

# The History of U.S. Duck Stamps

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# Punt Gun



# Multi-Point Gun



# Duck Hunting Haul



# More Duck Hunting Haul



# Duck Stamps

- Fundamentally a conservation program
- Based on a 1929 law “Migratory Bird Conservation Act”, to purchase wetlands
- No funding mechanism in original law
- 1934 Roosevelt appoints Jay N. “Ding” Darling chief of Bureau of Biological Survey, later called U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

# Stamps as License

- March 16, 1934 law passed and signed the Migratory Bird Hunting Stamp Act.
- Required all hunters 16 and older to buy a stamp annually.
- Revenue earmarked to Dept. of Interior to purchase waterfowl sanctuaries.
- Funded the most popular and successful conservation program ever initiated.

# Success!

- As of 2000 over \$500 million has been collected and used to preserve 5 million acres of waterfowl habitat.
- Over 400 wildlife refuges paid for by Duck Stamp money.
- Wetlands dissipate storm water, provide hatcheries for fish

# The First Duck Stamp (1)

- Designed by “Ding” Darling himself.
- Brush and ink drawing of mallards landing.
- On sale starting August 22, 1934.
- 635,001 stamps sold.
- Unsold stamps destroyed at the end of sale. This continued thru 1940.
- Wet plate printing thru 1953, gum skips are normal

# The First Duck Stamp (2)

- Used ungummed paper, wet, then printed.
- Intaglio printing on flatbed press, single color, blue.
- Plate numbers 129199, 129200, 129201, 129202.
- Note position of plate number, giving plate block of 6 required.

# The First Duck Stamp (3)

- Regulations required affixing to license form 3333.
- Signature was on the form, not the stamp.
- Rule relaxed only during the last 2 weeks of sale.
- Multiples are thus very rare. Only 5 full panes are known.

# My Pride and Joy



# A Duck Stamp In Use

- Note the signature is on the form 3333.



# The Second Duck Stamp (1)

- Artist Frank W. Benson by invitation.
- Black and white wash painting.
- On sale starting July 1, 1935.
- 448,204 sold.
- Plate numbers 131980, 131981, 131982, 131983.
- Flat plate intaglio press.

# The Second Duck Stamp (2)

- Note signature now required across face of stamp.



# Almost As Joyous



# RW1 - RW10



# RW3 – RW10 Sales

RW3	603,623	RW7	1,260,810
RW4	783,039	RW8	1,439,967
RW5	1,002,715	RW9	1,383,629
RW5	1,111,561	RW10	1,169,352

# Notes

- Artists selected by invitation only thru RW16 (1949 issue).
- RW17 received 88 entries in open competition.
- All subsequent Duck Stamp art selected in open competition

