



DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

news release

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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DUCK STAMPS AVAILABLE: BY BRUSH, BY BID, AND BY BUCKS

The Interior Department's U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service today announced the following information of interest to Duck Stamp artists, collectors, and purchasers:

o 1986 Contest Opens: Aspiring artists may submit entries for the 1986-87 Federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp Contest. The contest opened July 1 and closes October 1. Judging will be held November 4-5 at the Interior Department in Washington, D.C. The winning design will grace the 1987-88 Federal Duck Stamp. This year's contest features a number of important changes:

o The entry fee has been increased to \$50 and must be submitted in the form of a cashier's check or money order (no personal checks will be accepted). Proceeds are used to offset the cost of conducting the Duck Stamp contest.

o The image size for entries has been increased to 7 inches by 10 inches in horizontal format. Entries must be matted on a single, 9-inch-by-12-inch white or off-white mat. This increase in size is designed to allow artists additional space for waterfowl designs that emphasize habitat backgrounds.

o Judges will be instructed to look for designs that feature waterfowl in action--birds in flight, moving on water, or otherwise active within their natural habitat.

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Complete copies of the rules and regulations for the 1986 contest are available from the Duck Stamp Coordinator, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Room 1025A, Main Interior Building, Washington, D.C. 20240.

o 50th Anniversary Sheets to be Auctioned: Ten sheets of the 1984-85 "Golden Anniversary" Duck Stamp will be auctioned to the general public beginning September 1 in the second and final bid offer for these prized collector's items. Sealed bids must be received by October 31, and successful bidders will be announced at the 1986 Federal Duck Stamp Contest judging on November 5 in Washington, D.C. Submission of payment by successful bidders must be received within 10 days of that date.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has set a minimum bid of \$2,000 for each sheet of stamps. Each sheet contains 120 uncut stamps and bears the words "1934-84 50th Anniversary" in gold lettering on the selvage of each of four panels. Sheet numbers 5 through 14 are being offered for sale out of the original limited press run of 15 sheets; sheet numbers 1 through 4 were auctioned in 1985 and sheet number 15 will be given to the Smithsonian Institution.

Bids must be submitted to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (OPUM), Room 554 Matomic Building, 18th and C Streets, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20240, Attn.: Duck Stamp Sheets. Complete information regarding bidding procedures appears in the May 9, 1986, Federal Register.

o 1986-87 Duck Stamp on Sale July 1: Charleston, South Carolina, artist Burton Moore's rendition of a fulvous whistling duck appeared July 1 as the 1986-87 Federal Duck Stamp sale began at most post offices and many national wildlife refuges throughout the United States. The \$7.50 revenue stamp raises funds for the creation of new refuges and waterfowl production areas. Waterfowl hunters must purchase a Federal Duck Stamp before they can hunt ducks, geese, and swans; many non-hunters and other conservationists also buy Duck Stamps as a convenient and direct way of contributing toward protection of habitat for a variety of wildlife species.