

# DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

news release

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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## 1981-82 "DUCK STAMP" CONTEST IS NOW OPEN

The annual "Duck Stamp" contest for waterfowl art to adorn the 1981-82 Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp is now open, the Interior Department's U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced today.

Revenues derived from the sale of this stamp, popularly known as the "Duck Stamp," are used to acquire critically needed habitat for waterfowl populations.

This annual competition is the only art contest regularly sponsored by the Federal Government. The colorful stamps whose designs are selected through the contest constitute the longest running, annually issued series of stamps in revenue or postage stamp history. Last year, more than 1,300 artists submitted entries in the prestigious contest.

Artists interested in submitting an entry should write to the Audio-Visual Office, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240, for copies of the contest rules and an entry form. Entries, limited to one per person, must be postmarked by midnight, October 15, 1980. Judging to select the winning entry is open to the public and will begin at 9:00 a.m., November 6, 1980, at the Department of the Interior auditorium in Washington, D.C.

The Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp was authorized by Congress in 1934. It is sold through local Post Offices and some National Wildlife Refuges. The stamp must be carried by every migratory waterfowl hunter 16 years of age or older. All of the stamp revenues, beyond printing and handling costs, are used solely for the acquisition of additional habitat for migratory waterfowl. This habitat also benefits other wildlife species. The \$7.50 stamp for 1981-82 will go on sale July 1, 1981.

Before 1949, wildlife artists were commissioned to provide the design for the "Duck Stamp." Since that time, the design has been chosen through a contest open to all artists who are citizens or residents of the United States.

The prestige of winning the contest has enhanced the reputations of established artists and has elevated otherwise unknown artists to public acclaim. The Federal Government offers no prize other than a sheet of stamps to the winner, but commercial wildlife art dealers in the past have been eager to market limited edition reprints for the winner.

This year minor technical changes have been made in the contest to improve administrative and judging procedures. These changes, adopted in the July 16, 1980, Federal Register, are outlined in the contest rules that will be sent to each entrant.

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