



# DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

## news release

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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### NEWS BRIEFS FROM THE FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

"Duck Stamp" Judging. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service reminds the public the 33rd annual judging ceremony to select the design for the Federal Government's Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp will be held on November 5, 1981, beginning at 9 a.m. in the Department of the Interior auditorium at 18th and C Streets, N.W., in Washington, D.C. The judging concludes with the selection of a winner, usually by 3 p.m.

The stamp, popularly known as the "Duck Stamp," features a design selected from among hundreds of entries submitted by amateur and professional waterfowl artists throughout the country. The number of certified entries for this year's contest is expected to top last year's record of 1,507.

The deadline for submission of entries was October 1.

The "Duck Stamp" series is the longest running, annually issued series of U.S. revenue stamps.

A panel of five judges to review this year's "Duck Stamp" entries will be named the day of the judging. The entire selection process is open to the general public.

The winning design and a number of top finalists will be displayed at the Easton Waterfowl Festival in Easton, Maryland, beginning November 6.

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Latin American Visitors. Wildlife managers from seven Latin American and Caribbean countries have been touring units of the National Wildlife Refuge System as part of a cooperative program to acquaint professionals with wildlife management practices in the United States.

This year's month-long training program--the second year of the cooperative project--has brought participants from Costa Rica, Guatemala, Brazil, Panama, Peru, Ecuador, and the Dominican Republic to this country. Here, they have been studying the management of migratory birds, large mammals, and endangered species on refuges in this country's 78-year-old system.

The refuges that have hosted the foreign visitors are: Chincoteague in Virginia, Minnesota Valley and Sherburne in Minnesota, Lacreek in South Dakota, Fort Niobrara in Nebraska, Santa Ana and Aransas in Texas, Okefenokee in Georgia, and Merritt Island in Florida. These refuges were chosen to represent a broad

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range of habitat types and provide the visiting managers with training that could easily be applied to Latin America's fledgling refuge systems and natural areas.

The participants also visited the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center and Bird Banding Laboratory in Laurel, Maryland, to discuss ongoing research on environmental contaminants, captive breeding of wildlife, and reintroductions of endangered species.

Each foreign country assumed the cost of sending its participant to the United States for training; travel costs within this country were paid under a cooperative arrangement by the Service, the National Wildlife Federation, and the World Wildlife Fund.

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U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Ends Migratory Bird Import-Export Permit.

In keeping with the Interior Department's commitment to eliminate unnecessary Federal regulations, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, effective September 23, 1981, dropped the requirement for permits to import or export migratory birds, eggs, parts, or products. The present import-export permit requirement was established in 1961, prior to the enactment of a number of other statutes and treaties that now regulate international wildlife shipments. Although importers and exporters will no longer be required to obtain Service migratory bird permits, they will still be required to comply with other applicable laws such as those on migratory birds and endangered species.

Waterfowl propagators, migratory bird researchers, and falconers are among those most likely to be affected by the action. The original proposal was published in the May 29, 1981, Federal Register.

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