamp competition were: second place Ron Kleiber and Eddie LeRoy (tie); third place Ronnie Hughes, and fourth place Jim Hublick. Honorable mentions include: Jeffrey Klinefelter; Darrell Sauerer; Michael Ashmen; Dianna Pelfrey; Donnie Hughes; Susan Hearting; Richard Benson; Charles Weidemann; Stephen Snyder; Jerome Hageman; and Everett Hatcher.

Secretary's column con't from page 4

Calling all Dealer Members - placing your dealer information on the society website is FREE and only requires you be a current member of the society. Checkout the dealer page for your current listing and send any updates to the Society e-mail address (ndscs@hwc.org) or by hard-copy to the Society mailing address. Our webmaster will get your listing updated to reflect your input.

Calling all Artists Members - you should also check the society website for our Duck Stamp Artists links page - get your website linked to ours for FREE and let our members see and learn more about you. There are several interesting sites already linked for member references.

Society membership business:

Your *Duck Tracks* mailing label is the key to your membership expiration date (Expires: Month Year). Using your mailing label as a guide, jot your membership number on your check and save the society time and money by renewing as soon as possible. The society also accepts Visa and MasterCard for renewal by using our on-line e-commerce site powered by BigStep.Com:

ndscs.bigstep.com

A reminder ... your dues are **TAX DEDUCTIBLE!**

All memberships that have a label note of Expires: April 2005 or earlier are now past due! The July 2005 renewals are next up for renewal. Please renew your membership as soon as possible to risk missing the next society newsletter or e-mail information message.

The Membership Summary Table provides the details on the current membership by type. The mailing labels used

for this issue of *Duck Tracks* were generated around April 30, 2005. All membership renewals received through that date are reflected on the mailing labels. If you feel there is something wrong with your membership expiration date, drop me a quick note and we will resolve it quickly. If your renewal arrived after that time, accept our apology and the next mailing should reflect your update.

The recent Whole #41 *Duck Tracks* mailing seems to have had a very small number of postal address changes. Please continue to let us know when you move or change mailing addresses so your copy of *Duck Tracks* and any other society mailings can follow along with you without interruption.

We continue to build our e-mail mailing list for society use only. If you want to receive timely electronic messages sent by the society, please keep your e-mail address up-to-date as well so this time sensitive information gets to you before it gets too old. E-mail your address changes to ndscs@hwc.org. We keep the mailing list secure, so don't hesitate to sign up. Also, note that the NDSCS does not sell our mailing list or e-mail list to anyone! Your information is used to only send duck stamp information and society mailings to you.

Lastly, I could not close my column without wishing congratulations and best wishes to a fellow board member for many years - Larry Wolfe, our treasurer, who as of this writing has retired from his position with the U.S. government. Happy Trails bucko!

Tony Monico can be reached at: TMonico@comcast.net

Reverse number continued from page 8

many of these plate blocks existed. It is a good question, and I have no factual idea, but after 30 years of dealing with duck stamps, my feeling is they are as scarce as some of the early duck plate blocks.

Regarding value, several auctions have offered these items, with mixed results, generally in the range of \$425-\$700. Relative to their scarcity, they should be bringing prices in the \$2,500 range, but due to many collectors not understanding exactly what these items are; they go relatively unchallenged in the bidding process. An oddity is reverse plate number singles fetch prices in the \$250 area, making plates a bargain.

The other possibility is collectors simply do not care about the plate number printed on the reverse. To observe it, one must mount the item gum side showing, a rather

dull presentation. Owning all six possibilities, RW13-18, would mean all six plates mounted with gum side showing.

My gut feeling is they are not more popular since they are unlisted in Scott, and are not included in their duck stamp plate block album. Many collectors often tend to fill spaces in an album, rather than mess up the balance of the overall collection. Of course, blank pages were made expressly for this purpose, and give a collection pizzazz.

FYI - The Spectacled Eider

Spectacled eiders, which are a threatened species, spend the winter in the middle of the Bering Sea.

They are often found in large flocks in small openings in otherwise continuous sea ice.

