



## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### INFORMATION SERVICE

*March 4, 1960*

#### NATIONWIDE CAMPAIGN OPENS ON SPECIAL DUCK STAMP SALE

A nationwide campaign to promote a special, additional sale of duck stamps in an effort to reduce a current loss of revenue from the regular sales, which finance U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service purchases of wetlands needed for waterfowl refuges, was today called to the attention of local people interested in conservation of natural resources by the Service's Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, Department of the Interior.

Because all waterfowl hunting seasons now have ended, purchases at this time are just contributions to waterfowl conservation and an expression of a person's interest in the welfare of this resource, it is pointed out by the Department of the Interior representative. In recognition of this support for conservation, an attractive, special certificate signed by Secretary of the Interior Fred A. Seaton, suitable for framing, has been prepared and will be given to each purchaser of a duck stamp at this time.

It states that the "holder of this document did purchase the attached Migratory Waterfowl Hunting Stamp as a contribution to the essential management and protection of these birds, which constitute so vital a part of the American Wildlife Heritage."

The sales of the Migratory Bird Hunting Stamps are down nearly 25% from a year ago, it is estimated by the Post Office Department which prints these revenue stamps and handles regular sales for the Department of the Interior. These stamps must be possessed by every person 16 years old or older who hunts migratory waterfowl. They are also collected by philatelists. For several years, conditions have been unfavorable on the northern breeding grounds, numbers of ducks have decreased, and hunting seasons and bag limits have had to be shortened because of the serious situation. As a result of the curtailment, a large number of hunters apparently gave up hunting this past season and did not buy stamps.

Because all acquisitions of wetlands for waterfowl management by the Federal Government are now financed by these duck stamp funds, any reduction in these revenues means an immediate curtailment in such purchases. This is a matter of concern to conservationists nationally because wetlands the birds need are

disappearing at a dangerous rate in the face of industrial, urban, and other developments as the population of the United States increases. There is a feeling in these circles that delays in purchase may mean the permanent loss of more areas which will be increasingly important in the future in the maintenance of present levels of waterfowl numbers.

The duck stamp and the certificate may be secured by sending a check or money order for \$3 to the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, Washington 25, D. C. The certificates have been produced at no cost to the Government through the courtesy of the National Wildlife Federation, a national organization of State Fish and Game Federations.

x x x