

# The Honey Lake Waterfowl Stamps

by David R. Torre, ARA

## Introduction

Following the federal waterfowl stamps, the two most popular series of waterfowl stamps among longtime collectors are undoubtedly those issued by California for Honey Lake and the Illinois Daily Usage stamps. The Honey Lake stamps are non-pictorial, while the Daily Usage stamps may be liberally described as semi-pictorial. Their appeal results less from their aesthetic qualities than from their usages, related history (both social and philatelic) and longevity.

Their usages differ in a strict philatelic sense. The Honey Lake stamps were required to be affixed to state hunting licenses which they validated for an entire season. The Daily Usage stamps were affixed to permits, distinct from the holder's state hunting license, which they validated for a single day. In a broader sense their usages were alike. Both series of stamps conveyed the right to hunt on public shooting grounds located on state waterfowl management areas. Such areas were widely developed in the 1940s and 1950s to meet a triad of pressing social needs; that is, to preserve the waterfowl of North America for the benefit of current and future generations, to reduce and control waterfowl depredations on agricultural crops and to provide regulated waterfowl hunting for sportsmen who could not afford to belong to private clubs.

Both series trace their origins to the 1950s, placing them among the earliest state issues required to hunt waterfowl. The Honey Lake stamps are the longest consecutively issued series of waterfowl stamps by any state government in the twentieth century (1956 to 1986). The Daily Usage stamps have been issued over an even longer period of time, although not consecutively (1951 to the present). The stamps were first discovered by pioneer fish and game collectors in the early 1960s and have been avidly collected since. Recently they have enjoyed a surge in popularity, prompted by the large number of collectors now specializing in state-issued waterfowl stamps.

One of the difficulties encountered by collectors of all types of fish and game stamps is a scarcity of published information. The primary purpose of this article and a second to follow in the April [1994] issue of *The American Revenuer* is to tell the stories of the two stamp programs. In addition, the need for state waterfowl management areas will be chronicled. Related waterfowl legislation will be included and the Pittman-Robertson Act of 1937 will be discussed at some length. It is hoped that this knowledge will expand the frame of reference collectors have for fish and game stamps thereby allowing the hobby to be more enjoyable and rewarding.



The following is a brief literature review for the California stamps. A separate review for the Illinois stamps will appear as part of the next issue's article. Information about the Honey Lake stamps was first published in [Frank L.] Applegate's Catalogue of State and Territorial Game and Fishing License Stamps in the early 1960s. Applegate provided a description of the first five "Seasonal Permit" stamps, which he reported as first being issued for the 1956-57 season (see Figure 1).



**FIGURE 1. IN THE EARLY 1960S, APPLGATE WAS THE FIRST TO PUBLISH INFORMATION ABOUT THE HONEY LAKE STAMPS. THIS EXAMPLE WAS IN THE VANDERFORD COLLECTION FOR MANY YEARS.**

The number of stamps sold for the first four issues was included and it ranged from 236 to 306. Applegate also published a description of a "Madeline Plains Seasonal Permit" stamp that he reported as being issued for 1956-57 only. Applegate stated that both the Honey Lake and Madeline Plains stamps were printed by the California State Printing Office and that "all remainders had been destroyed by the state".

Starting in the mid 1960s, E. L. Vanderford wrote a series of articles reporting on state and local fish and game stamps for the State Revenue Newsletter. When Vanderford had finished covering all of the states that had issued stamps up until that time, the articles were updated and compiled into Vanderford's Handbook of Fish and Game Stamps. The State Revenue Society (SRS) published the landmark reference in 1973. In the handbook Vanderford provided descriptions of the Honey Lake stamps that had been issued through 1971-72. For 1966-67 there were two types listed. Type I stamps were numbered from 1 to 700 and bear an imprint in the lower right corner. Type II stamps were numbered 701 to ? and lack the imprint (see Figure 2).



