

DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

news release

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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DUCK STAMP ART CONTEST SCHEDULED NOVEMBER 12

The public is invited to view the judging of wildlife art to adorn next year's Duck Stamp at 1 p.m., November 12 in the Interior Department's main auditorium, 18th and C Streets, N.W.

Over 200 entries have been received since the contest opened July 15.

The winning drawing or painting will be reproduced on the 1977-78 Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp. This stamp has become familiar to migratory waterfowl hunters, philatelists, and conservationists since the first issue in 1934. Everyone over 16 years of age who hunts migratory waterfowl is required to buy one of the stamps. Stamp revenues, beyond printing and handling costs, are used for the acquisition of additional migratory bird habitat.

Applicants are allowed only one entry each. Previously, each artist could submit up to three entries. A panel of five judges, made up of prominent artists, conservationists, and ornithologists, will be announced the day of the contest by Assistant Secretary of the Interior Nathaniel P. Reed.

Prior to 1949, wildlife artists were commissioned to provide a design for the annual stamp. Since that time, the design has been chosen by a contest open to all artists who are residents or citizens of the United States. The prestige of winning the contest has enhanced the reputation of established artists and has elevated otherwise unknown artists to public acclaim. The winner's financial reward is also significant. The Federal Government offers no prize but commercial wildlife art dealers are usually eager to market limited edition reprints for the winner.

The annual competition is the only art contest regularly sponsored by the Federal Government. The colorful stamps constitute the longest running, annually issued series of stamps in revenue or postage stamp history.