



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

INFORMATION SERVICE

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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BENNETT OPENS SPECIAL DRIVE FOR DUCK STAMP SALES

A nationwide campaign to promote the after season sale of the 1959-60 duck stamps to conservation minded persons was "kicked off" this week by Under Secretary of the Interior Elmer F. Bennett.

The purpose of the special drive is to offset the loss of revenue from the regular sales--down an estimated 25 percent--which finance the Fish and Wildlife Service acquisition of wetlands for waterfowl refuges.

The first three stamps of this post-hunting campaign were purchased from Under Secretary Bennett by C. R. Gutermuth, Wildlife Management Institute; Joseph W. Penfold, Izaak Walton League of America, and Stewart M. Brandborg, National Wildlife Federation.

Each received a certificate signed by Secretary Fred A. Seaton, showing 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".

This is especially true since the seasons for hunting migratory birds in the United States have been closed since early in January and the expenditure of the \$3 for the 1959-60 duck stamp is a direct contribution to the cause of waterfowl conservation.

The special drive is sponsored by the Fish and Wildlife Service with the support of the various national conservation organizations. The help of local conservation groups, newspapers, TV and radio stations is being solicited in every part of the Nation.

Each purchaser of a stamp during the campaign will receive one of the certificates signed by Secretary Seaton. The certificates are provided at no cost to the Government through the courtesy of the National Wildlife Federation, a national organization representing State sportsmen's and conservation groups.

Stamps and certificates will be available from the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington 25, D. C. Interested persons are being urged to send their check or money order direct to that Bureau for their stamp and certificate.

The sales of the duck stamps are down 25 percent from sales of a year ago, the Post Office Department estimates. This decline is due largely to the reduced hunting opportunities which prevailed over much of the country during the recent hunting seasons. A succession of dry years in important nesting areas resulted in serious declines in the population of practically all species of ducks. In the case of canvasbacks, redheads, and ruddy ducks, the decline in population is dangerous.

Funds received from the sale of duck stamps comprise the only source of money for the purchase of waterfowl areas by the Fish and Wildlife Service and any reduction in revenues means an immediate curtailment of such purchases. Since suitable waterfowl habitat is being utilized for other purposes at an alarming rate, any halt in the Service acquisition program at this time can result in a serious condition for waterfowl in the future. For that reason conservationists of all kinds, hunters and nonhunters, are interested in making this postseason stamp selling drive a success.

Note: Pictures showing the sale of the first three stamps in the campaign to conservation leaders are available from the Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, Washington 25, D. C.

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