FIGURE 2. E. L. VANDERFORD'S HANDBOOK OF FISH AND GAME STAMPS LISTED TWO TYPES OF 1966-67 STAMPS. TYPE II LACKS THE PRINTER'S IMPRINT IN THE LOWER RIGHT.

Vanderford provided additional information about the Madeline Plains stamp. He stated that Madeline Plains was also a state-owned and operated area north of Honey Lake but had been abandoned "primarily due to the inaccessibility of the area." The California Department of Fish and Game had informed Vanderford that seasonal permit stamps, similar to those used at Honey Lake, and been issued for 1956-57 and that 119 were sold. As Vanderford was previously unaware of a Madeline Plains stamp, he stated "Verification by actual inspection of [a] stamp is desired."

In 1977 the SRS published Vanderford's Check List of State and Locally Issued Migratory Waterfowl License Stamps. The checklist included descriptions of Honey Lake stamps used from 1972-73 through 1975-76. By this time Vanderford had come to believe that he was given erroneous information concerning the Madeline Plains stamp and that it was, in fact, a myth. Therefore, the stamp's description was deleted from the checklist and in its place was the statement "Information needed—none now known to exist."

In 1991 Scott Publishing Company published a Federal and State Duck Stamp Catalogue. The catalog pictured all of the Honey Lake stamps issued through 1985-86 and provided a brief description for each. No mention was made of the Madeline Plains stamp.



## Waterfowl Restoration and Conservation

The early part of the twentieth century was a grim time for North American waterfowl. Man and nature combined to reduce once abundant populations to critically low levels. Over killing by professional and recreational hunters was primarily responsible for the initial downturn through the first decade. Hunting regulations were generally lax, with long seasons typically lasting from four to six months and excessive bag limits being the rule (see Figure 3).

