

# DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

news release

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

For Release October 31, 1980

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## JUDGING FOR "DUCK STAMP" ART SCHEDULED FOR NOVEMBER 6

This year's waterfowl art contest to select the design for the 1981-82 "Duck Stamp" will begin at 9 a.m. Thursday, November 6, in the Interior Department's auditorium, 18th and C Sts., N.W., Washington, D.C. The judging, which is expected to be completed during the afternoon, is open to the public.

The Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp, popularly known as the "Duck Stamp," is a revenue stamp that must be carried by all waterfowl hunters age 16 or older. The stamps are also purchased by conservationists and stamp collectors. Funds from the sales of the \$7.50 stamp are used to purchase habitat for migratory waterfowl under a program administered by the Interior Department's U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

First issued in 1934, "Duck Stamps" constitute the longest running, annually issued series of stamps in U.S. postage or revenue stamp history. Before 1949, wildlife artists were commissioned to design the stamp. Since then the design has been chosen through a contest open to all artists who are citizens or residents of the United States. The "Duck Stamp" contest is the only art competition regularly sponsored by the Federal Government.

The winner receives no prize from the Federal Government, except for an album containing a sheet of his or her stamps. The prestige of winning, however, significantly enhances the artist's reputation, and winners often earn substantial profits from marketing limited edition reprints of the winning design.

The entries will be judged by a panel of five prominent conservationists, ornithologists, and waterfowl experts selected by the Secretary of the Interior. The judges' identities will be announced on the day of the contest.

This year's contest will differ from previous years. In the past, all contest entries were placed on public display. Because of a great increase in the number of entries, this year's judging will begin with an "elimination" round. The semi-finalists will then be placed on display panels, at which time the public will have the opportunity to browse through and view them. The judges will select the winner from the entries on display. The entire judging procedure, including the elimination round, will be open to the public.

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INT 0465-81  
NOV 1980