

# The DUCK REPORT

A Journal for Duck Stamp Collectors

Second Issue 2003  
Whole number 28

## Good looking state duck stamps headed your way!

It is shaping up to be a great 2003 for duck stamps! Some beautiful stamps are headed for your collection – with a number of new artists making a mark.



*New style for Connecticut.*

Stamps will still be required for hunting and the state estimates the stamp will continue to generate \$30,000 or more annually that will be used for wetland conservation.

The 2003 Rhode Island Waterfowl Stamp will depict an Oldsquaw (rapidly becoming known as the long-tailed duck). The artist, Keith Mueller, has put a peregrine falcon high up

on a bluff at Ft. Wetherill in Jamestown, Rhode Island. The falcon has his eye on the Oldsquaw flying by.



*Goebel's design for the 2003 N. Carolina duck stamp.*

New Jersey's 20th Anniversary

Edition Waterfowl stamp is painted by Jim Killen. The decoy depicted in the painting was done by New Jersey decoy carver, Clarence Fennimore. Fennimore carved the pintail decoy in the Delaware working bird style. This 20th Anniversary Edition is the first in the Retriever Puppy Series. The stamp features a black Labrador Retriever puppy and the pintail.



*Fisher's Colorado design.*

Arkansas will feature "Bayou Lagrue Mallards" by Zettie Jones. Jones is the first native Arkansan to

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**Duck Stamp Chief resigns, see page 13.**

## Pennsylvania student wins Junior Duck Contest

*Sales continue to escalate*



*JDS11, the 2003 Junior duck stamp.*

Nathan Bauman, 18, of Jonestown, Pennsylvania, was judged the top painting among the winners from 50 states plus the District of Columbia and American Samoa. Bauman's painting became the 2003-2004 Federal Junior Duck Stamp.

Proceeds from Junior Duck Stamp sales are used to

support participants in the program and a scholarship for contest winners.

Bauman's art teacher is Linda Hilgert at Lebanon County Career and Technology Center.

"The Federal Junior Duck Stamp program helps foster a conservation ethic in America's youth," said Service Director Steve Williams. "By combining the arts and wildlife conservation into one curriculum, students learn about wildlife management principles as well as the aesthetic qualities of wildlife and nature."

Colby Brandt, 18, of Sealy, Texas, took second place with a colored pencil called "Woodies," a depiction of a pair of wood ducks.

Third place went to Amanda Edsall, age 17, of  
*continued on page 4*

# New valuing guides for stamp collectors

By Bob Dumaine

For the better part of ten years, Scott Catalogues have listed prices for stamps graded as very fine.

That value reflected the editor's opinions for a stamp with above the normal centering, very fine, a mid range grade between good and superb. Collectors were left to figure the value of an XF stamp, or a lesser grade without the benefit of professional pricing estimates.

In the Spring of 2003, PSE (Professional Stamp Experts), began issuing a quarterly value guide which expanded prices to seven grades, and included photos of the stamps in the various grades. The PSE also provides a new grading service as part of their expertizing service, and for a fee will give an opinion of the grade.

Scott followed with the first edition of their semi-annual Valuing Supplement, much like the PSE's guide but larger and with a slightly different set of grades. The Scott publication lists six grades, compared to seven by the PSE. Both guides offer a range of values for early United States stamps, as well as all federal duck stamps.

The Scott product assumes a fault-free stamp, but the PSE offers a chart of variable values for grading and soundness.

These guides are both very helpful, and a must for most auction bidders and stamp buyers. In this article, we will refer to feder-

al duck stamps, since that is my scope. For example, a comparison of the value guides for the 1934 issue, RW1 NH, are shown in the accompanying box.

A huge surprise to me was the price for a complete set of federal duck stamps. Scott lists at \$6,426 and PSE at \$5,600. The top grade for a Superb NH set really raised my eyebrows! Scott's value was \$13,596, and \$14,500 for the PSE. Until I saw this data, I would have figured a superb set at about \$8,500. However, many would not have qualified for the rigorous PSE grading of 98, superb.

Most auction houses will not accept a return based on a grading difference due to its subjective nature. I have found PSE's grading to be fair, but to attain the highest grade of superb is very difficult and most stamps so graded by sellers would not come close to qualifying, particularly on public offerings such as eBay.

The variations in different thinking is obvious, plus Scott has a grade of F-VF which the PSE does not offer, and the PSE has a grade of XF-Superb which Scott does not provide. Overall, the guides prove an invaluable reference on approximately what to pay for a certain stamp, which is particularly useful at auctions. However, be certain the "grading" by the auction house is commensurate with that of Scott and the PSE, and the respective example grading photos will be very useful in this respect.

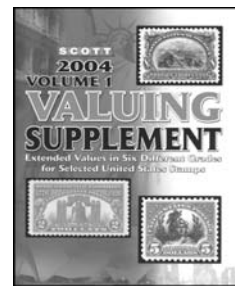
Which one is best? Both have advantages. For example, the PSE actually certifies grades on their certificates; Scott does not. However, Scott VF values are identical to

those in their catalogues, which are commonly used by most auction houses. These values coincide with the VF grade listed in the Valuing Supplement, and extrapolate higher and lower estimates from the prime VF grade, so there is a consistency.

Either is a welcome reference to collectors and dealers to form a common pricing benchmark for a specific grade. Not to have one or the other in your possession is to fly blind.

The PSE guide is \$6 and the Scott 2004 Valuing Supplement is \$12 (also available on a CD-Rom for \$12). We have both guides available, please add \$1.50 shipping to your order.

Both guides have clear photos of each grade to help apply valuing estimates. This product was long overdue and should be a great help to buyers and sellers.



Scott Valuing Supplement.



PSE's Quarterly pricing guide.

SCOTT							
—	V-Good	Fine	F-VF	VF	XF	—	Superb
—	\$130.	\$280.	\$550.	\$775.	\$1,250.	—	\$2,000.
PSE							
Good	V-Good	Fine	—	VF	XF	XF-Sup	Superb
\$90.	\$240.	\$450.	—	\$750.	\$1,100.	\$1,700.	\$2,500.



RW5  
PSE VF  
Grade 80



RW23  
PSE Superb  
Grade 98

## Mute swans becoming a nuisance



The mute swan is getting a little heat for messing up the environment ... and now the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service wants to do something about it.

The mute swan is getting a little heat for messing up the environment ... and now the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service wants to do something about it.

The USFWS has released a draft environmental assessment for the management of mute swans in the Atlantic flyway. The assessment analyzes the consequences of actions to minimize the damage caused by the increasing numbers of mute swans.

Because of its graceful form and beauty, the mute swan is a frequent subject of stories, but it is not native to the United States. Mute swans were unknown in the U.S. until sometime prior to 1900.

The original introductions probably occurred as semi-domestic birds in eastern North America. Through the first half of the twentieth century, there were several more releases of birds along the Eastern Seaboard and Great Lakes. In 2002, the Atlantic Coast

population is the largest in North America with an estimated population of 14,313 birds.

Mute swans are sedentary, rarely moving more than 30 miles. The swan requires habitats with shallow vegetated shorelines. In the Northeast, it prefers coastal ponds, estuaries, backwaters and tributaries. It occupies these habitats year-round. As their population grew, some birds began to occupy inland freshwater wetlands. Mute swans are almost totally herbivorous, feeding on a variety of aquatic vegetation.

Alarmed by recent rapid growth of the population and detrimental impacts caused by exotic species such as the mute swans,

*continued on next page*

### The Duck Report

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Publisher Bob Dumaine  
Editor Rita Dumaine

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# Second 1959 inverted back inscription discovered



Newly discovered copy of RW26a

by Bob Dumaine

A major federal duck stamp error with only one example previously known now has a companion. The stamp, RW26, the 1959 issue featuring a black lab by Maynard Reece, has the back inscription inverted. Forty-four years after issue a second example has been found.

The invert error is similar to the famous Inverted Jenny (C3a), much less spectacular, however, much harder to detect.

On correct stamps, the inscription should read like a page in a book, meaning that if you are looking at the frontal image upright and turned the stamp as the page of a book, you should be able to read the inscription. If it is upside down, then the inscription is inverted.

This newly discovered example has been signed by a hunter and was uncovered by a collector/dealer in the Mid-Atlantic area while sorting through a group of used stamps. A very observant person, this same individual discovered an inverted inscription on an RW22 several years ago.

Even considering the discovery of the second example, the RW26a error is of major importance since the owner of the first example has bequeathed it to the Smithsonian National Postal Museum.

Collectors and treasure hunters would be wise to continue to look for such examples.

## 1971 and 1986 Varieties Found

Another interesting variety has come to light. Again, a Maynard Reece stamp, RW38, the 1971 federal stamp was found with a 3mm+ litho color shift.

Notice the left movement of the yellow base color on the right side and the white space behind the ducks. This is the largest shift on this stamp I've seen, but since there were printed in sheets of 120, perhaps more are lurking in dark closets or albums.

Another enigma stamp was found with a shift on the front and reverse. RW53, the 1986 federal stamp has the intaglio shifted on the face, creating white image under the

beak, and eyes out of their socket. The reverse offset has two clear sets of inscriptions, one slightly lighter than the other. The stamp has a certificate from the P.S.E. stating the reverse doubling is due to a "kiss print" and not double printed or double impression.

For sure, I was and still am confused by the terminology. Anyone can see the stamp has two impressions, so if not double printed, was it almost double printed? I feel if the printing process results in something appearing twice on a stamp, then it's double printed. Complicating the obvious is for politicians, lawyers, and the house of mirrors.

Perhaps it is a matter of semantics, but I have not been able to find a philatelic definition of "kiss print." I've heard the expression and seen it in print for years, but never been the victim of a kiss- print before. Fact is, it was indeed printed, because there it is on the stamp, and it was not a cheap pickup from another stamp.

