



DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

news release

Fish and Wildlife Service

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NATION CELEBRATES A "GREAT DAY FOR DUCKS" AS
1991-1992 FEDERAL DUCK STAMP GOES ON SALE

It soon will be open season on the 1991-1992 Federal Duck Stamp, also known as the Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp.

The new stamp, designed by Vermont artist Nancy Howe and featuring a pair of king eiders, will be unveiled at special first days of sale ceremonies to be held in Washington, DC, June 30 and East Dorset, Vermont, July 1. Howe, the first woman ever to win the Duck Stamp contest, will attend both ceremonies marking the stamp's debut.

The 1991-1992 Federal Duck Stamp will sell for \$15.00, a \$2.50 increase over last year. Congress authorized the price increase as part of the Emergency Wetlands Resources Act of 1986 to provide more funds to acquire and protect disappearing habitats.

John Turner, director of the Interior Department's U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, said, "The Duck Stamp program is one of this country's most successful conservation efforts, but we still have a lot to do to secure the future of our waterfowl and other species. That's why it's so important for everyone who enjoys the outdoors and wildlife to purchase this splendid stamp."

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Since the program began in 1934, over 350 million Duck Stamp dollars have helped preserve almost 4 million habitat acres. Many of the more than 450 national wildlife refuges in the United States have been paid for entirely, or in part, through these Duck Stamp receipts.

During fiscal year 1990, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service bought 89,996 acres of waterfowl habitat by obligating \$30.3 million from the Migratory Bird Conservation Fund (which includes revenues from Duck Stamp sales), and, to date, has obligated more than \$18.5 million to acquire 45,398 acres in fiscal year 1991.

Hunters 16 years of age or older must carry a current, signed Federal Duck Stamp in order to hunt waterfowl. The stamp is also popular with nonhunters wanting to make a contribution to conservation. In addition, an increasing number of stamp collectors are recognizing the stamp's beauty and value. It can be purchased at most U.S. Post Offices, some sporting goods outlets, as well as many national wildlife refuges across the country.

July 1 also signals the official opening of the 1991 Federal Duck Stamp contest. This year's contest regulations have been revised slightly to clarify details regarding the administration of the contest, judging procedures, and the obligations of the winning artist. Copies of the updated regulations can be obtained from the Federal Duck Stamp Office. (see attached Fact Sheet for address)

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Facts

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1991-1992 FEDERAL DUCK STAMP INFORMATION

First Days of Sale Programs

The first days of sale for the 1991-1992 Federal Duck Stamp designed by Nancy Howe of East Dorset, Vermont, will be celebrated with special ceremonies held in Washington, DC, and East Dorset.

Howe will be at both ceremonies to sign stamps as well as souvenir cards created from her winning painting of a pair of king eiders. On June 30, Howe will be in Washington to join officials from the Interior Department, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Bureau of Engraving and Printing, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, the J.N. "Ding" Darling Foundation, and the Smithsonian Institution in events open to the public.

The Washington ceremony will be held at 10:00 a.m. at the National Museum of American History's Carmichael Auditorium, 14th Street and Constitution Avenue, NW. The event is free.

The town of East Dorset, Vermont, Howe's hometown, will be the site of a "great day for ducks" celebration and first day of sale ceremony on July 1.

Souvenir Cards Also Available

Souvenir cards with the 1991-1992 Duck Stamp attached will be available for sale at both ceremonies and by mail. Prices for these special collectors' items will range from \$20 to \$150. Proceeds from sales of the Duck Stamp on the card will go into the Migratory Bird Conservation Fund. The remaining money will go to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, a non-profit organization that supports wildlife conservation projects.

Of a total 10,000 cards, 1,750 will bear two first-day-of-sale U.S. Postal Service cancellations. The first cancellation, "Duck Stamp Station," will be made at the Headsville Post Office, part of the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History in Washington, DC. A second cancellation, from East Dorset, Vermont, will read "King Eider Station."

The first 750 cards will be numbered in gold. Numbers 1-10 will sell for \$150; numbers 11-100 will sell for \$75; and numbers 101-750 will sell for \$50. One thousand unnumbered cards with the two cancellations will sell for \$25 each. Over 8,000 additional mint cards bearing no cancellations will be available for \$20 a piece.

Souvenir cards can be ordered by mail from the Federal Duck Stamp Office prior to and after the July 1 ceremony. Send a check or money order and a written request for card numbers and desired quantities to: Duck Stamp Souvenir Cards, Federal Duck Stamp Office, Suite 2058, Department of the Interior, 1849 C Street, NW., Washington, DC 20240, telephone: (202) 208-4354.

This Year's Contest Regulations

Regulations governing the annual Duck Stamp contest were revised in May 1991 to ensure that all species of North American waterfowl eventually will appear in the Duck Stamp series, thereby increasing its collection appeal.

The species of North American waterfowl that artists can depict for the 1991 contest are limited to the following five:

- (1) Barrow's Goldeneye
- (2) Black Scoter
- (3) Red-breasted Merganser
- (4) Spectacled Eider
- (5) Surf Scoter

The contest opens July 1. All entries must be postmarked no later than midnight September 15, 1991. The Duck Stamp contest judging will be held Tuesday and Wednesday, November 5 and 6, at the Department of the Interior's Auditorium, 1849 C Street, NW., Washington, DC. This event is free and open to the public.

The five species were selected from a list of six which have never before appeared on a Federal Duck Stamp. An attempt was made to select a combination of species whose collective ranges cover the contiguous United States and Alaska.

Through an annual process of elimination established by the regulations, all 42 species of North American waterfowl will become part of the Duck Stamp series by 1997. Copies of this year's Duck Stamp contest regulations can be obtained from: Federal Duck Stamp Office, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Suite 2058, Department of the Interior, 1849 C Street, NW., Washington, DC 20240, telephone (202) 208-4354.