



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR INFORMATION SERVICE

UNITED STATES FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

For Release NOVEMBER 21, 1957

1958-59 FEDERAL DUCK STAMP DESIGN CHOSEN

A black and white wash drawing featuring several Canada geese feeding in a picked cornfield in the upper Midwest country has been chosen as the design for the 1958-59 Migratory Bird Hunting Stamp, Assistant Secretary of the Interior Ross Leffler announced today.

Leslie C. Kouba, 5418 Washburn Avenue South, Minneapolis, Minn., is the artist who drew the winning design for the ninth annual "duck stamp" competition. This will be the 25th stamp to be issued in the Federal duck stamp series. The first stamp went on sale in 1934.

Members of the Advisory Committee on Fish and Wildlife, holding their second meeting in Washington on November 14 and 15, served as judges in selecting the winning design.

The design selected for each year's duck stamp is chosen by a judging committee from among entries submitted by artists from every part of the country. Prior to 1949, however, outstanding wildlife artists were invited to submit entries and the selection was made from this limited group. In that year the limitations were lifted and a public contest was decided upon in order to give an opportunity for all wildlife artists to compete in the future.

A total of 96 designs was submitted by 55 artists in this year's contest. The entries were notable for their fine quality. Four artists whose designs had been selected in previous years again submitted entries. Like all entries, these were handled with complete impartiality. The names of the artists and other identifying features were masked by mounting the entries at random behind large boards which contain 5 x 7 openings.

Twenty-four States, the District of Columbia, and Canada were represented among the entries. New York and California tied for first place with 5 contestants each, while Minnesota and Illinois were tied for second place with 4 contestants

each. Wisconsin, the District of Columbia, Connecticut, Virginia, and Massachusetts had 3 each; Louisiana, Ohio, Indiana, Missouri, and Texas had 2 each. Pennsylvania, Florida, Canada, Mississippi, South Carolina, Arizona, New Jersey, Kansas, Arkansas, Nebraska, Georgia, and New Mexico were represented by one contestant apiece.

A new duck stamp is issued each year by the Post Office Department which is in charge of its distribution and sale. It goes on sale on July 1 and expires on the following June 30. Nearly twice the size of a special delivery stamp, it sells for \$2. Every individual who has attained the age of 16 years and who hunts migratory waterfowl is required to have on his person a stamp of current issue with his signature written across the face. This stamp is required in addition to a State hunting license.

More than two million duck stamps are sold annually. Duck stamp revenues are used to supplement other funds appropriated to the Fish and Wildlife Service for the purchase, development, administration, and maintenance of waterfowl refuges throughout the country.

x x x

(NOTE: Glossy prints of the winning duck stamp design and of the contest judging are available on a loan basis for reproduction in newspapers and magazines from the Division of Information, United States Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington 25, D. C.)