The locations of these wintering

birds were just discovered in the late 1990s.

Researchers in Alaska believe that most, if not all, of the world's population of spectacled eiders spend late winter in these openings in the northern Bering Sea.

Graded stamps bring huge prices!

Hancock April 11, 2005 Sale Results



RW1 - Sold for \$2,300.



RW1 - Sold for \$1,250.



RW4 - Sold for \$3,600.



RW6 - Sold for \$2,600.

By Bob Dumaine

There was an auction April 11, 2005, in Beverly Hills, California, of nearly 100% PSE certified and graded stamps, including ducks.

As an active dealer and buyer, I often bid in auctions everywhere to obtain a supply of stamps. In this sale, my total bids exceeded \$85,000, and I must report that I was a bit apprehensive about how much I would win. No problem: I did not win a single lot!

The prices were truly shocking.

Many buyers and dealers were stunned by the level of bidding and prices realized. For example, Lot 550, a Scott #519, a 2c NH, grade 98 stamp cataloging \$850 was estimated at \$2,000-3,000 and sold for \$10,500! The price does not include the 10% buyer's fee.

Now to the ducks: A nice RW1, grade 95 NH brought \$2,300, with a horizontal gum bend mentioned, and a visible paper inclusion in the reeds at right, the later not mentioned on the certificate. Another, graded one click down at XF 90, brought \$1,250. Here's a biggie: Lot 733, an RW4 single grade 98 NH with a catalog value of \$300

brought \$3,600, while a F-VF NH RW4 plate block of six fetched only \$1,650.

RW6, Lot 736, was a hot item as well, with a Superb 98 plate number single bringing \$2,000, followed by Lot 737, a plain Superb 98 single that brought \$2,600! Yes, that's correct; \$2,600 for a stamp that catalogs \$250! And add the 10% buyer's fee as well ...

This sale shows the value of high-quality certified and graded stamps. Buyers are willing to pay top dollar for truly top material.

If you would like more details and a **FREE** copy of the PSE's grading guide and Quarterly SMQ price estimates by grade, send your request plus a 6" x 9" postpaid envelope with \$2.21 postage to: PSE, P.O. Box 6170, Newport Beach, CA 92705. Please mention that you read about it in *Duck Tracks!*

Stay up to date!

Register your e-mail address and receive current news, an advance copy of *Duck Tracks* (in full color) and much more!

Sign up at: NDESCS.org or e-mail your request to: ndscs@hwc.org.

WANTED!

The National Duck Stamp Collectors Society seeks a qualified newsletter editor!

NDESCS seeks a candidate to handle the quarterly editing and composition of the newsletter.

Interested parties are encouraged to submit a sample of your work to Dr. Ira Cotton, 9939 Broadmoor Rd, Omaha, NE 68114. E-mail Cotton@Novia.net. Please include any compensation requirements with submission - volunteers happily accepted!

Virginia legitimatizes the duck stamp

Virginia Ducks Unlimited is pleased to announce the passing of legislation that will make the duck stamp mandatory for Virginia hunters. The Virginia duck stamp has been a voluntary purchase since it was first issued in 1988.

With this legislation, the price of the stamp will increase to \$9.75 per stamp. All net proceeds will go into a special fund limited to waterfowl research and enhancement and will be divided equally between the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries and not-for-profit organizations for work in Virginia.

The stamp will be required for hunting beginning in 2005. The legislation requires the stamp to be carried by the hunter, however, there will be provisions for the "stamp" to be purchased by telephone or the Internet. The purchaser will receive a code indicating that a stamp has been purchased that will be acceptable for the Game Warden until an authentic stamp is received by mail for the purchaser to attach to their hunting license. Virginia Ducks Unlimited is working with the game department to enable collectors and dealers to acquire stamps and prints as they have since Ducks Unlimited began managing the program in 2000.

Virginia DU envisions two additional stamp formats, a booklet strip for distribution by a fulfillment agent (for telephone and Internet sales) and another booklet format with a stub for hunter contact information.