Can any of the philatelic scholars out there point me to a philatelic definition of a "kiss print?"



RW38 color shift.



RW53 with doubled back inscription.

## Mute swans con't from page 2

wildlife professionals have argued for a program to reduce mute swan populations.

The current population of Chesapeake Bay mute swans consumes almost 10 percent of the total biomass of submerged aquatic vegetation in the bay. This reduces the habitat and food source that would otherwise be available to provide shelter and food for a wide variety of wildlife.

Mute swans occupy and defend 15-acre parcels of wetland and some pairs will vigorously defend nest or brood sites from intrusion by other species of waterfowl. Not only can they attack and displace native waterfowl from breeding and staging areas, they have also been known to kill intruding birds of other species and their young.

Mute swans have reportedly been responsible for several thousand dollars worth of damage to commercial cranberry crops in New Jersey and Massachusetts.

See related story page 6.

## Decoy draws record price

The decoy collecting community was rocked in January when a decoy carved by the late Elmer Crowell sold for \$801,500. The decoy of a preening pintail was sold during an auction conducted by Christie's of New York, in association with Guyette and Schmidt.

Crowell's decoy, produced in 1910, establishes a new record price for a decoy. The previous record was established three years ago when a Crowell goose brought \$684,000.

This is the second time this decoy has



This preening pintail decoy by Elmer Crowell now holds the world record for a price paid for a decoy.

held the top spot on the decoy charts; in 1986, it sold for a then-record \$319,000.

Overall, the auction, which featured 400 decoy lots, grossed \$2.8 million.

## Language Lesson

One day in Louisiana, a class full of children were called upon to make sentences with words assigned by the teacher.

Bourgeois raised his hand to participate to make a sentence with the words "Defeat,"

"Defense," "Deduct," and "Detail."

Bourgeois stood thinking for a while, all eyes focused on him while his classmates awaited his reply.

Smiling broadly, he then proudly proclaimed, "Defeat of deduct went over defense before detail."

# Dates set for Federal Duck Stamp Contest

The 2003 Federal Duck Stamp Contest will be held November 3-5 at the Department of the Interior auditorium in Washington, D.C.

The public may view the entries on Monday, Nov. 3, from 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

The contest will begin on Tuesday at 10:30 a.m. and continue on Wednesday at 9:00 a.m.

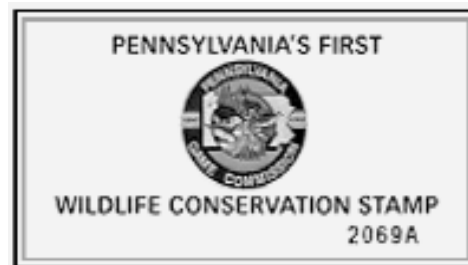
Eligible species for this year are:

brant, Northern shoveler, redhead, Ross' goose and ruddy duck.

The Department of the Interior is located at 1849 C St. NW. The Duck Stamp Office can be reached at 703-358-2002.



# Lands For Wildlife



"Lands for Wildlife" is a new Pennsylvania Game Commission program designed to encourage more people – hunters and non-hunters, young and old – to contribute to land acquisition and wildlife habitat management programs.

Key to the program is the utilization of the Wildlife Conservation Stamps the agency had printed a couple of years ago, when it appeared that a habitat stamp was going to be part of the hunting and trapping license fee legislation under consideration at the time. As it turned out, that did not occur.

For many years people have been looking for ways to help the Game Commission buy land. Many have given substantial donations of land and money. The conservancies in the state and other groups such as the National Wild Turkey Federation and the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation have also provided tremendous support to land acquisition and habitat management efforts.

This new program, though, will provide an easy way to support this cause.

Lands for Wildlife has also been designed to get youngsters involved in the protection and enhancement of Pennsylvania wild areas. The stamps will be consigned to schools and conservation organizations for sale, with the groups retaining \$1.50 from each stamp sold. The group's proceeds may be used to fund conservation projects or any other project of their choosing.

The Pennsylvania Game Commission began purchasing lands for wildlife in 1920. Since then more than 300 tracts totaling almost 1.4 million acres have been acquired. That Pennsylvania has such outstanding hunting is in no small way due to these acquisitions. Just as important, these lands are the only lands in the state managed specifically for wildlife, which makes them extremely popular for all outdoor enthusiasts.

Sam Houston Duck Co. has the stamps available for sale to collectors.

**Order PAH1 ... \$5.**

**1-800-231-5926**

## Junior duck continued from page 1

Canton, Illinois, for her rendition of a wood duck called "Pride" done in mixed media.

Winning the Junior Duck Stamp design is the culmination of a year long conservation curriculum used by educators in their classrooms. Each state hosts competitions where Junior Duck design entries are judged by a group of people active in the local wildlife art or conservation community.

State "Best of Show" winning designs are sent to Washington, D.C., where three national winners are chosen by a panel of five judges. The Junior Duck Stamp Contest winner receives a free trip to Washington, D.C., along with the art teacher, a parent and the state coordinator the following November to be honored at the Federal Duck Stamp Contest. The first-place winner also receives a \$4,000 scholarship award.

Judges for this year's contest were: Lynn Greenwalt, former director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; Ron Louque, winner of the 2002 Federal Duck Stamp Contest; Robert Williams of Stamp Services at the U.S. Postal Service; June Lyon a nationally recognized wildlife carver and former Federal Duck Stamp Contest judge; and Ken Basile, Executive Director of the Ward Museum of Wildfowl Art at Salisbury University.

The green-winged teal is the smallest of ducks, but one of the most adept flyers in the waterfowl world. Breeding across the boreal forest regions of Alaska and Canada



Second place by Colby Brandt, 18, Sealy, Texas.



Third place by Amanda Edsall, 17, Canton, Illinois.

and southward to central California and the southern prairies, the green-winged teal is one of the earliest to migrate. It flies in very large flocks often at night. Green-winged teal winter along both the Pacific and Atlantic coasts, the central valley of California, the playa regions of the southern prairies, and are densest along the gulf coast of Louisiana and Texas.

## Junior duck sales continue to explode

Sales of the Federal Junior Duck Stamp continue to increase.

The U.S. Postal Service is sold out of the 2001 stamp, which would have remained on sale until June 30, 2004. The Postal Service is now able to offer just two years, and since the Junior Duck Stamps are printed in limited quantities, it is unknown how long those stamps will remain available.

Sam Houston has a very limited quantity of stamps available, and for some years we are completely sold out and we are interested in buying several different issues.

Junior Ducks Presently Available!			
JDS1	1993	Redhead	\$ 35.
JDS2	1994	Hooded merganser	35.
JDS9	2001	Trumpeter swan	8.
JDS10	2002	Mallard	8.
JDS11	2003	Green-winged teal	8.

## Did you know ...

For many animals and plants, wetlands are the only places they can live?

Wetlands provide critical habitat to rare

and endangered species. More than 43% of all species in the U.S. that are federally endangered or threatened are wetland dependent for food, shelter, or breeding at some point in their life.

# 2003 Federal “Lame” Duck Stamp

by Bob Dumaine

From 1934 until 2001, the Bureau of Engraving and Printing produced the Federal Duck stamp with style and elegance. The stamps were lavishly engraved, and except for the years of WWII, the centering was excellent.

The 2003 contract was granted to Ashton-Potter, a large private printer of U.S. postage stamps. The amount of engraving on the stamp is minimal, but other more serious anomalies exist.

The problems that have been observed with the 2003 gummed stamp include: poor stamp color – stamps are much darker than Ron Louque’s artwork and darker than its sister self-adhesive stamp; color is inconsistent, sometimes various degrees of shading exist; some sort of “horizontal lines” appear in the middle of many panes; and the centering is only “fine” in many cases. Such problems should not have occurred, or could have been corrected during printing, especially with today’s advanced technology.

Stamp artist, Ron Louque, offered the following regarding the gummed stamp quality: “I am disappointed with the darkness of the stamp image. I am not a stamp collector, but the problem with the uneven margins is obvious. Most stamps I’ve seen are not well centered.” The prints, however, are beautiful, and accurately depict the artwork, but were produced by a different printer.

Most of the 2003 stamps I have personally examined have very poor centering, especially on the entire left side of the panes. The outside vertical perforations on both sides are often wide, and finding a perfectly centered plate block a real challenge. The overall poor centering stamps, both vertically and horizontally means most stamps will be only fine to very fine.

When the duck stamp went on sale, we ordered stamps from the Postal Service Stamp Fulfillment Center in Kansas City. This order resulted in a return of over a 100 of the 300 stamps ordered.

In response to our return, we received a statement from the Philatelic Agency as follows:

**“Dear Philatelic Customer:** The enclosed stock is of the best philatelic quality we have

*available for this item. If the enclosed does not meet your satisfaction, you may return them for credit or refund.”*

The Post Office declines any additional exchanges for better stamps, implying this poor quality is all they have available. Several discussions with Kansas City employees resulted in their saying nobody was happy with the quality of the stamps this year.

Keep in mind the small quantity of one million gummed stamps that were printed, is probably one of the smallest stamp runs produced, and overall they are not of collector quality. Most postal issues require over 100 million stamps, so it would seem in a small run of expensive \$15 duck stamps, they all would be exceptional.

I spoke with Don Simarildi, a Postal Public Relations Representative. He said this was a settled matter and dismissed me.

Mr. Simarildi said the stamps met postal standards, and that was “headquarters” position. I did rebut his statement by saying many people thought they were of questionable quality, including some in the Post Office, but that only brought me to the same dead end.

Who is responsible for the stamp quality?

