

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Bureau of Biological Survey

DIVISION OF INFORMATION

FOR RELEASE WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 11, 1939

1 Million Will Hunt Ducks This
Year, Stamp Sale Records Indicate

At least 1 million Americans will hunt migratory waterfowl this year, Bureau of Biological Survey officials predict in a report to Secretary of the Interior Harold L. Ickes.

The forecast was based on trends noted in the number of "duck" stamps, or migratory bird hunting stamps, sold in the past 5 years. The total sales of "duck" stamps is considered to be a fairly accurate index of the number of hunters that engage in the sport, Survey officials said.

According to a tabulation of stamp sales covering the five-year period, sales last year totaled 1,002,700, with every State except Oklahoma and Massachusetts showing an increase over 1937. During the last five seasons, hunters purchased almost 3-1/2 million of the "duck" stamps. The first stamp was sold on August 14, 1934.

Minnesota post offices reported the largest sales for the 5-year period, the State's hunters having purchased more than 382,100 of the \$1 stamps. Wisconsin was second on the list with 266,300 stamps sold; Illinois third with 241,100; California fourth with 233,300; Michigan fifth with 208,900; and Texas sixth with 208,100 stamps sold.

At least 90 percent of the proceeds from the sale of migratory bird hunting stamps, which must be in the possession of all migratory-waterfowl hunters more than 16 years old, are used for the purchase and maintenance of migratory waterfowl refuges administered by the Bureau of Biological Survey. Ten percent of the money is used to enforce the law and to pay for the printing and distribution of stamps.

Duck stamp sales show that each year since 1935 there has been a large increase in the number of sportsmen who attempt to bag the migratory waterfowl as the birds fly from the breeding grounds in Canada to their wintering homes in the south.

Total annual sales throughout the country since the first "duck" stamp was issued in 1934 are as follows: 635,000 (1934); 448,200 (1935); 603,500 (1936); 783,000 (1937); and 1,002,700 (1938). The actual number of stamps sold in the 5-year period is 3,472,582.

The increased number of hunters as indicated by stamp sales agrees with general information received from Biological Survey field workers, officials said. It was pointed out that the drastic hunting restrictions imposed in 1934, because of the low migratory-waterfowl population, discouraged many hunters from taking to the fields and marshes. Since 1935, as waterfowl populations increased, hunting restrictions have been slightly liberalized and a greater number of hunters have resumed active participation in the sport.

The tabulated report by States is as follows:

REPORTED SALES OF MIGRATORY BIRD HUNTING STAMPS

<u>States</u>	<u>1934</u>	<u>1935</u>	<u>1936</u>	<u>1937</u>	<u>1938</u>	<u>Total</u>
Alabama	2,533	1,403	1,914	2,889	4,940	13,679
Alaska	2,000	2,780	1,708	1,640	2,227	9,955
Arizona	2,332	1,760	1,736	2,363	2,919	11,110
Arkansas	11,973	9,134	10,368	11,799	15,342	58,516
California	39,525	33,297	44,570	52,577	63,394	233,363
Colorado	10,482	6,695	11,917	10,517	18,666	58,277
Connecticut	4,372	2,116	2,381	3,249	4,318	16,436
Delaware	3,600	1,259	1,115	2,001	2,576	10,551
District of Columbia	1,204	958	1,017	1,105	1,378	5,662
Florida	6,704	4,431	5,774	7,175	10,424	34,508
Georgia	1,540	730	816	938	1,387	5,411
Hawaii	137	97	96	155	174	659
Idaho	9,840	6,610	10,526	10,138	15,608	52,722
Illinois	42,687	36,337	53,251	51,333	57,538	241,146
Indiana	8,250	5,379	7,648	12,311	14,724	48,312
Iowa	16,129	18,910	27,294	25,427	36,267	124,027
Kansas	17,334	17,353	16,118	18,868	20,495	90,168
Kentucky	2,314	1,291	1,136	2,676	3,465	10,882
Louisiana	20,081	10,242	13,721	19,366	31,190	94,600
Maine	6,539	3,214	4,527	5,546	7,812	27,638
Maryland	6,575	2,831	3,358	4,360	6,861	23,985
Massachusetts	14,124	6,033	7,380	12,161	12,087	51,785
Michigan	25,348	14,796	31,482	56,888	80,458	208,972
Minnesota	51,536	44,062	72,460	97,609	116,461	382,128
Mississippi	4,703	3,154	3,168	4,855	6,306	22,186
Missouri	23,001	14,080	17,149	16,469	20,034	90,733
Montana	14,120	10,474	14,903	15,884	19,978	75,359
Nebraska	21,336	17,818	20,280	22,939	30,847	113,220
Nevada	2,513	2,272	3,398	3,921	4,899	17,003
New Hampshire	1,641	829	1,166	1,688	1,864	7,188
New Jersey	12,739	6,040	6,517	9,921	14,486	49,703
New Mexico	2,671	1,681	2,164	2,173	3,524	12,213
New York	21,502	11,917	15,470	23,286	29,825	102,000
North Carolina	4,964	1,995	2,865	5,097	6,362	21,283
North Dakota	5,947	6,581	6,069	9,513	13,167	41,277
Ohio	10,407	7,001	10,493	14,662	19,076	61,639
Oklahoma	27,862	8,824	5,967	21,005	19,675	83,333
Oregon	13,199	9,709	13,772	19,540	22,435	78,655
Pennsylvania	8,751	5,088	5,458	5,613	13,353	38,263
Rhode Island	1,794	1,074	1,177	1,477	1,824	7,346
South Carolina	1,800	1,944	1,680	1,600	3,653	10,677
South Dakota	12,594	9,461	8,025	17,639	22,334	70,053
Tennessee	6,918	5,024	4,754	5,366	7,813	29,875
Texas	42,424	28,150	33,481	45,357	58,704	208,116
Utah	7,133	3,672	8,123	9,185	12,685	40,798
Vermont	1,754	1,116	1,256	1,810	2,263	8,199
Virginia	4,628	1,792	2,251	3,052	4,538	16,261
Washington	29,033	18,980	28,396	41,060	46,151	163,620
West Virginia	566	396	419	446	789	2,616
Wisconsin	40,769	35,154	48,999	61,783	79,688	266,393
Wyoming	3,073	2,660	4,010	4,607	5,731	20,081
	<u>635,001</u>	<u>448,204</u>	<u>603,623</u>	<u>783,039</u>	<u>1,002,715</u>	<u>3,472,582</u>