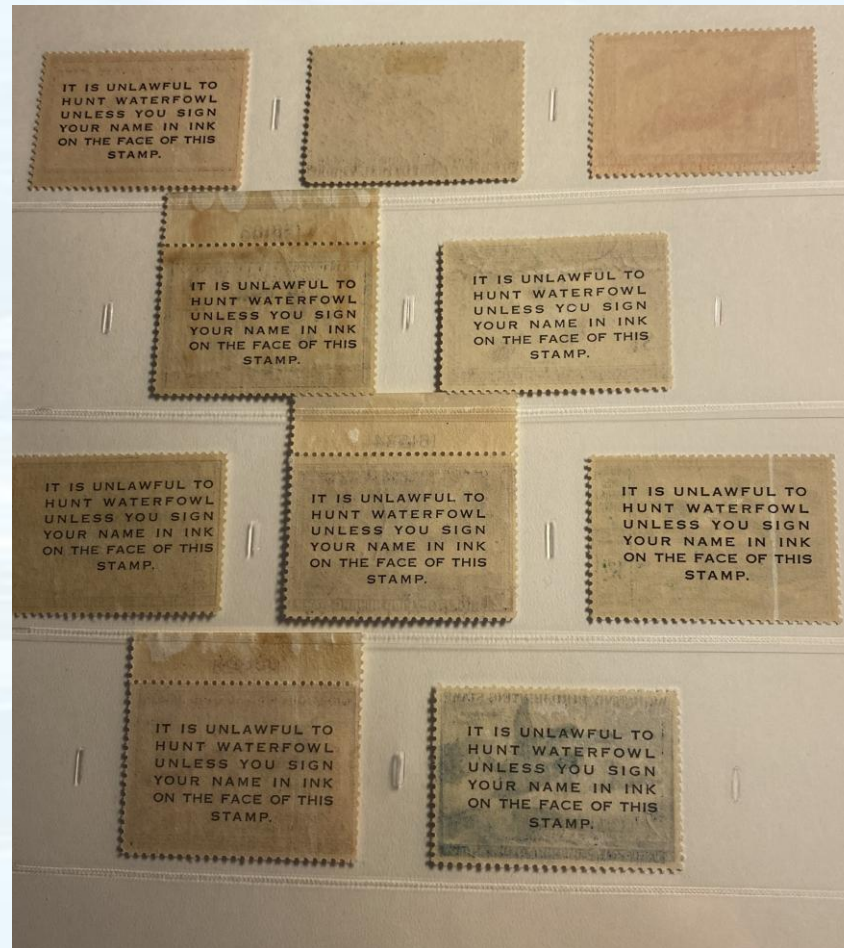
# RW11 - RW20



# RW11 – RW20 Sales

RW11	1,487,029	RW16	1,954,734
RW12	1,725,505	RW17	1,903,644
RW13	2,016,841	RW18	2,167,767
RW14	1,722,677	RW19	2,296,628
RW15	2,127,603	RW20	2,268,446

# Back Printing



# Notes

- Starting with RW13 (1946) text added to back of stamp:
- “IT IS UNLAWFUL TO HUNT WATERFOWL UNLESS YOU SIGN YOUR NAME IN INK ON THE FACE OF THIS STAMP.”
- Starting with RW16 (1949) price raised to \$2.00.
- Note numerous gum skips on RW14, RW17, RW18, RW19.
- Wet plate printing discontinued on RW20, no more gum skips.

# Changes Arrive (1)



## Changes Arrive (2)

- RW26 text added on reverse: “DUCK STAMP DOLLARS BUY WETLANDS FOR WATERFOWL”.
- Plate number position moved to first row.
- Plate block size thus becomes 4 stamps.
- Price raised to \$3.00
- Multiple color printing begins.
- Made into a license plate.
- I had one of these on my car for years.

# Changes Arrive (3)



# Additional Changes

- RW27 text on reverse changed again: “DUCK STAMP DOLLARS BUY WETLANDS TO PERPETUATE WATERFOWL”
- RW34 text on reverse changed again: “BUY DUCK STAMPS SAVE WETLANDS – SEND IN ALL BIRD BANDS – SIGN YOUR DUCK STAMP”
- RW37 text on reverse changed again, adding: “IT IS UNLAWFUL TO HUNT WATERFOWL UNLESS YOU SIGN YOUR NAME IN INK ON THE FACE OF THIS STAMP”

# Price Changes

- RW39 price raised to \$5.00.
- RW46 price raised to \$7.50.
- RW54 price raised to \$10.00.
- RW56 price raised to \$12.50.
- RW58 price raised to \$15.00.
- RW82 price raised to \$25.00.