The 2005 stamp will picture a wood duck pair by artist Guy Crittenden. Stamps are normally available July 1.



Wood ducks will be pictured on the 2005 Virginia stamp.

Goebel wins Md contest

Wilhelm Goebel took home top honors for the second time at the 31st Annual Maryland Migratory Game Bird Stamp Design Contest with his painting of a ruddy duck. His work was selected from a field of 36 entries.



Goebel's winning design for the 2005 Maryland duck stamp

Goebel's work is well known in wildlife circles. Born in New Jersey, his talents as a world-class wildlife artist are supported by his selection as a winning artist in duck, trout and conservation stamp contests in many different states. In 1997, his surf scoters won the highly coveted Federal Duck Stamp Competition. In 2001, he won his first Maryland Migratory Game Bird Stamp contest with a pair of wigeon springing skyward from a cattail marsh.

In addition to his past success in the Federal Duck Stamp Competition, his most prestigious awards include Ducks Unlimited's International Artist of the Year, the National Wild Turkey Federation's Artist of the Year and Stamp Print Artist of the Year, and Maryland's Grand National Waterfowl Association's Artist of the Year. His artwork has benefited wildlife through organizations such as Pheasants Forever, Quail Unlimited, Ducks Unlimited, Wildlife Forever and the National Wild Turkey Federation. A solo exhibition of his work was held this past summer at the Ward Museum of Wildlife Art in Salisbury, Maryland.

The Maryland Migratory Game Bird Stamp Design Contest, the fourth oldest in the United States, has showcased the talents of Maryland's artists since 1974. The contest serves as the selection mechanism for the Maryland Duck Stamp which is a required purchase by all those who hunt migratory game birds in Maryland (hunters are reminded that they are no longer required to sign and attach the stamp to their license). The stamps are also highly coveted by stamp enthusiasts worldwide. Proceeds from the sale of the stamps have generated over \$4 million to create and improve habitats and conduct valuable wildlife research.

Prints of the winning entry will be available later this year and purchased directly through Mr. Goebel at wjgoebel@intercom.net or call 410-749-9564.

Alberta Wildlife Stamps

by Rog Beals

The province of Alberta has issued Wildlife Certificate stamps since 1964. The local offices of the Fish and Wildlife Department sell these stamps. At the end of the season, all of the remainder stamps are supposed to be returned to the head office, along with the number sold. Following this, the remainders are destroyed. The series was continuous until the 1998 season, when they switched to computer-generated licenses, which eliminated the need for stamps.

On October 10, 1987, K. Bileski ran an ad in *Stamp Collector* and had a similar ad in the *American Philatelist*. In these ads he wrote about the Alberta wildlife stamps. He indicated that completion of this series would be impossible, and also indicated that this material was very scarce and seldom came on the market.

E.S.J. van Dam, a dealer in Canadian revenues, has compiled and printed the only catalog listing of these stamps. His Canadian Revenue catalog of 1984 was the first cataloging of the Alberta wildlife stamps. He has included them in his revenue catalogs since that time. No retail values are given. It is very difficult to place a retail value on these stamps, since so few of them change hands. Most dealers use some multiple of the face value of the stamps to determine a price for the stamp. Scarcity of the stamp is a factor also. The Alberta stamps were sold one at a time to be included on the wildlife certificate issued to the hunter for that year.

Van Dam's catalog states: "These Alberta hunting stamps have been issued since 1964. Prior to 1970, the stamps bore no date, but show a date from 1970 on. Albertans were charged a lower rate than non-residents and there are separate stamps for each residency category with detail changing from year to year."



1964 Bird game

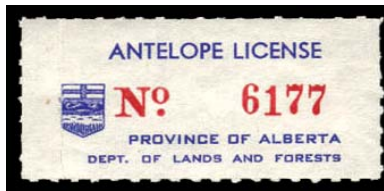
It was issued every year until the series ended in 1998.

In 1965, a Big Game non-resident alien stamp cost \$150. This would only be a small portion of the total

expense of a hunter's trip. What happens to the stamp? Many times it is destroyed, or it could go home with the hunter. Another possibility would be for the guide to ask for the stamps. It is easy to understand why these stamps are so difficult to locate.

