



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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DUCK STAMP SALES AMOUNT TO \$27 MILLION IN 17 YEARS

By their purchases of Federal "duck stamps," hunters of wild ducks and geese have contributed nearly \$27 million to help underwrite a national waterfowl restoration program which the Federal Government has been carrying on since 1934, according to a Fish and Wildlife Service report released today by Secretary of the Interior Oscar L. Chapman.

During the 17-year period from July 1, 1934, when the duck stamp requirement became effective, through June 30, 1951, the sum of \$26,909,141 has been turned over to the Fish and Wildlife Service by the Treasury Department as receipts from duck stamp sales.

The Federal duck stamp is required of all waterfowl hunters over 16. It now sells for \$2. Issues prior to 1949-50 sold for \$1. Money received from the sale of these stamps is used by the Service to help finance its waterfowl program.

The report shows that as of June 30, 1951, the Service has expended \$21,626,072 out of the total receipts, as follows: \$358,809 to the Post Office Department for printing and issuing the stamps; \$2,038,551 for law enforcement; \$4,006,420 for land acquisition activities; \$13,598,488 for development, management and administration of the refuges, and \$1,623,803 for waterfowl investigations.

At present the Service is operating 196 refuges, of 3,122,231 acres, which were established primarily for migratory waterfowl. In 1934, at the beginning of the waterfowl restoration program, the Service had 41 waterfowl refuges, consisting of 911,039 acres.

As originally passed on March 16, 1934, the Migratory Bird Hunting Stamp Act provided that 90 per cent of the money realized from the sale of the stamps was to be used by the Fish and Wildlife Service to supplement other funds for the purchase and maintenance of waterfowl refuges throughout the country. The remaining 10 per cent was to be used for the printing and distribution of the stamps and for the enforcement of all Federal laws which protect migratory waterfowl.

Two amendments to the Act in recent years have changed both the cost of the stamp and the original 90-10 division of the funds. In August 1949 the price was raised to \$2 to offset rising costs encountered by the Service in its efforts to expand its waterfowl conservation work. In October 1951, in response to demands for a stepped-up law enforcement program, Congress authorized an increase in expenditure of duck stamp funds for enforcement and administration from 10 per cent to 15 per cent of the annual receipts.

Copies of this special report, which describes the Service's accomplishments under the duck stamp program, may be obtained without charge upon application to the Fish and Wildlife Service, Division of Information, Washington 25, D. C.

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