The Duck Stamp Office has an agreement with the Post Office who has an agreement with the printer, Ashton-Potter. It seems the Post Office’s judgments are the final word when it comes to duck stamp quality.

I raised the question to Vaughn Collins, outgoing Chief of the Duck Stamp Program. Collins told me that the USPS said: “They looked into the issue and concluded that this year’s gummed duck stamps met normal postal quality standards.”

Lawrence L. Lum, Manager of Stamp Acquisition and Distribution provided that statement. Perhaps Mr. Lum is unaware of the absence of quality stamps at their Kansas City Philatelic Center.

Collins said he feels it is the Post Office’s job to decide if the quality is acceptable or

not. Logically, the customer would decide if they got what they paid for – in this case, the Department of the Interior, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is that customer.

Let’s remember that the Federal Duck Stamp is neither a “normal” stamp, nor a postal stamp, to which Mr. Lum is comparing quality.

First, it costs \$15, and is not valid to mail a letter. Second, the gummed stamps, although prepared essentially for collectors, amazingly is not available at most Post Offices other than by special request.

Suppose only 100,000 of the one million gummed stamps are sold to collectors; that amounts to almost \$1.5 million for wetlands conservation (98% of duck stamp dollars goes toward conservation programs). I have the sinking feeling that with this substandard issue, collector sales will drop and management will choose to cancel the gummed stamp due to poor sales, a significant loss to wetlands funding.

The Federal Duck Stamp has a 69-year tradition of excellence and purpose to maintain. It has been a success partly because of stamp quality and beauty, a longstanding tradition of excellence.

It is my recommendation that the Post Office and the DSO reject the first gummed stamp run as inconsistent with Federal Duck Stamp standards, and reprint the gummed stamps correcting the above quality concerns. In addition, when the new artwork is selected in November, and they gear up for printing the 2004 stamp, this should be an issue in deciding who receives the contract. BEP quality printing is possible, so let’s follow through and give the ducks the best possible printing. They deserve it!

If you have an opinion either way, take a moment and let the Duck Stamp Office know. Send a brief note to: Federal Duck Stamp Office, 4401 N. Fairfax Dr., Mail Stop MBSP-4070, Arlington, VA 22203-1622.



(Left) Typical centering of RW70. (Right) Plate scratches, marked by arrow.

# Feathered Friends?

## *Plan to wipe out waterfowl has feathers flying in Britain*



### *Britain's randy ruddy duck imperils mates in Spain; must it pay with its life?*

LONDON, England – Grahame Madge peered through his binoculars at a chestnut-colored duck with a blue bill as it floated across a reservoir in North London. “It’s such a shame,” he said, “because they are very cute birds.”

As a spokesman for Britain’s Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, the 39-year-old Mr. Madge finds himself in an odd position: defending a British government plan to slaughter all of the country’s estimated 6,000 ruddy ducks.

The ducks’ only crime is that, like many British tourists, they have sex on their minds when they fly south to Spain in the winter. Once there, the ruddy ducks often mate with a much rarer species, the white-headed duck. The product of such unions is a hybrid offspring that is diluting the purity of the fragile white-headed species, according to the Royal Society.

Bowing to years of pressure from the Spanish government and international bird-conservation groups, Britain’s Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs last month sentenced the ruddy ducks to death. The Royal Society says it’s the only way to save the ruddy ducks’ white-headed cousins, and that there are still hundreds of thousands of ruddy ducks in North America.

In animal-loving Britain, the feathers are already flying. Animal Aid, an animal-welfare group, accuses the society and the government of “genetic cleansing.” The Sunday Express, a tabloid, denounced what it sees as “a brutal exercise in ornithological correctness.”

Tony Banks, a Labor Party member of Parliament, has obtained 30 signatures from other members on a petition deploring the planned duck cull. “Mating in Spain is an

annual ritual practiced by many British holidaymakers,” the petition states, calling on the British and Spanish governments “to show as tolerant attitude towards ruddy ducks as they do to British tourists.”

The Royal Society acknowledges that about 60 of its one million members have resigned in protest over the issue. Mr. Madge says the choice facing his organization “was to – forgive the pun – duck the issue or stand by our principles.” Those principles call for the society to preserve species nearing global extinction ahead of those threatened in only one country.

Ruddy ducks now face extermination in Britain only because a conservationist brought them there to begin with. In the 1940s, Sir Peter Scott, a founder of the World Wildlife Fund, imported a small number of ruddy ducks from North America to live in a wildfowl zoo in Britain. Some flew away and commenced their annual trips south – so beginning the controversial cross-species couplings.

The Spanish are particularly protective of their white-headed ducks because they almost wiped out the population themselves. In the 1960s, hunters killed all but a couple of dozen. Now Spanish conservation authorities say they have managed to boost the population to about 2,500. But they worry the ruddy duck will spoil the preservation drive, and say only drastic measures will work. Spanish authorities have tried killing the ducks themselves, but argue that a successful cull has to take place where the ducks live.

“The ruddy duck is very aggressive, and once he gets it into his head to mate, there’s just not a whole lot we can do,” says Borja Heredia, a biologist at the Spanish environment ministry.

British officials are still mulling whether to prick the eggs of ruddy ducks so they won’t hatch, or simply shoot the birds. “You have to get them all or they bounce back,” says Mr. Madge.

Watching several ruddy ducks gliding serenely on the reservoir, he pointed to one beating its bill against a pocket of air trapped under its breast feathers, creating a drumming sound and bubbles in the water – a sign that it is looking to mate. “That probably turns on the Spanish ladies,” he surmised.

Mr. Madge then made his way toward the

nearby Ferry Boat pub, a popular haunt for local twitchers, as bird-watchers are known in Britain. Inside, as Mr. Madge drank a light beer and discoursed on wildlife conservation, he was interrupted by another customer, Geoffrey Gore, 80 years old. Mr. Gore said he is a longstanding member of the Royal Society and is “disgusted” with its stance on ruddy ducks. Mr. Gore has seen white-headed ducks while bird-watching in Spain and doesn’t believe British ruddy ducks should be blamed for their plight. “I would not object to a modest cull, but total extinction is going too far,” he said.

The debate raises some tricky issues for conservationists. If two species of duck are similar enough that they can interbreed and produce fertile offspring, as is true in this case, must they be kept distinct? And should human beings, having spread animals across the globe, now try to reverse those migrations to protect native species?

Britons are familiar with the consequences of invading foreign species because of the plight of their beloved red squirrel. Once a common sight throughout the country, Britain’s red squirrels have been nudged aside by more aggressive gray squirrels that were brought over from North America in the 1870s. The larger gray squirrels are quicker to gather nuts and other food, and the red squirrel has been pushed back to remote conifer forests in Scotland and the Isle of Wight.

Some opponents of the cull argue that what birds get up to in the wild is their own business, and that bird watchers simply don’t like hybrids because it complicates keeping track of what bird species they’ve seen. And interbreeding between species is common in nature, says Animal Aid.

“Mating with the robust ruddy duck is the white-headed duck’s means of survival,” says Andrew Tyler, the charity’s director. “We should leave them to it.”

*from The Wall Street Journal*

#### **Ruddy Duck Facts**

The Ruddy duck (*Oxyura jamaicensis*) often dives or swims away from danger rather than flying. When flying, their small wings stroke so fast they resemble bumblebees. Drakes often cock their tails upright at an angle, the only species to habitually do so.

They are early to mid-fall migrants. Both hens and drakes are silent in the fall.

Length: 15½ in.; Weight: 1 lb. 5 oz.

# Coastal Conservation Association turns 21



Design for the 2003 CCA stamp and print

The Coastal Conservation Association has issued their 21st annual stamp and print, a redfish by Herb Booth.

Coastal Conservation Association (CCA) is a non-profit organization comprised of 15 coastal state chapters spanning the Gulf of Mexico and Atlantic seaboard. CCA's strength is drawn from the tens of thousands of recreational saltwater anglers who make up its membership. From South Texas to the upper reaches of Maine, CCA's grassroots influence is felt through state capitals, U.S. Congress and, most importantly, in the conservation and restoration of coastal marine resources.

CCA has been active in virtually every national fisheries debate since 1984 and has participated productively in state and federal fisheries management issues for longer than two decades.

CCA's unmatched breadth and depth of volunteer involvement has made it the largest marine conservation group of its kind. Its grassroots network and unique combination of membership, fundraising and advocacy have enacted positive change on all levels of coastal marine conservation and management. When called into action, the impact of CCA's grassroots machine is unparalleled.

## The CCA Story

CCA began in 1977, after drastic commercial overfishing along the Texas coast decimated redfish and speckled trout populations. Fourteen concerned recreational anglers created the Gulf Coast Conservation Association to combat commercial fishing excesses and conserve the resource.

CCA's spirit of conservation and stewardship started with the "Save the Redfish" campaign and soon swept across the entire Gulf Coast. By 1985, Gulf-state chapters had formed from Texas to Florida. By decade's end, state chapters were founded through the mid-Atlantic region, and by the early '90s, development of the New

England state chapters was completed to address state and national issues as a united Coastal Conservation Association.

Arrogant netters, greedy wholesalers, and lazy government officials who for so long had controlled the fate of marine fisheries mocked the first CCA volunteers. But through the association's efforts, senators, representatives, and delegates began to understand that they have many more constituents who fish recreationally than commercially. As a result, gill-net bans began sweeping the Gulf Coast, and other restrictions on heedless exploitation began spreading up the Atlantic Coast. CCA's primary purpose is intense and often controversial lobbying on behalf of marine anglers. In addition to asking its members to work with their local politicians and to speak out at regional resource hearings, the organization employs a full-time federal lobbyist to try to prevent the National Marine Fisheries Service from doing any more harm to recreational fishing than it already has.