# Progressive Improvements (1)



# Progressive Improvements (2)



# Progressive Improvements (3)



# Progressive Improvements (4)



# Progressive Improvements (5)



# Progressive Improvements (6)



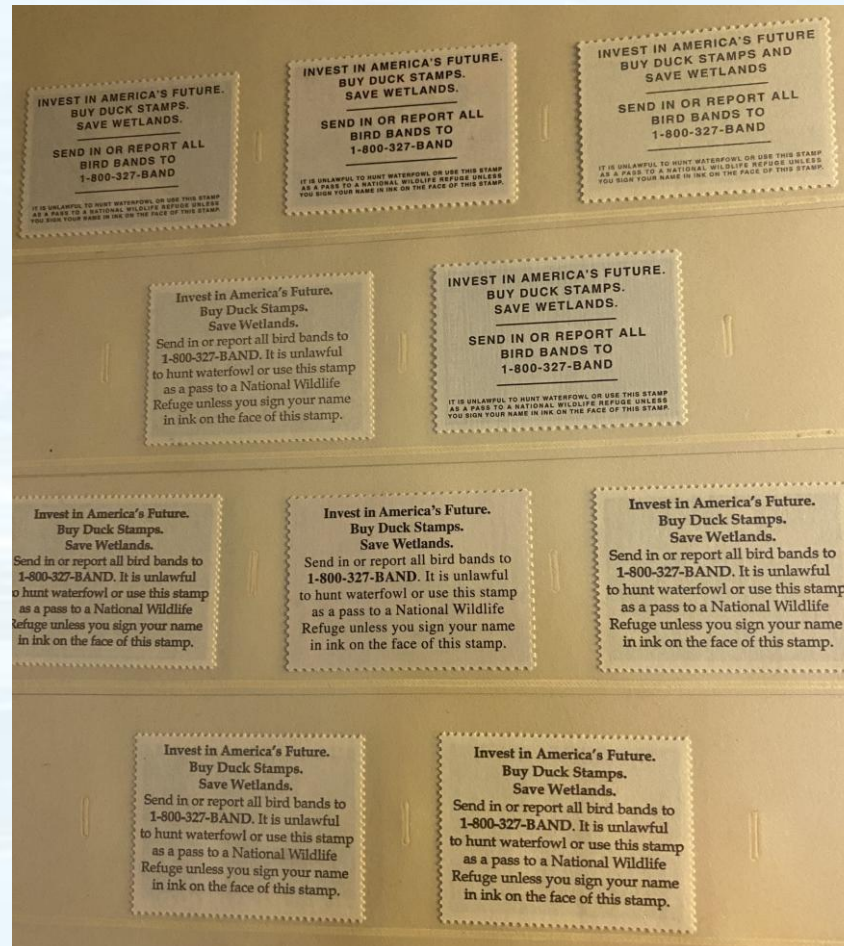
# Progressive Improvements (7)



# Progressive Improvements (8)



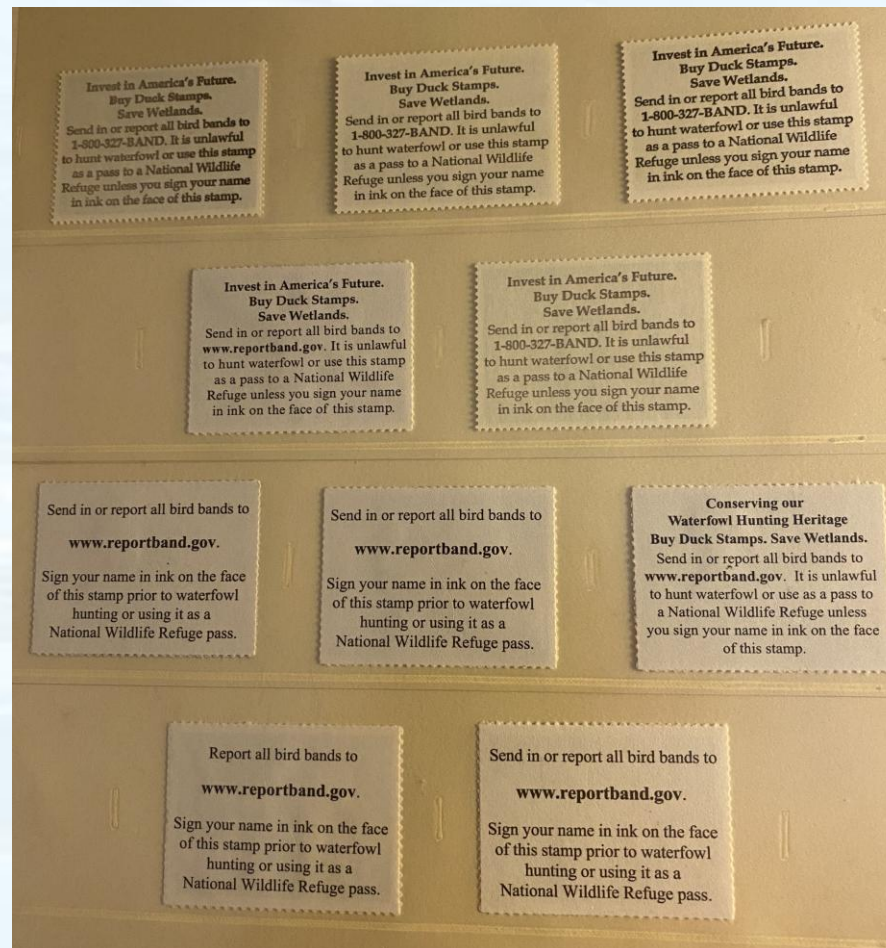
# Progressive Improvements (9)



