



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

INFORMATION SERVICE

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

For Release to PM's, AUGUST 23, 1961

DUCK STAMP SALES SHOW SLIGHT INCREASE

Duck stamp sales for the 1960-61 season totaled 1,727,534, almost 100,000 higher than the 1,628,365 of the previous year, but far below the record of 2,369,940 sold in 1956, the Department of the Interior reported today. This is the second straight year sales have totaled less than two million stamps.

Fish and Wildlife Service officials attribute the decrease from the 1956 record sale primarily to the reduction in waterfowl numbers resulting from the prolonged drought in important waterfowl production areas. The modest improvement in nesting ground success in 1960 is reflected in the 100,000 increase in the sale of stamps.

While conservationists and philatelists buy the duck stamp, most of the purchases are made by waterfowl hunters. The record of sales, therefore, is considered the most authentic available index of waterfowl hunters per flyway.

The 1960-61 sales per flyway, with the previous fiscal year's figures in parentheses, follows:

Atlantic Flyway 265,195 (233,246), up 31,949; Central Flyway 383,449 (370,776), up 12,673; Mississippi Flyway 746,643 (707,649), up 38,994; Pacific Flyway 327,204 (310,861), up 16,343; Philatelic Agency 5,043 (5,833), down 790.

Minnesota, 1959's leader with 118,624 stamps, continued to set the pace in 1960 with 139,065, more than 3,000 ahead of California's 135,809. Wisconsin hunters purchased 109,875 stamps; Texas hunters 106,144.

California's increase of 21,315 sales was the biggest gain recorded.

The first stamps went on sale on August 14, 1934, as the result of legislation passed by Congress in March of that year. The price of that stamp was \$1. In 1949, Congress passed legislation raising the price to \$2; the \$3 price became effective July 1, 1959. The sales in 1934 amounted to 635,000 stamps. In 1939, sales reached the million mark. The sales, which were less than a million and a half during World War II, jumped to 1,725,505 in 1946 and then to 2,016,819 in 1947. Five times since then, sales have dropped below the two million mark--in 1948, 1950, 1951, 1960, and 1961.

A record of the sales by States is attached.

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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
 FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
 BUREAU OF SPORT FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE
 MIGRATORY BIRD HUNTING STAMP SALES - 1960-61 SERIES
 JULY 1, 1960 TO JUNE 30, 1961

ATLANTIC FLYWAY STATES

Connecticut.....	8,485
Delaware.....	6,229
District of Columbia.....	1,378
Florida.....	23,664
Georgia.....	6,368
Maine.....	10,730
Maryland.....	17,707
Massachusetts.....	17,736
New Hampshire.....	4,433
New Jersey.....	17,890
New York.....	64,045
North Carolina.....	21,972
Pennsylvania.....	30,747
Rhode Island.....	2,130
South Carolina.....	10,647
Vermont.....	3,803
Virginia.....	15,139
West Virginia.....	1,743
Puerto Rico.....	349
Subtotal.....	<u>265,195</u>

MISSISSIPPI FLYWAY STATES

Alabama.....	10,879
Arkansas.....	43,642
Illinois.....	78,722
Indiana.....	29,935
Iowa.....	49,657
Kentucky.....	9,500
Louisiana.....	63,741
Michigan.....	84,284
Minnesota.....	139,065
Mississippi.....	13,808
Missouri.....	49,103
Ohio.....	39,057
Tennessee.....	25,375
Wisconsin.....	109,875
Subtotal....	<u>746,643</u>

CENTRAL FLYWAY STATES

Colorado.....	30,981
Kansas.....	50,806
Montana.....	24,226
Nebraska.....	46,106
New Mexico.....	5,822
North Dakota.....	37,577
Oklahoma.....	32,506
South Dakota.....	41,979
Texas.....	106,144
Wyoming.....	7,302
Subtotal.....	<u>383,449</u>

PACIFIC FLYWAY STATES

Alaska.....	11,315
Arizona.....	7,039
California.....	135,809
Idaho.....	25,633
Nevada.....	7,736
Oregon.....	49,536
Utah.....	23,709
Washington.....	66,416
Hawaii.....	11
Subtotal.....	<u>327,204</u>

ATLANTIC FLYWAY STATES...	265,195
MISSISSIPPI FLYWAY STATES...	746,643
CENTRAL FLYWAY STATES...	383,449
PACIFIC FLYWAY STATES ...	327,204
PHILATELIC AGENCY...	5,043

GRAND TOTAL... 1,727,534