

DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

news release

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1972-73 DUCK STAMP TO FEATURE EMPEROR GEESE

The 1972-73 Federal Duck Stamp will show two emperor geese landing in overcast Arctic surroundings, the Interior Department's Fish and Wildlife Service announced today. The winning entry, a full color wash drawing, was created by artist Arthur M. Cook, 40, of Bloomington, Minn.

Cook, an industrial art director and long-time resident of the Minneapolis area, had never finished higher than second in several previous tries in the duck stamp contest.

Second place this year was a tie between Lee LeBlanc of Iron River, Mich., who drew spectacled eider, and Stanley Stearns of Stevensville, Md., who also drew emperor geese.

The latter species will be appearing on the duck stamp for the first time. The bird inhabits Alaska and the Aleutian Islands and has occasionally been seen along the coasts of Washington, Oregon and California.

"I was particularly pleased when I learned of the judges' choice," said Interior Secretary Rogers C. B. Morton, "because 90 percent of the world's emperor geese come from the Yukon Delta, and one of our major priorities right now is to protect the Alaska habitat that is vital to millions of wild waterfowl."

Bureau officials said 213 entries were received in the 23 Federal Duck Stamp Event. Artists from 33 States and the District of Columbia competed in this year's contest. Minnesota had the most entries--39.

Maryland was second with 26.

Selection was based on anatomical accuracy, artistic composition, and suitability for engraving. The winner receives no financial prize--just the honor and recognition of having his drawing appear on the duck stamp.

Judges were Larry Jahn of the Wildlife Management Institute, Fred Evenden of the Wildlife Society, Tom Kimball of the National Wildlife Federation, Carl Scheele of the Smithsonian Institution, and Richard Bower of the Treasury Department's Bureau of Engraving and Printing.

A new duck stamp is issued each year by the U.S. Postal Service. The 1972-73 stamp will go on sale July 1, 1972. Every migratory-waterfowl hunter 16 years of age or older must purchase this stamp with a State hunting license. All revenue from duck stamps, except the cost of printing and distribution, is used for acquisition of wetlands for waterfowl.

Information on other designs since the stamps were first issued in 1934 is contained in "Duck Stamp Data," a publication available for 30 cents from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402.

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Glossy prints of the winning design are available to editors only from the Office of Conservation Education, Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240.