CCA and its state-chapter network are engaged in hundreds of local, state and national programs and projects related to marine conservation, including initiating scientific studies, funding marine-science scholarships, building artificial reefs, creating finfish hatcheries, initiating hydrologic and contaminant studies, monitoring the quality and quantity of freshwater inflows, supporting local marine law enforcement

and more.

## A Few Facts About Coastal Conservation Association

CCA has more than 175 chapters of organized anglers throughout 15 coastal states with a current combined membership of more than 85,000, the highest level ever. CCA's state and national staff members coordinate more than 400 chapter events and fundraisers each year.

CCA is recognized by fisheries managers as instrumental in the recovery of redfish, king mackerel, Spanish mackerel, speckled trout, striped bass, Gulf grouper, and Atlantic weakfish.

CCA helped establish gamefish status for billfish and redfish, net bans in four states, and the prohibition of many destructive gear types.

CCA led the battle to protect recreational anglers' freedom to fish. When it is adopted into law, the Freedom to Fish Act will provide reasonable guidelines for the use of Marine Protected Areas by fishery managers and restricts the use of no-fishing zones for recreational fishermen to instances where all other fishery management tools have failed to fix the problem.

CCA has an award-winning national publication, *TIDE* magazine, a special youth publication, *Rising Tide* and numerous state newsletters.

For more information, visit the association's web site at: [www.joincca.org](http://www.joincca.org).

## Coastal Conservation Association Stamps



### Stamps listed with the species and artist.

CCA1	1983	Redfish, John Cowan	\$ 7.50	CCA11	1993	White marlin, R. McKissick	\$ 7.50
CCA1P		Proof	30.00	CCA12	1994	Redfish, Don Ray	7.50
CCA2	1984	Fisherman & speckled trout striking lure, Herb Booth	7.50	CCA13	1995	Spanish mackrel, D. R. Peebles	7.50
CCA3	1985	Tarpon, boat & buoy, Al Barnes	7.50	CCA14	1996	Spotted sea trout, John Dearman	7.50
CCA4	1986	Snook leaping w/lure, J. Cowan	7.50	CCA15	1997	Yellow-fin tuna, Al Barnes	7.50
CCA5	1987	King mackerel, Mike Stidham	7.50	CCA16	1998	Flounder, Herb Booth	7.50
CCA6	1988	Sailfish and herring, S. Meltzoff	7.50	CCA17	1999	Snook, Don Ray	7.50
CCA7	1989	Flounder, John Dearman	7.50	CCA18	2000	Red snapper, D. Rome Peebles	7.50
CCA8	1990	Redfish, Herb Booth	7.50	CCA19	2001	Dorado, Al Barnes	7.50
CCA9	1991	Surf fishing, John Cowan	7.50	CCA20	2002	Snook, John Dearman	7.50
CCA10	1992	Dorado, Ronnie Wells	7.50	CCA21	2003	Redfish, Herb Booth	7.50

Order toll free 1-800-231-5926 or visit [shduck.com](http://shduck.com)

# Duck wars: name dispute gets Napa and Long Island ducks quacking!

Heredotus Damianos is baffled. Eight years ago, the founder of Pindar Vineyards on Long Island decided to name his new winery Duck Walk Vineyards. Little did he know then that he would run afoul of Napa Valley vintner Dan Duckhorn.

Duckhorn, however, wants the exclusive right to use the word “duck” and images of ducks on wine labels. He is suing Duck Walk to get it to change its name and its label.

On Long Island, ducks are a regional symbol. Before Duck Walk was a vineyard, it was a working farm. “We literally built the winery on top of a duck walk,” Damianos said.

Duckhorn declined to discuss the case. But Damianos portrays it as a David-and-Goliath situation, even though he has been

in the wine business for 23 years, since he founded Pindar.

Duckhorn’s eponymous Napa Valley estate has been making wine for 25 vintages, and its reds have frequently scored above 90 points on *Wine Spectator’s* 100 point scale, while its marquee bottlings sell for around \$50, Duck Walk’s wines can be obtained for less than half that and are rarely spotted outside New York.

Out-of-court negotiations went nowhere, according to Damianos, so Duck Walk asked the U.S. District Court in Central Islip, N.Y., for a ruling on the issue.

Duckhorn responded by filing suit in New York State Supreme Court (a statewide trial court), declaring damages. He asserts that Duck Walk’s name and the duck images on its labels will confuse consumers trying to

find his Napa wines.

D a m i a n o thinks there is little danger of a mix-up, as Duck Walk and Duckhorn are rarely displayed together in stores. Plus, he said, “The ducks are different. Theirs is a mallard, while ours is white. It’s not confusing – our duck is cute, theirs is ugly.”

*from Wine Spectator*

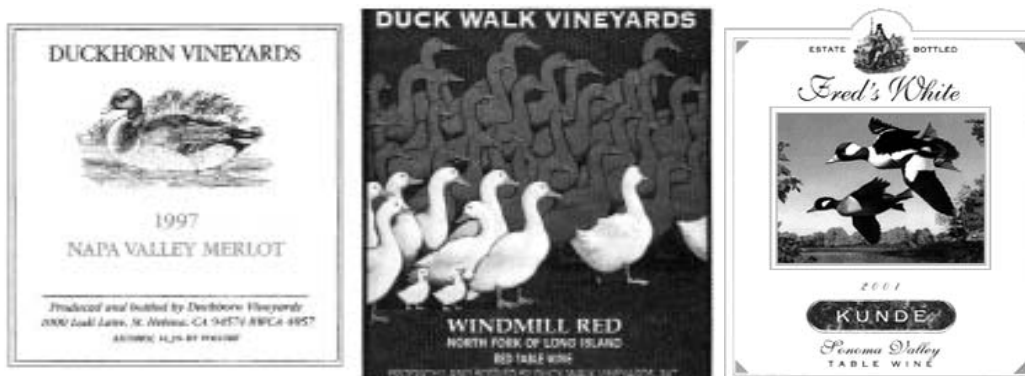


**Editors note:** Obviously Mr. Duckhorn has not been checking other wine bottles.

Kunde Estates in neighboring Sonoma County (California) has been issuing wine for years using artwork by Robert Steiner on the labels. There are bottles with the canvasbacks from Rhode Island’s 1989 stamp, plus the pintails from the 1993 stamp; the 1998 federal Barrow’s goldeneye; and New Hampshire’s 1996 buffleheads. There may be more I haven’t seen.

Steiner is a friend of wine-maker Kunde, which is how the use of his artwork on the labels came to pass.

Let’s all hope the New York courts throw this one out and we’ll see more ducks on labels, not less!



The very different Duckhorn and Duck Walk labels, plus another vineyard using ducks, Kunde features the paintings of duck stamp artist Bob Steiner.

## Spring duck populations decline in Minnesota

Breeding duck populations declined while Canada goose populations were similar to last year, according to results from the Minnesota DNR annual waterfowl surveys.

“Numbers were lower than last year for most duck species in the state, in part due to the early spring this year,” said Jeff Lawrence, DNR Wetland Wildlife Populations and Research Group leader. “Last year, there were many ducks counted in Minnesota that were still moving north during our May survey. The late spring had delayed the migration.”

Each year in May, a DNR waterfowl biologist and conservation officer pilot use a low-flying airplane to count waterfowl and wetlands along set routes. To correct for birds missed by the air crew, a U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service ground crew counts

waterfowl along a portion of the routes. The survey was designed to estimate breeding duck numbers in the 40% of Minnesota that includes much of the best duck breeding habitat.

The mallard breeding population in Minnesota this spring was estimated at 281,000, which is 23% less than last year.

“This was the first year since 1991 that mallard populations in Minnesota have been below 300,000, but populations remain 29% above the average since the current waterfowl survey began in 1968,” Lawrence said.

May pond numbers were down 4% from last year and down 12% from the 10-year average.

“Overall, while we expected lower duck populations this year, the magnitude of the decline was greater than expected, especial-

ly given that pond counts were similar to the previous year,” Lawrence said.

Blue-winged teal numbers decreased 55% from last year’s near-record high numbers and were 15% below the long-term average.

“The decline to 193,000 was not unexpected,” Lawrence said. “We knew that many of the blue-winged teal in the state last year were also late migrants.”

However, this year’s count was higher than the five years prior to last year’s high count.

Combined populations of other ducks, such as wood ducks and ring-necked ducks, decreased 34% to 248,000, but remained 44% above the long-term average.

### Canada geese

This was the third year that the DNR con-

*continued on page 11*

# Hautman's collaborate on special print to commemorate centennial of National Wildlife Refuge System

## *Proceeds Will Help Raise Funds for Wildlife Habitat Projects*

Renowned Minnesota wildlife artists Joe, Bob and Jim Hautman have collaborated on a special wildlife print to commemorate the 100th birthday of the National Wildlife Refuge System while raising money for wildlife habitat projects in Minnesota. The print, "A Century of Conservation" includes three wildlife scenes representing a significant period in the history of the National Wildlife Refuge System.

Jim Hautman's painting of brown pelicans represents the creation of the first national wildlife refuge at Pelican Island, Florida, in 1903. Bob Hautman's mallard ducks on the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge represents the System's 50th anniversary in 1953. Joe Hautman's painting of an avocet on a federal waterfowl production area represents the System's 100th birthday in 2003.

"A Century of Conservation" is being produced and distributed by the Hautmans in partnership with the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Proceeds from the sale of the print will be matched by the Foundation and others to fund federal wildlife habitat restoration projects.