Very few articles have been written concerning these Alberta hunting stamps. Early articles in the *BNA Topics* provide some information. Different members from the Canadian Revenue Study Group have written these articles. The best source of information and primarily the only one is van Dam's *Canadian Revenue Catalog*.

The first article by Ed Richardson, a member of the CRSG, was published in the January 1966 issue of *BNA Topics*. This article dealt with the first year of issue (1964). Van Dam lists thirteen issues for this year and this article listed eleven of them, omitting only the antelope and the spring bear stamps. The article mentioned that the only stamp seen at that time was the \$2.50 resident game bird stamp and they stated that they did not know if a new series would be issued each year.

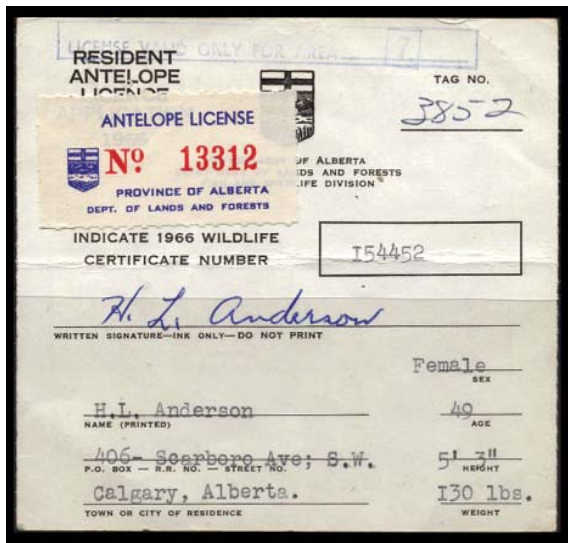


Antelope stamp

In the October 1967 issue of *BNA Topics* an article was written on the special antelope stamps that were issued for three years only (1964-66). This article stated: "An antelope license has been issued for 1964, 1965 and 1966 on the following basis: An application made by an indeterminate number of hunters and a special number is drawn each year for each of the seven districts. The application is stamped with a white stamp with blue lettering and Crest and a red serial number. It is 53½ mm by 25 mm in size and rouletted seven. The stamps apparently come from a booklet or straight edged sheet and appear to be the same for each year. The applications are hand stamped in blue 'License Valid Only for Area _____' and then further hand stamped in blue and black with numbers 1 to 7 depending on the district issued."



1965 Big game NR alien



Antelope on license

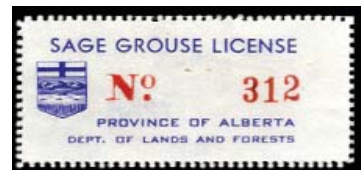
Alberta - continued from page 20

I have seen only eight of these stamps, six of which are on license. The stamps are not dated for these three years of issue, so can only be identified for a specific year, if they are on a dated license. The government that produced and issued these stamps does not have a file of back issues, so it is difficult to know how many stamps have been issued.

Sage grouse stamps were issued for two years only, 1967 and 1968. Ian McTaggart Cowan's article gives the numbers of stamps issued for residents of Alberta. In 1968, 408 sage grouse stamps were issued and in 1967, 220 were issued. I have only seen one of these stamps. No date is printed on the stamp, but 1968 is penciled on the back. The only sure way to identify the year would be to have the stamp on license.

Goat stamps were issued to Alberta residents for fourteen years. A total of 649 stamps were issued, which is approximately an average of 46 stamps per year. No doubt most of these stamps were destroyed, so it is easy to see how difficult some of these stamps are to find.

In an article in the May/June 1989 issue of *BNA Topics*, Ian McTaggart Cowan provides a table listing the number of species license stamps issued. This table is most valuable in trying to determine the scarcity of these stamps. If you send me your name and address, I will forward a photocopy of the table. Rog Beals, 45206 Liberty Lane, Henning, MN 56551.



