



# DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

## INFORMATION SERVICE

BUREAU OF BIOLOGICAL SURVEY

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PHOTOS of stamps available from Biological Survey

3,472,582 DUCK STAMPS SOLD IN  
5 YEARS HELP PAY FOR REFUGES

Returns from the sales of duck stamps in the first 5 years during which they were required totaled \$3,472,582, according to a Bureau of Biological Survey report made public today by Secretary of the Interior Harold L. Ickes. The duck stamp, common name for the Federal migratory bird hunting stamp which sells for \$1 and is required of all waterfowl hunters over 16, has helped finance the Federal program for buying, developing, and maintaining waterfowl refuges.

Stamp sales during the 5-year period were reported as follows: 635,001 (1934); 448,204 (1935); 603,623 (1936); 783,039 (1937); and 1,002,715 (1938). Returns that include the 1939 hunting season will not be available until after June 30, 1940, it was pointed out, since the stamps remain on sale throughout the fiscal year.

The duck stamp requirement became effective July 1, 1934. The first issue went on sale on August 14 in accordance with an Act of Congress that provides that, after a deduction of not more than 10 percent for administrative expenses, the money returns shall be available for the "location, ascertainment, acquisition, administration, maintenance, and development of suitable areas for inviolate

migratory-bird sanctuaries, under the provisions of the Migratory Bird Conservation Act, to be expended for such purposes in all respects as moneys appropriated pursuant to the provisions of such act."

The Act directs that duck stamp funds may also be used for the administration, maintenance, and development of other national wildlife refuges frequented by migratory game birds; and for such investigations on such refuges and elsewhere in regard to migratory waterfowl as may be deemed essential for the highest utilization of the refuges and for the protection and increase of these birds.

#### Expenditures Reported

On July 1, 1939, the funds available to the Biological Survey from the 5-year sales, according to the Bureau's report, had totaled \$3,456,766, out of the sales total of \$3,472,582. Receipts from sales, it was explained, are not immediately available to the Bureau because of the necessity for converting the moneys collected by the post offices into funds for expenditure.

There was a balance of \$1,174,140 reported as held by the Biological Survey on July 1, 1939. It was pointed out that the Bureau's policy is to hold most of each year's fund for expenditure the following year.

Administrative expenditures in the 5-year period were reported as totaling \$428,751, including \$81,492 more than a 10 percent deduction during the first year, when Congress specially authorized an expenditure of \$150,000, and \$144,992 was thus used. The administrative deduction, it was explained, pays the cost of printing and distributing the stamps and also helps in administration and enforcement of the Migratory Bird Hunting Stamp Act and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act.

With the balance of \$1,174,140 on hand and the \$428,751 used for administrative purposes, the Biological Survey reported the following expenditures as representing the total use of moneys available up to July 1, 1939:

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Examinations, surveys and acquisition of land.....	\$303,715.94*
Purchase of water rights.....	43,454.71*
Development work on refuges obtained in other ways, as well as with proceeds from the duck stamp sales.....	984,799.79*
Maintenance and operation of refuges.....	449,614.57
Research.....	72,289.99

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\* A total of \$1,331,970.44 for establishing and developing refuge areas.

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Stamp Fund a Nucleus for Program

With the duck stamp money as a nucleus, said the wildlife agency, the creation of a nation-wide system of migratory waterfowl refuges was assured. During the duck stamp's first five years the refuge program advanced rapidly. In 1934, there were 102 national wildlife refuges. On June 30, 1939, there were 260. More than half of these areas were primarily for migratory waterfowl.

The waterfowl program, it was recalled, was greatly enlarged when \$11,500,000 of emergency funds were made available for land purchase, and CCC camps and relief labor were assigned to wildlife projects. During the fiscal years 1936 to 1939 the number of relief workers on this work were as follows: 464 (1936, in North Dakota only); 2,172 (1937); 2,993 (1938); and 2,132 (1939). In 1935, the CCC assigned 3 camps to as many areas. During the 1939 fiscal year there was an average of 32 camps and 1 side camp detailed to 32 refuges in 24 States.

Some 1,600,000 acres of land were purchased with emergency and special funds. Most of the areas were dammed lakes or marshes that had been reduced in value by one or more adverse factors. Other lands were added from the public domain by Executive orders and by transfer from other Federal agencies. As a result of these activities, the entire national refuge system grew during the duck stamp's first five years until by June 30, 1939, there were 13,530,160 acres set aside for the protection and development of wildlife.

The total refuge acreage on June 30, 1939, was as follows:

Type of Refuge	No. of Refuges	Total Acreage
Waterfowl.....	139	1,613,632
Migratory-bird.....	63	951,812
Wildlife in general.....	17	4,298,128
Nongame birds chiefly.....	29	106,712
Big-game.....	12	6,559,876
Total all refuges.....	260	13,530,160

Waterfowl, it was pointed out, are protected on every refuge where they are found, although the refuge may have been established for another primary purpose.

Much of the emergency money made available for wildlife purposes, the Bureau said, authorized the purchase of submarginal and other areas and supplied personnel to develop these areas as wildlife habitats but did not provide funds for materials needed in development work. It was possible, however, to use duck stamp money for this exceedingly important function. Duck stamp returns thus made it possible to make the most of the emergency funds and of the CCC and WPA help.

Duck stamps paid for less than a tenth of the emergency program, but they have often been likened to the gasoline that makes the car run or the oars that row the boat.