A limited edition of 1,000 signed and numbered prints will be sold. The prints cost \$250 (unframed) and \$400 (framed). Prints went on sale in mid-July. The prints will be available from the Friends of the Minnesota Valley in Bloomington, Minn. More information is available from the group at 952-858-0737 or by email at: [info@friendsofminvalley.org](mailto:info@friendsofminvalley.org). You can also



*L-R – Jim, Bob and Joe Hautman with their print, "A Century of Conservation."*

check the artists web site, [Hautman.com](http://Hautman.com) for additional information.

The accomplished artists are the only brothers to win the prestigious federal duck stamp contest, having designed a combined-seven federal duck stamps and more than 30 state conservation stamps. Their artwork has been displayed in the Oval Office in the White House and at the Smithsonian Institution. The commemorative "Century of Conservation" print is the first time the three Minnesota brothers have collaborated to produce a single work.

The National Wildlife Refuge System is commemorating its 100th birthday during 2003. The refuge system began March 14, 1903, when President Theodore Roosevelt created the nation's first sanctuary for threatened pelicans and other birds at Pelican Island. Since then, the refuge system has grown to a nationwide network of more than 540 refuges and 3,000 waterfowl production areas encompassing 95 million acres.

To learn more about the refuge system and its centennial go to [refuges.fws.gov](http://refuges.fws.gov).

# RW70's scenic background

The 2003 federal duck stamp pictures a historic lighthouse in the background. While mid-Atlantic residents may easily recognize the Assateague Lighthouse at Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge, we thought the rest of our duck collectors might enjoy a little background on the edifice.



*Assateague Lighthouse*

In 1833, the first Assateague Lighthouse

was constructed to warn ocean travelers of the dangerous shoals offshore. Plans to replace the lighthouse with a taller, more powerfully illuminating brick structure were delayed by the Civil War. Construction was completed in 1867.

The light subsequently was upgraded, and a separate oil storage building (1891) and new assistant keeper's house (1910) were built.

In 1929, the keeper staff was reduced. In 1932, the lighthouse oil lamps were replaced by an electric lamp, and the original keeper's house was removed.

Today the 1910 assistant keeper's house is used as seasonal staff residence. The oil storage building is used as an art gallery during summer months. The lighthouse and the oil shed are still owned by the U.S. Coast Guard. The lighthouse is on the National Register of Historic Places.

## **Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge**

Chincoteague NWR, located primarily on the Virginia side of Assateague Island, consists of more than 14,000 acres of beach, dunes, marsh, and maritime forest. Chincoteague Refuge, originally established in 1943 to provide habitat for migratory birds (with an emphasis on conserving greater snow geese), today provides habitat for waterfowl, wading birds, shorebirds, and song birds, as well as other species of wildlife and plants. Refuge staff manage this barrier island habitat to allow many species of wildlife to coexist, each establishing their own place in the environment. In fact, more than 320 species of birds are known to occur on the refuge.

The refuge has been designated a Globally Important Bird Area, is part of the

*continued on page 13*

## Oklahoma happy with duck program

***Did you know Oklahoma waterfowl stamp revenue has helped create, enhance or restore more than 20,000 acres of critical wetland habitat?***

One of the most beautiful ducks in North America, the wood duck, will appear on the 2003 Oklahoma waterfowl stamp. The artwork is by Mark Anderson, of Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

"Oklahoma waterfowlers have benefited greatly from the duck stamp program," said David Warren, information and education

chief for the Department. "Through the program, critical funds have been generated to establish and maintain nearly 30 wetland development units across the state. Not only do these areas provide resting habitat for migrating waterfowl, but they provide habitat for a host of other species such as wading birds and small mammals."

Funds generated from the sale of Oklahoma waterfowl stamps go toward a number of habitat related projects, including purchasing, restoring and creating wetlands.

# World's Funniest Joke



LONDON, England – The world's funniest joke has been revealed after a year-long search by scientists.

In an experiment conducted in Britain, people around the world were invited to judge jokes on an Internet site as well as contribute their own.

The LaughLab research, carried out by psychologist Dr. Richard Wiseman, from the University of Hertfordshire, attracted more than 40,000 jokes and almost two million ratings. And here it is ...

*Two hunters are out in the woods when one of them collapses. He doesn't seem to be breathing and his eyes are glazed. The other guy takes out his phone and calls the emergency services.*

*He gasps: "My friend is dead! What can I do?" The operator says: "Calm down, I can help. First, let's make sure he's dead." There is a silence, then a gunshot is heard. Back on the phone, the guy says: "OK, now what?"*

Wiseman said the joke worked across many different countries and appealed to men and women and young and old alike.

"Many of the jokes submitted received higher ratings from certain groups, but this one had real universal appeal," he said.

As well as identifying the joke which appealed most to people around the world, the experiment revealed wide humor differences between nations.

People logging onto the LaughLab Web site were invited to rate jokes using a

"Giggleometer" which had a five-point scale ranging from "not very funny" to "very funny."

One intriguing result was that Germans – not renowned for their sense of humor – found just about everything funny and did not express a strong preference for any type of joke.

People from the Republic of Ireland, the United Kingdom, Australia and New Zealand most enjoyed jokes involving word play.

Many European countries, such as France, Denmark and Belgium, displayed a penchant for off-beat surreal humor, while Americans and Canadians preferred jokes where there was a strong sense of superiority – either because a character looks stupid or is made to look stupid by someone else.

Europeans also enjoyed jokes that involved making light of topics that make people feel anxious, such as death, illness and marriage.

Wiseman said: "These results are really interesting. It suggests that people from different parts of the world have fundamentally different senses of humor.

"Humor is vital to communication and the more we understand about how people's culture and background affect their sense of humor, the more we will be able to communicate effectively.

"We find jokes funny for lots of different reasons. They sometimes make us feel superior, reduce the emotional impact of anxiety-provoking situations or surprise us because of some kind of incongruity. The hunter joke contained all three elements."

Bizarrely, computer analysis of the data also showed that jokes containing 103 words were thought to be especially funny. The winning joke was 102 words long.

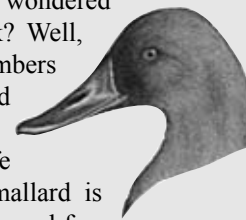
Many jokes submitted contained references to animals. Jokes mentioning ducks were considered particularly funny.

# How old is that duck?

Have you ever wondered how old is a duck? Well, here are some numbers that may astound you!

The average life expectancy of a mallard is less than two years, and few birds live longer than five.

However, there are a few "lucky ducks" out there who have beaten the odds and lived to a ripe old age!



## Duck Longevity Records (by species)

### Canvasback

29 years, 6 months

### American black duck

26 years, 5 months

### Mallard

26 years, 4 months

### Redhead

22 years, 7 months

### Blue-winged teal

22 years, 4 months

### Northern pintail

22 years, 3 months

### American wigeon

20 years, 11 months

### Green-winged teal

20 years, 3 months

### Northern shoveler

18 years, 7 months

### Lesser scaup

18 years, 4 months

*U.S. Geological Survey,  
Patuxent Wildlife Research Center*

# Can you say "アヒル?"

The AFLAC duck is going to Japan with a softer quack.

In commercials designed for the Japanese market, AFLAC has ditched comedian Gilbert Gottfried's abrasive quacking of the Columbus, Georgia based insurance company's name.

"The Japanese culture does not like to be yelled at," AFLAC spokeswoman Laura Kane said.

Gottfried's voice will remain in U.S. commercials, which have paired the duck with

celebrities including Chevy Chase, Yogi Berra and Wayne Newton.

In Japan, the actors will talk directly to the duck, the company said, whereas in the American versions, the actors never notice the frustrated bird.

アヒル is Japanese for duck.



# SPECIAL! Iowa Conservation Stamp

The 1987 Iowa habitat stamp features an eagle by John Heidersbach.



We have just discovered a quantity of the stamps and while supplies last we will sell at a discount.

Retail or catalog values range from \$7.50 to \$20.

**You can buy now for \$5!**

# Arts for the Parks

## *A celebration of America's beauty*

Fifteen years ago, a se-tenant stamp was created from the winning designs of the first Arts for the Parks competition.

The stamps were issued for ten years, the last in 1997, but the art contest continues.

The first year, six different designs were combined on one stamp and issued as part of the Golden Eagle Pass by the U.S. Department of the Interior. The Golden



The 1988 Golden Eagle Pass and stamps.

The stamps are arranged as a miniature sheet of seven items. There are six different parks represented and the main stamp, which shows the Golden Eagle logo.

The two stamps on the right side were to be affixed to the pass, the other five serve as souvenir labels.

Eagle Pass was created as part of the Land and Water Conservation Fund act of 1965, and grants access to national parks, monuments, historic sites, recreation areas and national wildlife refuges that charge entrance fees. (Remember, your duck stamp will also serve as an entrance ticket to national wildlife refuges.)

Although there are seven component parts, this item is considered as one unit.

The designs chosen for the labels were to reflect the theme "from sea to shining sea." They were chosen in an open competition from more than 2,700 entries.

1988 was the only year the stamps were issued in conjunction with the Golden Eagle Pass. The National Park Service returned to the single card design that existed prior to 1988, and which continues to date. However, this was not the end of the stamps.

Images of America Publishing Co., of Jackson Hole, WY. took over production of the stamps. The format remained the same, without denomination or reference to the Department of the Interior. The stamps were sold for \$10 each as fund raisers.

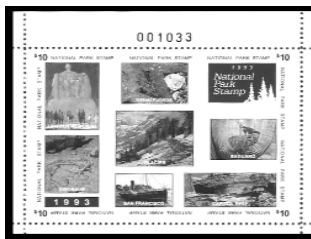
Over the years, the stamps have featured some of America's most loved national treasures including: Cape Hatteras, the Lincoln Memorial, Grand Canyon, Yosemite, Vietnam Veterans Memorial, Point Reyes National Seashore, Acadia National Park, the Blue Ridge Parkway, Vicksburg, the Grand Teton's and much more.

