



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
INFORMATION SERVICE

*office
file
7/17/56*

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

For Release JULY 22, 1956

EIGHTH ANNUAL FEDERAL "DUCK STAMP" DESIGN CONTEST ANNOUNCED

The eighth annual Federal "duck stamp" contest to select a design for the 1957-58 issue of these stamps, which all duck hunters must purchase, will open this year on August 1 and close on November 1, John L. Farley, Director of the Fish and Wildlife Service, announced today.

Wildlife artists who desire to enter their drawings in the contest should submit them on or before the deadline date to the headquarters of the Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington 25, D. C. Judging of the designs will take place early in November.

All interested artists are eligible to enter the contest and may submit as many designs as they wish. Entries must comply with contest rules. Upon request to the Fish and Wildlife Service, prospective contestants will be sent a leaflet containing contest rules and suggestions, along with a copy of the agreement covering reproduction rights. This agreement is to be signed and returned to the Service prior to the contest judging. If an artist submits more than one design, he is required to sign a separate agreement for each one.

The Migratory Bird Hunting Stamp--better known as the "duck stamp"--has become familiar to all migratory waterfowl hunters and to philatelists and conservationists throughout the country since the first issue in the series went on sale in 1934. A new stamp is issued each year by the Post Office Department which is responsible for its distribution and sale. It goes on sale on July 1 and expires on the following June 30. Nearly twice the size of a special delivery stamp, it sells for \$2. Everyone over 16 years of age who hunts migratory waterfowl is required to have one of these stamps in his possession, in addition to his State hunting license.

More than two million duck stamps are sold annually. Duck Stamp revenues are used to supplement other funds appropriated to the Fish and Wildlife Service for the purchase, development, administration, and maintenance of waterfowl refuges throughout the country.

The design selected for each year's duck stamp is chosen by a judging committee of waterfowl authorities from among entries submitted by artists from every part of the country. Prior to 1949, however, outstanding wildlife artists were invited to submit entries and the selection was made from this limited group. In that year the limitations were lifted and a public contest was decided upon in order to give all wildlife artists the opportunity to compete.

Although the artist receives no direct monetary compensation if his design is selected, the distinction is unique and therefore much sought after. Many of the winning artists in former years have been able to capitalize on their designs by selling autographed prints. All such reproduction projects, however, are subject to the terms of the agreement signed by the Service and the winning artist.

Artists are given a wide latitude in the choice of medium--pen and ink, oil, watercolor, etching, pencil, etc., and in their subject. The subject, of course, must be a true-to-life portrait of wild waterfowl. Most of the winning entries in previous years were of ducks and geese in action. At any rate, the birds should be in position and plumage "as the hunter sees them."

At the present time, Director Farley said, no species will be considered in the judging which has already been used on a stamp within the past five years. These include the following: Harlequin duck, 1952-53; Blue-winged teal, 1953-54; Ring-necked duck, 1954-55; Blue geese, 1955-56; and American merganser, 1956-57. There is no absolute prohibition against use of a species as a subject which appeared on a stamp prior to that period, the Director explained. Most species of ducks and geese with which the average hunter is familiar already have been used and repetition soon will be unavoidable in any event.

Prospective duck stamp artists who have not submitted entries in previous contests should write to the Fish and Wildlife Service, Division of Information, Washington 25, D. C., for a free copy of the leaflet, "Rules for the Annual Federal Duck Stamp Contest."

x x x