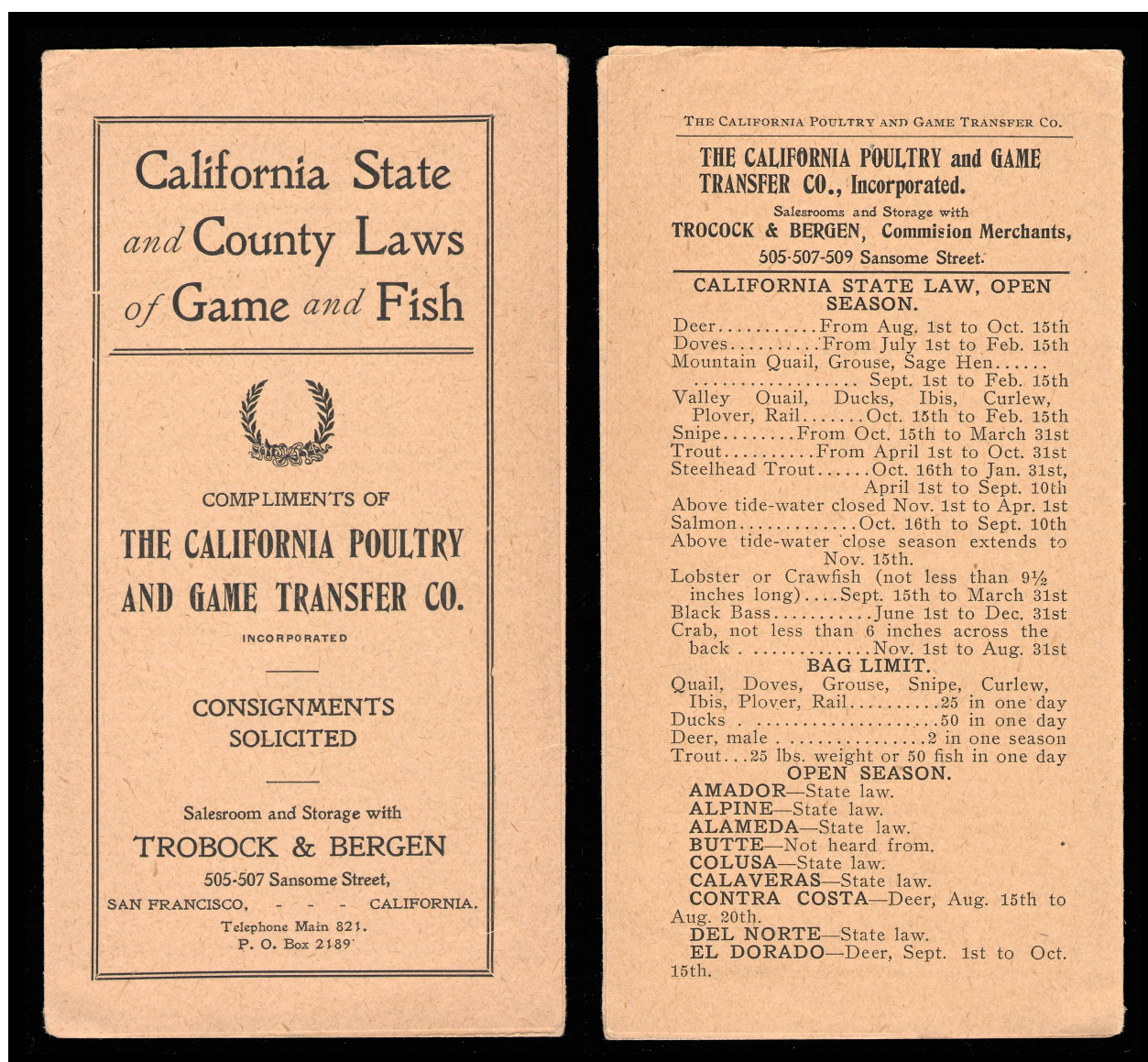


FIGURE 3. COVER (LEFT) AND THE FIRST PAGE OF CALIFORNIA GAME LAWS, CIRCA 1903.  
THE BAG LIMIT FOR DUCKS IS LISTED AS 50 PER DAY.



“Market hunting” was then a legal and common practice, whereby professional hunters killed obscene numbers of waterfowl to sell to market (see Figure 4). Starting around 1910 a nation-wide farming boom in the U.S. precipitated the drainage of huge tracts of wetlands and resulted in the destruction of many prime waterfowl breeding areas. Feeding and rest areas important to migrating waterfowl were also negatively affected.

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Dear Sir:—Received and sold for your account this day,

1	Mallard	@	1 0 0
	Canvas Back	"	
1	Sprig	"	5 0 0
1	Gray Ducks	"	3 0 0
	Red Heads	"	
3	Teal	"	2 2 5
34	Widgeon	"	2 5 0
	Black Jacks	"	
	Spoon Bills	"	
	Little Ducks	"	
	Honkers, L	"	
	Honkers, S	"	
	Gray Geese	"	
	White Geese, L	"	
	White Geese, S	"	
	Brant, L	"	
	Brant, S	"	
	Crane	"	
	Quail	"	
	Doves	"	
	Snipe, Eng.	"	
	Snipe, Com.	"	
	Birds	"	
	Hare	"	
	Rabbits	"	
	Rabbits Bush.	"	
	Squirrels	"	
	Terrapin	"	

Yours truly,  
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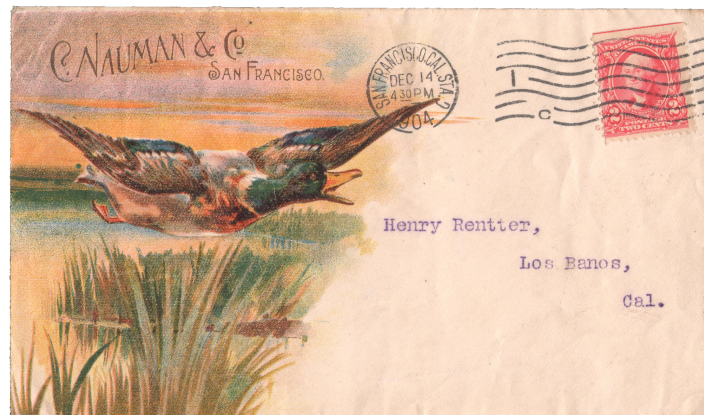