Even though the last stamp was issued in 1997, the Arts for the Parks contest is still going strong with over 2000 entries each year.

The 2003 judging takes place in stages.



Stamps from 1989-97 replicated the format of the Golden Eagle issue.



The 2003 Golden Eagle Pass pictures Ft. Union National Monument, N. M.

The top 200 were selected in June. From those entries, judging for the Top 100 was held on July 11 and 12.

On September 20, the 17th Annual Awards Banquet and Ceremony will be held at the Jackson Lake Lodge, Grand Teton National Park.

The winning artist is awarded \$50,000, with \$3,000 given to each regional winner. In addition, a number of other prizes are awarded.

Sam Houston Duck Co. and Jeanette Cantrell Rudy sponsor an annual Migratory Bird Award of Merit of \$1,500, for the best depiction of migratory birds.

For additional information, to purchase the book of the Top 100, or any other products, contact National Park Academy of the Arts, P.O. Box 608, Jackson Hole, WY 83001, 1-800-553-2787 or visit their website at: [www.artsfortheparks.com](http://www.artsfortheparks.com).

### National Park Service Stamps

(1988-97)

NPS1	1988	\$ 95.00
NPS2	1989	22.00
NPS2(s)	Artist signed	30.00
NPS3	1990	20.00
NPS3(s)	Artist signed	25.00
NPS4	1991	18.00
NPS4(s)	Artist signed	25.00
NPS5	1992	18.00
NPS5(s)	Artist signed	25.00
NPS6	1993	18.00
NPS6(s)	Artist signed	25.00
NPS7	1994	18.00
NPS7(s)	Artist signed	25.00
NPS8	1995	18.00
NPS8(s)	Artist signed	25.00
NPS9	1996	18.00
NPS9(s)	Artist signed	25.00
NPS10	1997	18.00
NPS10(s)	Artist signed	25.00

### Minnesota continued from page 8

ducted a helicopter survey of nesting Canada geese in April and early May. The estimate of 304,000 geese was slightly lower than last year's 335,000, but still exceeded statewide population objectives, according to Steve Maxson, Minnesota DNR goose specialist.

"Conditions were dry throughout most of the state during late April and early May when we flew the survey, and geese were shifting to the better habitats," he noted.

A DNR biologist and helicopter pilot count Canada geese on 150 quarter-section (160-acre) plots randomly located in Minnesota's three broad ecoregions: Prairie, Transition and Forest.

The number of breeding waterfowl in Minnesota is estimated each year as part of an annual inventory of North American breeding waterfowl.

"Data on breeding duck populations from Canada and other states is not yet available,

but preliminary reports suggest generally good conditions in the Dakotas, and much better conditions and duck numbers in prairie Canada than we have seen in the past few years," Lawrence said.

Mallard population estimates from Minnesota will be combined with estimates from other North American breeding areas, along with a measure of habitat conditions, to determine the duck season length and bag limits for this hunting season.

**State ducks con't from page 1**

paint the design for the Arkansas duck stamp. She was reared on the banks of Bayou Meto and her paintings are of actual places with a story behind the piece. This stamp, the 23rd in the series, pictures a Chesapeake retriever watching a mallard pair land.

North Carolina will issue a beautiful stamp by 1996 federal duck artist Wil Goebel.

The painting, "Traditions at Suggs Mill Pond" portrays the artist, along with his daughter, Kimberly, hunting ring-necked ducks at Suggs Mill Pond Game Lands,

located in Bladen and Cumberland counties, North Carolina. A Boykin spaniel is also prominently featured in the scene.

"This painting is especially meaningful because it highlights the importance of having more women participate in the sport of shooting and hunting," Goebel said. "Most hunting scenes are very male-oriented. Being that I have two daughters, it seemed natural for me to incorporate one of them into the painting."

Cynthia Fisher continues to produce beautiful art for the Colorado program, this year a very strong painting of canvasbacks

in flight. Pennsylvania will also feature canvasbacks with the Presque Isle lighthouse in the background. The work is done by first time duck stamp artist Jocelyn Beatty.

Wood ducks will have a strong showing in 2003, already appearing on stamps from Alabama, New Hampshire, Oklahoma, Oregon and Tennessee.

The only state discontinuing their program is New York, who joins previous drop-outs Georgia, Idaho, Missouri, Nebraska, New Mexico, Utah and West Virginia.

All in all, we're heading for a banner year for state ducks!

**2003 State Duck Stamps – Species and Artist**

	<u>Species</u>	<u>Artist</u>		<u>Species</u>	<u>Artist</u>		<u>Species</u>	<u>Artist</u>
Alabama	Wood duck	John Lee	Louisiana	Redhead	Dale Pousson	Ohio	Hooded merg.	Brian Blight
Alaska	Lesser Can. goose	Adam Grimm	Maine	Green-winged teal	J. Staples	Oklahoma	Wood duck	M. Anderson
Arizona	Northern shoveler	S. R. Meline	Maryland	Lesser scaup	Robert Bealle	Oregon	Wood duck	Robert Steiner
Arkansas	Mallard/Ches. ret.	Zettie Jones	Massachusetts	Green-winged teal	Bob Piscatori	Penn.	Canvasback/Ighths	Jocelyn Beatty
California	Mallard	Robert Steiner	Michigan	Redhead	D. Krumrey	Rhode Island	Oldsquaw	Keith Mueller
Colorado	Canvasback	Cynthia Fisher	Minnesota	Oldsquaw	Mark Kness	S. Carolina	Green-winged teal	James Hublick
Connecticut	Black duck	Paul Fusco	Mississippi	Pintail	J. Hudspeth.	S. Dakota	Pintail	Joshua Spies
Delaware	Ring-necked duck	J. Klinefelter	Missouri	No stamp		Tennessee	Wood duck	J. Mefford
Florida	Green-winged teal	Paul Bridgford	Montana	Mallard	Jim Borgreen	Texas	Mottled duck	S. R. Meline
Georgia	No stamp		Nebraska	No stamp		Utah	No stamp	
Hawaii	Nene goose	Joy Keown	Nevada	Green-winged teal	David Brevick	Vermont	Mallard	R.d Bishop
Idaho	No stamp		New Hamp.	Wood duck	B. Holloway	Virginia	Tundra swan	Jim Wilson
Illinois	GW teal/Choc. Lab	Jim Killen	New Jersey	Pintail/decoy/blk lab	Jim Killen	Washington	Pintail	D. N. Miller
Indiana	Northern shoveler	J. Klinefelter	New Mexico	No stamp		W. Virginia	No stamp	
Iowa	Ruddy duck	Neal Anderson	New York	No stamp		Wisconsin	Ring-necked duck	M. Riddet
Kansas	Pintail	Dustin Teasley	N. Carolina	Ring-necked/Bykn	Wil Goebel	Wyoming	Mountain bluebird	R. Piskorski
Kentucky	Snow goose	Ben Burney	N. Dakota	Text stamp				

**2003 State Duck Stamp License Requirements**

Alabama - Stamp is required.

Alaska - Stamp is required.

Arizona - Stamp is required.

Arkansas - Stamp must be in your possession when hunting (or the temporary permit number).

California - Stamp must be in the possession of the hunter.

Colorado - Facsimile of stamp is printed on electronic license, but the Division of Wildlife mails everyone a gummed stamp as they recognize people collect the stamps and want the actual piece vs. the facsimile. In 2004, there will be a box that you check to get the stamp (in 2003 every one gets one).

Connecticut - Stamp must be in your possession while hunting.

Delaware - Stamp is required.

Florida - Stamp is required.

Georgia - No stamp.

Hawaii - Waterfowl hunting is illegal. Conservation stamp is for collectors.

Idaho - No stamp.

Illinois - Stamp must be affixed to license or signed across the face and in your possession while hunting.

Indiana - Must be in your possession, but does not have to be affixed to license.

Iowa - Not required, stamp is collector only.

Kansas - Stamp is required.

Kentucky - Not required, stamp is collector only.

Louisiana - Not required, stamp is collector only. If you mail the Game & Fish a copy of your electronic license, they

will send you an actual stamp at no charge (as the fee has already been paid).

Maine - Not required, stamp is collector only.

Maryland - Migratory game bird hunters are no longer required to sign and attach the Maryland Migratory Game Bird Stamp to their license. Hunters must now possess the printed receipt showing proof of purchase of the Maryland Migratory Game Bird Stamp while hunting migratory game birds. Hunters can choose to receive the actual stamp by mail from a Licensing & Registration Service Center.

Massachusetts - Stamp must be signed across the face and on your person while hunting.

Michigan - Not required, stamp is collector only.

*continued on next page*

### *License requirements continued*

Minnesota - Waterfowl stamp must be signed across the face and in your possession while hunting.

Mississippi - Stamp must be signed and in your possession while hunting, unless the stamp is issued electronically, in which case, these hunters will be issued a code number to verify purchase of the stamp.

Missouri - No stamp.

Montana - Not required, stamp is collector only.

Nebraska - No stamp.

Nevada - Stamp must be affixed to the license and signed.

New Hampshire - Stamp must be affixed to the license and signed.

New Jersey - Stamp must be affixed to the license and signed.

New Mexico - No stamp.

New York - No stamp.

North Carolina - the state waterfowl stamp or "privilege" is purchased in addition to the annual basic hunting license for waterfowl hunting. Hunters can request the actual stamp with their purchase of the waterfowl privilege, but it is not required. It is stated on their license that they have obtained the waterfowl privilege.

North Dakota - Stamp is required.

Ohio - Not required, stamp is collector only.

