

# INFORMATION FOR THE PRESS



## U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE OFFICE OF INFORMATION PRESS SERVICE



WASHINGTON, D. C.

Release - Immediate

✓  
May 25, 1934

### HUNTING STAMPS WILL FINANCE SYSTEM OF GAME BIRD REFUGES

By a recent act of Congress, all persons over 16 years of age who wish to hunt migratory waterfowl will hereafter be required to carry a Federal hunting stamp. These stamps will be sold at \$1 each at all post offices in towns of 2,500 population or more and also at post offices at all county seats. In addition, certain other post offices conveniently located will be authorized to issue the stamps in order to make it easy for the sportsman to comply with this new Federal law. Persons who collect migratory birds for scientific purposes must also have the stamp, in addition to the Federal scientific collecting permit prescribed. The stamps will be ready for issue about July 1, and are good for one year.

The fund derived from the sale of these stamps has been set aside by Congress to be used in purchasing or leasing marsh and water areas to be acquired as inviolate refuges for ducks and geese, and other waterfowl. Naturalists, sportsmen, and conservationists have long realized the necessity for an extensive system of such refuges, not only on the breeding grounds in the North but on the southern wintering grounds as well. Recognizing that without such refuges in the natural concentration areas, many species of ducks and geese are almost certain to become extinct, sportsmen have advocated the measure, which at a cost of only one dollar for each hunter, will provide a fund for establishing refuges. The Biological Survey of the Department of Agriculture, which has the task of selecting and acquiring the refuge areas, as well as of administering the refuges thus

acquired, expects that the sale of the new stamp will produce from \$600,000 to \$1,000,000 or more each year.

The design for the new stamp, the first of the kind ever issued, pleases officials of the Biological Survey. The stamps will show an appropriate waterfowl scene and it is anticipated that stamp collectors will value them.

Possession of a stamp does not authorize the holder to hunt in any State unless the laws of the State have been complied with, but only one stamp need be purchased regardless of the number of States in which the sportsman shoots during the open season.

A person applying for a stamp is required to fill out a very simple application form, which will be provided by the postmaster. The stamp is then affixed to the applicant's State hunting license or to a certificate furnished by the postmaster if the applicant is not required to take out a State license. The law prescribes that the stamp shall not be transferable, that it must be carried on the person while engaged in hunting migratory waterfowl, and that it must be exhibited for inspection to any officer or employee of the U. S. Department of Agriculture or to any officer of a State or local government authorized to enforce the game laws.