FIGURE 4. TOP: MERCHANT'S RECEIPT FOR 40 DUCKS MADE OUT TO A MARKET HUNTER FROM OREGON ON NOVEMBER 18 1903. BOTTOM: ILLUSTRATED ADVERTISING COVER FROM THE SAME COMPANY USED A YEAR LATER.

Waterfowl restoration and conservation soon became prevailing topics for discussion. **With the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918, the federal government accepted responsibility for the protection of migratory waterfowl in the United States.** In the 1920s conservation leaders, including Connecticut Senator Frederick Walcott, promoted the idea of federal waterfowl management areas (Madson, 1994). Like the federal refuges developed in the past, the primary purpose of the areas would be to provide much needed habitat, food and protection for breeding and migrating waterfowl. In contrast to the single-purpose refuges, however, the waterfowl management areas envisioned by Walcott and others would serve society in multiple ways.

For example, it was proposed that portions of the areas could be opened for public hunting at appropriate times of the year. Although some might question the ethics involved in permitting hunting on a conservation area, it would actually be consistent with the best interest of waterfowl to have as much harvesting of the resource as possible take place in a highly regulated environment. By increasing the utility of conservation areas for a broader spectrum of the citizenry, it would be easier to win support and secure funding. The waterfowl management area concept quickly received widespread support and funding became the next issue.

Many conservation leaders, including Walcott, favored the idea of a “national hunting stamp” which had been proposed by George A. Lawyer (Dolin and Dumaine, 2000). Lawyer was employed by the Bureau of Biological Survey (now known as the U.S. Fish and Wildlife service). He held the titles of Inspector, Migratory Game Law from 1916 to 1918 and Chief U.S. Game Warden from 1918 to 1926. In these roles he traveled the country gathering data on migratory birds. He sketched a proposed design for the first federal stamp in the 1920s that was heavily influenced by a California hunting license he was issued in 1919 (see Figure 5).



FIGURE 5. IN HIS TRAVELS GATHERING DATA ON MIGRATORY WATERFOWL, GEORGE LAWYER VISITED CALIFORNIA IN 1919. HIS BUSINESS CARD IS SHOWN ABOVE. THE HUNTING LICENSE HE WAS ISSUED (MIDDLE) HEAVILY INFLUENCED THE DESIGN HE SKETCHED FOR HIS PROPOSED FIRST NATIONAL HUNTING STAMP (BOTTOM).

The national stamp idea, however, encountered opposition from those who thought it would be infringing on the states' rights to license hunters. In 1925 a committee was formed by state conservation leaders to look into an alternative to the hunting stamp. The committee recommended an excise tax on firearms and ammunition. Although receiving support from More Game Birds In America, the forerunner to Ducks Unlimited, the idea soon had to be put aside when Congress repealed all excise taxes (Madson, 1994).

As arguments over funding waged through the 1920s, the need for additional waterfowl areas became increasingly urgent. A decade of lower-than-normal rainfall was followed in the late 1920s by the onset of a severe drought. Some of the most important breeding areas remaining in the U.S. went completely dry and waterfowl production was extremely low. Due in large part to the efforts of Senator Peter Norbeck of South Dakota, the Migratory Bird Conservation Act was passed in 1929. This act basically called for the federal government to live up to the responsibility it had accepted in 1918, in part by developing the waterfowl management areas to offset the effects of drainage and drought on waterfowl habitat (McBride, 1984).