Oklahoma - Stamp must be signed across the face and on your person while hunting. Some hunters just get the Oklahoma Waterfowl Hunting license code on their annual hunting license and others will opt for the actual stamp.

Oregon - Not required, stamp is collector only.

Pennsylvania - Not required, stamp is collector only.

Rhode Island - Stamp must be affixed and signed.

South Carolina - Stamp must be signed across the face and in your possession.

South Dakota - If a hunter purchases his migratory bird certification through our Pierre Licensing Office or uses Internet access to purchase their migratory bird certification, there will only be a paper receipt. They must carry this receipt along with a photo ID while hunting. If a hunter purchases a migratory bird certification from a regular license agent, they will be issued a migratory bird certification stamp, which must be signed and attached to their license. Also, the hunter is required to possess this license with the attached stamp while waterfowl hunting.

Tennessee - Not required, stamp is collector only.

Texas - Not required, stamp is collector only.

Utah - No stamp.

Vermont - Stamp must be in your possession with your hunting license when hunting.

Virginia - Not required, stamp is collector only.

Washington - The waterfowl stamp is longer required to be affixed to hunting licenses, Washington has a validation line on the license itself.

West Virginia - No stamp.

Wisconsin - When purchasing the state waterfowl stamp, you do not actually receive a stamp. You receive a stamp approval that is printed on our license material. You can obtain the actual stamp for collecting purposes by going to a DNR Service Center, showing your license with the stamp approval, and request the actual stamp at no extra charge. Or, after the waterfowl season is over, you can send in your license requesting the actual stamp at no extra charge.

Wyoming - the conservation stamp must be in possession of the hunter while they are hunting.

### **2003 Breakdown**

- 42 states issuing stamps
- 24 states require hunters have stamp in their possession while hunting.

# Collins resigns as Duck Chief;

## *Terry Bell Retires*

Vaughn Collins, Chief of the Federal Duck Stamp Program since May 2002, has announced he will be leaving the position effective September 12.

Mr. Collins has accepted a position with Ducks Unlimited in their Washington, DC office. He will be the Director of Public Policy and spend much of his time working up on Capitol Hill.

Collins comments that "I am hopeful that in my new role I will be in an even better position to help ducks, conservation and the FWS Duck Stamp program."

Beginning September 15, Acting Chief of the Duck Stamp Office will be Chris Tollifson.

Duck Stamp Office veteran Terry Bell, well known to collectors over the years, has announced her retirement, effective October, but she has agreed to come back as a contractor to help manage the 2003 Federal Duck Stamp Contest.

Terry has been a friend and stabilizing factor for the Duck Stamp Program for many years and will be sorely missed.

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### *Scenic background con't from page 9*

Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network and designated as one of the top ten birding Hotspots by the National Audubon Society.

Refuge management programs restore threatened and endangered species such as the Delmarva Peninsula fox squirrel, the bald eagle and the piping plover. More than 2,600 acres of man-made marshes, or moist soil management units, are managed for wintering waterfowl and shorebirds during migration.

Unique residents of the island, the famous Chincoteague ponies, are housed in two areas on the refuge through a special agreement with the ponies' owners, the Chincoteague Volunteer Fire Company.

With approximately 1.4 million visits a year, Chincoteague NWR is one of the most visited refuges in the nation. Chincoteague Refuge provides visitors with extraordinary educational and recreational opportunities. In addition, a special partnership exists with the National Park Service which allows Assateague Island National Seashore to administer public activities on a five-mile portion of the refuge beach.



# State Duck Specials!

All stamps F-VF and better, mint never hinged. Sale ends October 31, 2003, or while supply lasts.



Alabama			Colorado			Indiana			Maryland			Mississippi			New York			Pennsylvania			Utah											
Cat. #	Reg.	Sale	Cat. #	Reg.	Sale	Cat. #	Reg.	Sale	Cat. #	Reg.	Sale	Cat. #	Reg.	Sale	Cat. #	Reg.	Sale	Cat. #	Reg.	Sale	Cat. #	Reg.	Sale									
AL1.....	\$8.50	*6.	CO10.....	\$10.00	*7.	IN11.....	\$8.00	*6.	MD7.....	\$10.00	*6.	MS14.....	\$8.00	*5.	NY3.....	\$9.00	*6.	PA11.....	\$9.00	*6.	UT1.....	\$10.00	*7.									
AL2.....	8.50	6.	CO11.....	10.00	7.	IN12.....	8.00	6.	MD8.....	7.00	3.	MS15.....	12.50	5.	NY4.....	9.00	6.	PA12.....	9.00	6.	UT2.....	8.00	6.									
AL3.....	8.50	6.	<b>Connecticut</b>			IN13.....	9.00	7.	MD9.....	7.00	4.	MS16.....	7.50	8.	NY5.....	9.00	6.	PA13.....	9.00	6.	UT3.....	8.00	6.									
AL4.....	8.50	6.	CT1.....	10.00	7.	IN14.....	9.00	7.	MD10.....	10.00	6.	MS17.....	7.50	6.	NY6.....	9.00	6.	PA14.....	9.00	6.	UT4.....	8.00	6.									
AL5.....	10.00	7.	CT2.....	10.00	7.	IN15.....	9.00	7.	MD11.....	10.00	6.	<b>Missouri</b>			NY9.....	9.00	6.	PA16.....	9.00	6.	UT6.....	15.00	9.									
AL6.....	10.00	7.	CT3.....	10.00	7.	IN16.....	9.00	7.	MD12.....	10.00	6.	MO3.....	55.00	39.	NY13.....	9.00	6.	PA17.....	9.00	6.												
AL7.....	12.00	8.	CT4.....	10.00	7.	IN17.....	9.00	7.	MD13.....	10.00	6.	MO4.....	45.00	29.	<b>North Carolina</b>			PA18.....	9.00	6.												
AL8.....	12.00	8.	CT5.....	10.00	7.	IN18.....	9.00	7.	MD14.....	10.00	6.	MO5.....	40.00	29.	NC3.....	25.00	19.															
AL9.....	13.00	8.	CT6.....	10.00	7.	IN19.....	9.00	7.	MD15.....	10.00	6.	MO6.....	22.00	17.	NC4.....	15.00	11.															
AL10.....	10.00	7.	CT7.....	10.00	7.	IN20.....	9.00	7.	MD16.....	10.00	6.	MO7.....	11.00	9.	NC5.....	12.00	9.															
AL11.....	8.50	6.	CT8.....	10.00	7.	<b>Iowa</b>			MD17.....	10.00	6.	MO8.....	11.00	9.	NC6.....	10.00	8.															
AL12.....	8.50	6.	<b>Delaware</b>			IA1.....	145.00	95.	MD18.....	10.00	6.	MO9.....	9.00	7.	NC7.....	11.00	8.															
AL13.....	8.50	6.	DE3.....	70.00	39.	IA2.....	25.00	16.	MD19.....	10.00	6.	MO10.....	7.00	6.	NC8.....	11.00	8.															
AL19.....	8.50	6.	DE4.....	30.00	19.	IA3.....	85.00	49.	MD20.....	10.00	6.	MO11.....	8.00	6.	NC9.....	11.00	8.															
AL20.....	8.50	6.	DE5.....	15.00	11.	IA4.....	95.00	59.	MD21.....	10.00	6.	MO12.....	8.00	6.	NC10.....	11.00	8.															
AL21.....	8.50	6.	DE6.....	12.00	9.	IA5.....	25.00	16.	MD22.....	10.00	6.	MO13.....	7.50	6.	NC11.....	11.00	8.															
<b>Alaska</b>			DE7.....	10.00	8.	IA6.....	25.00	16.	MD25.....	10.00	6.	MO14.....	7.50	6.	NC12.....	11.00	8.															
AK1.....	10.00	7.	DE8.....	10.00	8.	IA7.....	50.00	39.	MD26.....	10.00	6.	MO15.....	7.50	6.	NC13.....	11.00	8.															
AK2.....	10.00	7.	DE9.....	10.00	6.	IA8.....	375.00	299.	MD27.....	9.00	6.	MO16.....	7.50	6.	<b>North Dakota</b>																	
AK3.....	10.00	7.	DE10.....	10.00	6.	IA9.....	30.00	19.	<b>Massachusetts</b>			MO17.....	7.50	6.	ND3.....	30.00	22.															
AK4.....	10.00	7.	DE11.....	10.00	6.	IA10.....	30.00	19.	MA1.....	15.00	11.	MT2.....	12.00	9.	ND4.....	20.00	15.															
AK5.....	9.00	6.	DE12.....	10.00	6.	IA11.....	15.00	12.	MA2.....	15.00	11.	MT3.....	12.00	9.	ND5.....	20.00	15.															
AK15.....	10.00	6.	DE13.....	10.00	6.	IA12.....	15.00	12.	MA3.....	15.00	11.	MT4.....	11.00	9.	ND6.....	15.00	11.															
AK16.....	10.00	6.	DE14.....	10.00	6.	IA13.....	30.00	19.	MA4.....	15.00	11.	MT5.....	9.00	7.	ND7.....	14.00	11.															
<b>Arizona</b>			DE15.....	10.00	6.	IA14.....	20.00	11.	MA5.....	15.00	11.	MT6.....	9.00	7.	ND8.....	10.00	8.															
AZ1.....	9.00	6.	DE16.....	10.00	6.	IA15.....	15.00	9.	MA6.....	15.00	11.	MT7.....	9.00	7.	ND9.....	14.50	11.															
AZ3.....	8.00	6.	DE19.....	9.50	6.	IA16.....	12.00	9.	MA7.....	15.00	11.	MT8.....	9.00	7.	ND10.....	10.00	8.															
AZ14.....	9.50	8.	DE20.....	9.50	6.	IA17.....	12.00	9.	MA8.....	15.00	11.	MT9.....	9.00	7.	ND11.....	10.00	8.															
<b>Arkansas</b>			<b>Florida</b>			IA18.....	12.00	9.	MA9.....	15.00	11.	MT10.....	10.00	7.	ND12.....	10.00	7.															
AR2.....	35.00	24.	FL2.....	15.00	11.	IA19.....	10.00	8.	MA10.....	15.00	11.	MT11.....	10.00	7.	ND13.....	10.00	7.															
AR4.....	18.50	12.	FL3.....	15.00	11.	IA20.....	10.00	8.	MA11.....	15.00	11.	MT12.....	10.00	7.	ND14.....	10.00	7.															
AR5.....	12.00	9.	FL6.....	10.00	8.	IA21.....	12.00	9.	MA12.....	10.00	7.	<b>Nevada</b>			ND16.....	10.00	7.															
AR6.....	11.00	9.	FL7.....	10.00	8.	IA22.....	9.00	7.	MA13.....	10.00	7.	NV1.....	45.00	29.	ND17.....	10.00	7.															
AR7.....	11.00	9.	FL8.....	10.00	8.	IA23.....	9.00	7.	MA14.....	10.00	7.	NV2.....	9.50	6.	ND18.....	10.00	7.															
AR7b.....	10.00	7.	FL9.....	8.00	6.	IA24.....	9.00	6.	MA15.....	10.00	7.	NV3.....	9.50	6.	<b>Ohio</b>																	
AR8.....	10.00	8.	FL10.....	8.00	6.	IA25.....	9.00	6.	MA16.....	10.00	7.	NV4.....	9.50	6.	OH2.....	65.00	52.															
AR8b.....	10.00	7.	FL11.....	8.00	6.	IA26.....	10.00	6.	MA17.....	10.00	7.	NV5.....	9.50	6.	OH3.....	65.00	52.															
AR9.....	10.00	8.	FL12.....	8.00	6.	IA27.....	9.00	6.	MA18.....	10.00	7.	NV6.....	9.50	6.	OH4.....	22.50	19.															
AR11.....	10.00	7.	FL13.....	8.00	6.	<b>Kansas</b>			MA19.....	10.00	7.	NV7.....	9.50	6.	OH5.....	22.50	19.															
AR14.....	10.00	7.	FL14.....	8.00	4.	KS1.....	7.50	5.	MA20.....	10.00	7.	NV8.....	12.00	9.	OH6.....	12.00	9.															
AR18.....	11.00	9.	FL15.....	8.00	4.	KS2.....	7.50	4.	MA21.....	10.00	7.	NV9.....	10.00	7.	OH7.....	12.00	9.															
AR19.....	10.00	7.	FL21.....	8.00	4.	KS3.....	7.50	4.	MA22.....	10.00	7.	NV10.....	10.00	7.	OH8.....	12.00	9.															
AR20.....	11.00	9.	FL22.....	8.00	4.	KS4.....	7.50	4.	MA23.....	10.00	7.	NV11.....	9.50	6.	OH9.....	12.00	9.															
<b>California</b>			<b>Georgia</b>			KS5.....	7.50	4.	MA24.....	10.00	7.	NV12.....	10.00	7.	OH10.....	12.00	9.															
CA1.....	695.00	495.	GA1.....	10.00	7.	<b>Kentucky</b>			MA25.....	10.00	6.	NV13.....	9.50	6.	OH11.....	12.00	9.															
CA4.....	5.00	2.	GA2.....	10.00	7.	KY1.....	12.50	9.	MA26.....	10.00	6.	NV14.....	9.50	6.	OH12.....	15.00	12.															
CA5a.....	125.00	85.	GA3.....	9.50	7.	KY2.....	10.00	7.	MA27.....	10.00	6.	NV15.....	9.50	6.	OH13.....	15.00	12.															
CA6.....	15.00	11.	GA4.....	9.50	7.	KY3.....	10.00	7.	<b>Michigan</b>			NV16.....	9.50	6.	OH14.....	15.00	12.															
CA7.....	45.00	29.	GA5.....	9.50	7.	KY4.....	10.00	7.	MI1.....	5.00	2.	NV17.....	9.50	6.	OH15.....	15.00	12.															
CA7A.....	9.00	6.	GA7.....	9.50	7.	KY6.....	10.00	7.	MI2.....	275.00	195.	NV18.....	9.50	6.	OH16.....	15.00	12.															
CA8.....	95.00	79.	<b>Idaho</b>			KY8.....	10.00	7.	MI3.....	20.00	12.	NV19.....	9.50	6.	OH17.....	15.00	12.															
CA9.....	9.00	5.	ID1.....	10.00	8.	KY12.....	11.00	7.	MI4.....	15.00	12.	NV20.....	9.50	6.	OH18.....	15.00	12.															
CA10.....	9.00	5.	ID2.....	10.00	8.	KY13.....	11.00	7.	MI5.....	22.00	16.	NV21.....	9.50	6.	OH19.....	15.00	12.															
CA11.....	9.00	6.	ID3.....	10.00	8.	KY16.....	11.00	7.	MI12.....	10.00	7.	NV22.....	9.50	6.	OH20.....	15.00	12.															
CA12.....	9.00	6.	ID5.....	10.00	7.	KY17.....	11.00	7.	MI13.....	10.00	7.	<b>New Hampshire</b>																				
CA13.....	9.00	6.	ID6.....	10.00	7.	<b>Louisiana</b>			MI14.....	10.00	6.	NH2.....	65.00	49.																		
CA15.....	10.00	7.	<b>Illinois</b>			LA1.....	9.50																									



