



DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

news release

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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BUY 'EM BY THE SHEET!
SPECIAL GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY DUCK STAMPS
TO BE AUCTIONED BY FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Wanna bid on some rare birds?

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has a deal to delight even the most discriminating devotee of Duck Stamp designs.

Fifteen unique, never-before offered sheets of the popular revenue stamp bearing the 1984-85 "Golden Anniversary" Duck Stamp design by Alabama artist William Morris will be auctioned to the highest bidders in November as part of the agency's annual Duck Stamp art competition. The design on these sheets features a pair of wigeon ducks and was issued in the year that the federal Duck Stamp program marked 50 years of support for wetlands protection and wildlife conservation.

The one-time auction of these collectors' Duck Stamp panels is designed to raise additional donations to the Migratory Bird Conservation Fund, through which the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service acquires vital waterfowl habitat for the National Wildlife Refuge System.

Fifteen press-run sheets, each bearing 120 1984-85 Duck Stamps, configured in four panes of 30 stamps per pane, will be offered for sealed-bid auction. The sheets measure 20-3/8 inches wide and 18 inches tall. The sheets are perforated and gummed and carry a full selvage (border) bearing Bureau of Engraving and Printing plate number 173871 along each pane. Press color bars are displayed along the lower selvage.

Overprinted along each pane's selvage are the words "1934-84 50th anniversary" in gold lettering, a feature that no other Duck Stamp press sheets display. In addition, each sheet bears four unique numbers along the selvage designating, in order, the sheet number, edition size, and pane number. (The first sheet to be auctioned, for example, bears the designations "01 of 15-1," "01 of 15-2," "01 of 15-3," and "01 of 15-4.")

(over)

Once Duck Stamp designs are selected by a panel of impartial judges in open competition, the revenue stamps are printed by the Bureau of Engraving and Printing in a two-stage lithopress/intaglio press process. The finished stamps are then sold by the U.S. Postal Service to nearly two million waterfowl hunters each year, as well as to a growing number of other conservationists and stamp collectors who want to contribute to the Nation's conservation effort.

The Fish and Wildlife Service has set a \$2,000 minimum bid for each sheet of these Duck Stamps, with entrants limited to one bid. Sealed bids will be accepted beginning September 1, 1985, through November 1, 1985, and must be accompanied by a certified or cashier's check or money order for the full bid, payable to "Migratory Bird Conservation Fund."

Bids must be mailed to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, "Duck Stamp Sheets," P.O. Box 57020, Washington, D.C. 20037-0020. They must include a stamped, self-addressed business-size envelope; successful bidders will be notified by mail and unsuccessful bidders will have their payments returned.

Successful bids will be announced on November 6, 1985, at 1 p.m. on the second day of judging for the 1985 Federal Duck Stamp Contest at the Department of the Interior in Washington, D.C. The highest bidder will be awarded the first of the 15 sheets, with lower-numbered sheets being awarded to bidders of progressively smaller amounts. The sheets will be delivered under arrangements made with the Fish and Wildlife Service.

A more complete description of the Duck Stamp sheets and auction procedures appears in the August 30, 1985, Federal Register. Additional information is available from the Office of Public Use Management, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, Room 554, Matomic Building, Washington, D.C. 20240, 202/653-2220.

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