Sage grouse



Goat stamp

In the year 1967, a special moose and bear stamp was issued for the first time. The April 1969 *BNA Topics* contained a short article on these stamps under the Canadian Revenue Study Group. The article stated: "A special moose and bear stamp was issued for the first time. It carried only the word: SPECIAL, but entitled the hunter to kill a moose and a black bear. This attracted a great number of hunters to Alberta. It was reported that over 3,000 moose were taken on these licenses. It is doubtful if the Game Department will issue such a license again for some time."



1976 Special Moose & Bear

In 1973, Alberta issued a Resource Development Stamp. Anyone who hunted in the province was required to purchase one of these stamps. The first stamp was an adhesive stamp that was applied to the license. Beginning in 1974, the stamp was printed directly onto the license, which essentially makes it an imperforate stamp without gum. This continued through the year 1984.



Resource Development Stamp

An article in the Nov/Dec 1987 issue of *BNA Topics* states: "In addition to the stamps printed onto the license, 1985 saw an innovation as the Resource Development stamp was issued also as a separate adhesive. It is the size of the other Alberta wildlife stamps of recent years, i.e. 60 mm x 28 mm, and is perforated 14 x 14. Its face value is \$5 and the colour green. One stamp serves all three categories of users: resident, non-resident and non-resident alien." The purpose of issuing a separate stamp was to encourage non-hunters to buy these stamps and thereby contribute to the wildlife conservation fund.

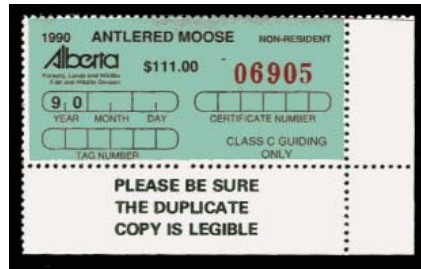
The province of Alberta had a very long running series of hunting stamps from 1964-1998. Some issues had extremely small printings with averages of stamps printed per year as low as 46 stamps and several other issues around 3,300 to 4,000 stamps.

Most dealers involved in Alberta wildlife stamps state that Alberta mint stamps do not exist. In a letter from K. Bileski, dated July 14, 1987, he states the following about mint stamps. "As far as is known, none are for sale

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to collectors: no mint exist as all remainders are destroyed at the end of each year. Also, I have a suspicion no collector could buy such high-powered stamps ostensibly as if he was going to hunt the game. To get any of the \$1,750 worth, he would have to be a non-Canadian. The stamps are sold one at a time for inclusion on a special certificate. The people in charge would never permit him eleven different game animals.”



1990 mint stamp

There have been two known exceptions to this, one being the year 1990. Various mint stamps have been on the market for this year, both resident and non-resi-

dent. Prices were well below face value, which indicates a low demand for mint stamps. Since the year 1990 seems to have been only one of two different years that mint stamps have been available, it indicates that there must have been a “leak” in the system.

The second group of mint stamps came from the year 1971. Twenty-eight stamps (nearly a complete set) were

available for purchase for \$1,199 (Canadian dollars). Several sets of these were sold in 2003.

One of the problems in collecting these issues is that the material is so difficult to locate, that collectors become discouraged and switch to collecting other areas. The wildlife certificates are either large or else bulky, so finding stamps on the certificates is also very difficult. So it makes it hard to find trading partners. On the other hand, if you enjoy a tough challenge, then the Alberta wildlife stamps could be for you!

References

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 BNA Topics, Vol. 23, No. 1, January 1966, Canadian Revenue Study Group News, (Ed Richardson)
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 Canadian Revenue Newsletter, No. 9, 1995
 BNA Topics, Vol. 44, No. 6, Nov/Dec 1987, Ian McTaggart Cowan
 Alberta Hunting Regulations and Stamps, Canadian Revenue Newsletter, October 1995
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 Correspondence from K. Bileski, 1987

Mr. Beals is a collector, exhibitor and trader of wildlife and conservation stamps.

Nebraska authorizes Waterfowl stamp

Good news for collectors from the State of Nebraska.

