



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

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FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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1953-54 FEDERAL DUCK STAMP WILL FEATURE BLUE-WINGED TEAL

A black and white wash drawing featuring five blue-winged teal in flight over bulrush, titled "Early Express," has been chosen as the design for the 1953-54 Migratory Bird Hunting Stamp, Albert M. Day, Director of the Fish and Wildlife Service announced today.

Clayton B. Seagears, of Albany, N. Y., Director of Conservation Education, New York Conservation Department, drew the winning design.

A panel of 18 waterfowl experts judged the design as the best of the 92 entries submitted in the competition. The 1953-54 stamp will be the 20th in the Federal duck stamp series.

Charles Liedl, 658 Lexington Avenue, New York City, with his picture of old-squaw ducks was the runner-up. Third place went to Owen J. Gromme, Milwaukee Public Museum, Milwaukee, Wis., for his blue-winged teal design. Mr. Gromme's design of shoveler ducks was featured on the 1945-46 duck stamp.

Fifty-three contestants entered this year's competition, with twenty-four States, Alaska, and Canada represented. New York and Wisconsin each had six contestants. California and Minnesota, four apiece; New Jersey and Pennsylvania, three. Arizona, Connecticut, Illinois, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Montana, Nebraska and Texas each had two. Other States represented were Alabama, Iowa, Indiana, Louisiana, Maine, Missouri, Ohio, South Carolina, and Virginia.

Seagears is a native of New York State and since boyhood has had a consuming interest in the outdoors. Specializing in zoology and journalism, he gained his undergraduate training at the University of Michigan and remained there in 1924 as assistant in vertebrate zoology and conservation under Alexander G. Ruthven. The following 13 years he spent in newspaper work, primarily handling sports, outdoors columns, and general illustrating. In 1937 he joined the New York State Conservation Department as a game research investigator. Later he was named head of the Division of Conservation Education.

Seagears was self-taught as an artist and has done general commercial work as well as specializing later in outdoors subjects, primarily wildlife. Since the first issue of the New York State Conservationist appeared in 1946, most of his writing and illustrating has been done for that magazine. His favorite subjects are deer and waterfowl. For several years he has been working on a series of color head portraits of North American waterfowl in all plumages.

Seagears used a pair of live hand-reared teal and several action sketches as models for the duck stamp design and some pressed stalks of hard-stemmed bulrush for the wind-blown decoration. He noted, as a coincidence, that his teal action sketches were made in 1934 from a young drake collected the day he bought one of the first issue of Federal duck stamps--the 1934-35 stamp for which "Ding" Darling drew a pair of mallards.

Now sold for \$2, the duck stamps provide funds that help finance the Federal Government's waterfowl refuge program. Fifty-five per cent of the money realized from the sale of the stamps is used by the Fish and Wildlife Service to supplement other funds for the purchase and maintenance of waterfowl refuges throughout the country. The remaining 15 per cent is used for printing and distribution of the stamps, enforcement of the Migratory Bird Hunting Stamp Act, and other Federal activities for migratory bird conservation. All migratory waterfowl hunters over 16 years of age are required by law to purchase and have a stamp of current issue duly signed when hunting.

During the fiscal year ended June 30, 1952, a total of 2,167,767 duck stamps was sold to waterfowl hunters, conservationists, and philatelists.

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(NOTE: Glossy prints of the duck stamp design are available on a loan basis for reproduction in newspapers and magazines.)

*This change of wording suggested  
by Mr. Corbin.*

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