# Is the 1934 duck stamp *really* the first ever issued?

by Bob Dumaine

A fantastic story appeared in the November 2002 issue of *Field and Stream* magazine, which attracted the attention of many duck stamp collectors.

The article was titled “The Incurable Mallardy” authored by W. Hardbark McLoughlin. The article asserts that, “While the 1934 [duck] stamp is indeed rare and highly desirable, it was not the first stamp, nor is it the rarest. In fact, only a handful of extremely sophisticated, hard core collectors know that the first duck stamp was issued in 1933.”

This was a bombshell to duck stamp collectors, and I received a dozen or so telephone inquiries as to the accuracy of the story. Frankly, I was as mystified as the rest, and began researching the article and writer.

The article asserts that a Missouri Fish and Wildlife Officer, Lester P. Malt, designed a stamp but because of a “printer’s error the entire run of Malt’s impassioned bichrome mood piece in cobalt and carmine, came off the press with the red printed upside down, and the glue on the wrong side.” (Notice the inverted ducks and “Malt” in the accompanying photo.)

Naturally, the entire run of 3.5 million stamps was ordered destroyed. McLoughlin states “rumors persisted that a single specimen survived, then mysteriously disappeared, thus becoming the rarest stamp in history. Cognoscenti know the stamp as the Maltese Duck.

“What became of it? Who owns it? Does the Maltese Duck even exist? Who knows! Countless philatelists of fortune have

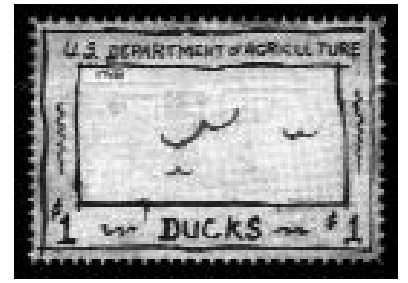
searched for those answers in the deadly hellholes of illicit duck-stamp trafficking – Marseilles, Rangoon, Istanbul, and Biloxi. Wealth has been squandered and lives ruined in the quest for this piece of perforated imperfection. Yet nothing stops the obsessed, not even the Curse of the Maltese Duck.”

It wasn’t until I reached this point that I realized something was wrong, really wrong! I had researched the federal duck stamp and its origin for roughly 25 years, visited Washington, D.C., reviewed files, spoken to the most knowledgeable individuals that exist, read every word I could get my hands on, yet I never heard or read a single hint of this stamp. I thought to myself; this can’t be real, not a chance! Where is this writer going, what could be his source data?

Then I thought; who names their child Hardbark?? And the article’s subtitle, “Have YOU Fallen Victim to the CURSE?” The next hint was Istanbul and Biloxi, Mississippi.

Like a club on the head, I laughed out loud ... at myself; The Maltese Duck? Named after a man named Malt?? 1933? Hey, Dashiell Hammett wrote the Maltese Falcon in 1930! He’s mixing Mr. Malt’s falcon and duck stamp philately. What a sucker! I had been taken! Hardbark got me, if only for a minute, and I realized what he meant by “falling victim to the curse” in the subtitle! Nowhere in the article does he let you off the hook, and say it ain’t so.

The rest of the “Mallardy” story is great,



The 1933 Maltese duck invert.

and if you have time, check it out. W. Hardbark McLoughlin is a genius, a fantastic satirist, and remarkable storyteller. When I searched the web, I found several books he had authored. I was lucky to get one from Amazon.com, *The Best of Hook & Bullet*, an alleged hunting and fishing magazine. This writer is so talented even the phony “advertisements” in his book are believable, at least until you analyze them. “Hardbark” will keep you gleefully entertained for hours and hours.

Another sample or two? A few of the stories replete with photos, in “*The Best of ...*” are: “A Ditch Runs Through It”; “Grizzly Milk”; “Hell’s Anglers”; and an “expose” story, “Rumors FLOATING Around the Industry” with a photo showing the Hindenberg stuffed in an old barn, implying the real one never existed.

McLoughlin’s articles regularly appear in *Field and Stream*. Take a read sometime; you won’t be sorry.

... And “No, Virginia, there is not a 1933 inverted duck stamp!”

(Thanks to Anthony Mirr for bringing the article to my attention.)



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