Nebraska legislature just recently passed Legislative Bill 162 (LB162) which authorizes a Nebraska State Waterfowl Stamp. You may recall that for a short period of time in the 1990s Nebraska had a voluntary waterfowl stamp. The program was never very successful and was dropped after just a few years. LB162 authorizes a MANDATORY stamp and Nebraska now joins the 40 other states with a stamp.

Details are yet to be worked out for the stamp (paper stamp, electronic or both) and whether or not there will be prints, but the good news is that at last Nebraska will finally have a mandatory state stamp.

NDSOS urges collectors to contact Nebraska and encourage them to go with a printed stamp for collectors. Address your correspondence to: Mr. Randy Stutheit, Wetland/Wildlife Biologist, NE Game & Parks Commission, 2200 N. 33rd Street, Lincoln, NE 68503, www.ngpc.state.ne.us. E-mail - rstuth@ngpc.state.ne.us.

Classified Ads

- **Collector seeks fish and game stamps, licenses, e.g.,** CA 2000 resident sport upgrade, abalone, ocean enhancement, striped bass, 2nd rod; CO 2003 2nd day/2nd rod. Many others wanted, including your clean 2004 license. I. Cotton, 9939 Broadmoor Rd., Omaha, NE 68114. E-mail Cotton@Novia.net
- **Discount prints, frames, stamps and more!** Duck stamps for collectors and framed duck stamp prints, also Ducks Unlimited items and stamp mats for your collection. All on our web site - **DuckStampCity.com**.
- **Everything for your duck stamp collection!** Find it all at: **shduck.com**.

Remember - classified ads are free for all members!

Junior winner continued from page 1

pencil. Holly's teacher is Doug Allen of Alta High School.

For her first place finish, Ms. Nelson will win a \$5,000 cash award, a free trip to Washington, D.C. to attend the First Day Ceremony, along with her art teacher, one parent/guardian, and the State Coordinator.



Kerissa Nelson shows off her winning painting of ring-neck ducks.

Melissa Chen will receive a second place \$3,000 cash award and Ms. Cobb receives a \$2,000 cash award for third place.

To view all state entries, visit:

duckstamps.fws.gov/junior/results/jrbos05a.htm

An additional contest judged at the same time was

the Conservation Message Contest.

The first place message, which received a \$500 cash award, was by Elizabeth Beaudoin from New Hampshire.

Her message was: "Nature is a masterpiece; one does not simply neglect, nor discard, a thing of such exquisite beauty that is not only treasured by many, but is also irreplaceable."

The second place conservation message by Chris Thiessen of Kentucky was: "Treat wildlife with the same care we give our own family." Mr. Thiessen will receive a \$300 cash award.

Annie Pan from Arizona won \$200 with her third place message: "You and I will come and go, but Mother Nature is forever."

The Junior Duck Stamp Entries will now embark on a year long tour of all 50 states.

Dates and locations can be found at the Federal Duck Stamp web site.

duckstamps.fws.gov/Info/2005%20Exhibit%20Schedule%20Calendar.doc

NDSCS Member Application

All membership categories except Associate and Junior require the applicant to be 18 years of age.

Membership Categories

- Patron Life Member Limited to 50\$ 500.
- Life Member Limited to 150\$ 250.
- Junior Member Must be under age 18 ... per year \$10.
- Associate Member Open to any non-profit stamp club, society, association or corporation, museum, public library or school per year \$30.
- Regular Membership One year \$20 Two years \$35 Three years \$55 Five years \$90

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The Society publishes each new member in the Quarterly Newsletter. Your name, city/state, collecting interests and e-mail address will appear unless you check any or all of the following boxes:

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- Collecting Interests E-mail Address

Online application and dues payment at ndscs.org

Collecting Interests

- Federal Ducks State Ducks Foreign Ducks
- Souvenir Cards/Appreciation Certificates First Day Covers Artist Signed Prints Other

Event Participation

Would you be interested in contributing to the Society newsletter, *Duck Tracks*? Yes No

Are you interested in participating in Society functions and stamp shows? Yes No Local only

Send completed application to:
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