# Progressive Improvements (10)



# Progressive Improvements (11)



# Progressive Improvements (12)



# Progressive Improvements (13)



# More Collectibles

“Dollar Bill” sized souvenir sheet with self-adhesive single stamp.

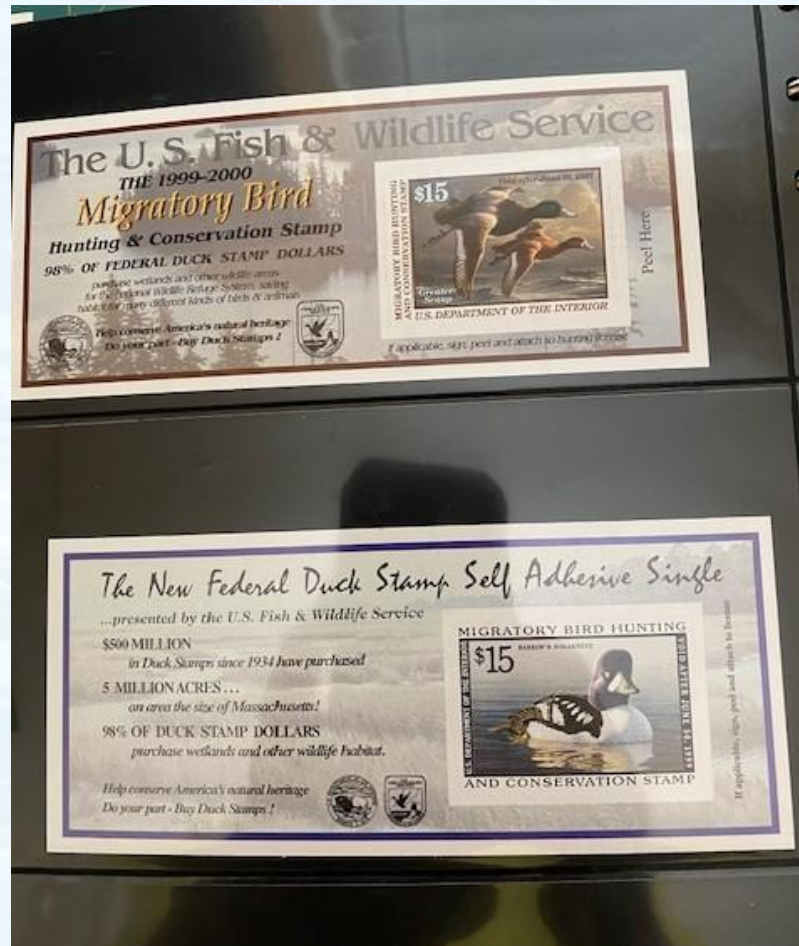
Full page first day commemorative sheet

“Appreciation” souvenir sheet

First day cover

75<sup>th</sup> anniversary sheet

# Dollar Bill



# Appreciation Sheet (1)



# Appreciation Sheet (2)



# First Day Commemorative Sheet



# First Day Cover



# Junior Duck Stamps (1)

Contest begun in 1989 to teach students about conservation through the arts.

Originally a collaboration between the US Fish and Wildlife Service, and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation.

Now run by the Duck Stamp Office.

State winners compete in DC for national contest.

## Junior Duck Stamps (2)

First, second, and third place winners and their teachers go to DC to attend the Federal Duck Stamp Competition.

First place entry is made into a stamp and the artist receives a \$2500.00 scholarship.

Revenue from stamp sales supports conservation education.

First Junior Duck Stamp issued is 1993-1994.

# Junior Duck Stamps (3)



# Junior Duck Stamps (4)



# Junior Duck Stamps (4)



# Junior Duck Stamps (5)



# Conclusion

Thank you for your interest!