The devastating drought and subsequent Dust Bowl lasted through the first half of the 1930s. A side effect of the drought was widespread botulism which was born in stagnant lakes and resulted in the loss of additional hundreds of thousands of birds (Pacific Waterfowl Flyway Report Number Two, May 1948). Pressure to secure funding for the waterfowl areas was mounting. Senator Walcott was instrumental in the formation of the Senate Special Committee on the Conservation of Wildlife Resources.

In 1934, President Franklin D. Roosevelt appointed J.N. Ding Darling head of the Bureau of Biological Survey. With Darling's assistance, the committee helped to finally win approval for a hunting stamp. The bill passed through Congress on March 10, 1934. On March 16, President Roosevelt signed the Migratory Bird Hunting Stamp Act into law. Darling was selected to design the first stamp which has become known as RW1 (for Revenue Waterfowl ) and he was the first person allowed to purchase stamps on August 22, 1934. Stamps went on sale to the general public two days later (see Figure 6).



**FIGURE 6. THE FIRST FEDERAL WATERFOWL STAMP (RW1) WAS ISSUED IN 1934. THE STAMP ON THE BLUE CARD BELOW (FORM 3333) IS A STAMP FROM THE FIRST SHEET SOLD TO DING DARLING ON AUGUST 22. THE CARD IS SIGNED BY DARLING ON THE REVERSE SIDE.**

## The Pittman-Robertson Act

**It soon became evident that the federal government could not hope to run an effective waterfowl management program without the cooperation of the state conservation agencies.** The task was simply too large and complex. State officials were receptive to accepting joint responsibility for the restoration of waterfowl. However, they were lacking well trained personnel to accumulate the data necessary for adequate management and also funding to purchase and develop their own waterfowl management areas.

As a result of efforts by Darling, the First American Wildlife Conference was held in St. Louis in 1937 (Moum, 1987a). The Great Depression had forced Congress to reimpose excise taxes in 1932. Subsequently, there was renewed interest in a tax on arms and ammunition. At the conference conservation leaders agreed that the tax revenue should be made available for state conservation programs (Madson, 1994).

Carl Shoemaker, a former state fish and game director, attended the conference as Secretary to the Senate Special Committee on the Conservation Wildlife Resources. Upon returning, Shoemaker drafted a proposal for a ten percent excise tax and was able to secure support from key leaders in the firearms industry (Madson, 1994). Senator Key Pittman of Nevada and Representative Willis Robertson of Virginia introduced the legislation known officially as the Federal Aid In Wildlife Restoration Act in Congress. On September 2, 1937, President Roosevelt signed the bill into law (Moum, 1987a; Madson, 1994).

Senator Robertson had previously been a member of the Virginia Game and Inland Fisheries Commission. He was familiar with the way in which state legislatures sometimes acted. Robertson insisted on adding an amendment to Shoemaker's bill before introducing it in the House. Robertson's farsighted amendment prohibited state legislatures from diverting funds (obtained through the sale of hunting licenses, etc.) from conservation departments to balance state budgets. If this occurred, the state would no longer be eligible for funding from the Federal Aid In Wildlife Restoration Program (Madson, 1994). In recognition of the efforts of the two Congressmen, the act has become popularly known as the **Pittman-Robertson (P-R) Act**.

According to the Act, "An amount equal to the revenue accruing from the excise tax imposed by Section 610, Title IV of the Revenue Act of 1932 (47 Stat. 169), as extended on firearms, shells and cartridges is authorized to be set apart in the Treasury as a special fund to be known as "The Federal Aid to Wildlife Fund." (Annual Report of the Pittman- Robertson Program For the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 1946)

Currently the Pittman-Robertson Program collects an 11 percent tax on sporting rifles, shotguns, ammunition and archery gear intended for hunting, along with a ten percent tax on handguns (Madson, 1994). The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) is custodian of the fund. With the exception of administration costs, all of the money is distributed to state fish and game departments (Johnson, 1958). Under the terms of the Act, the funds are apportioned to the departments according to the total land area and the number of hunting license holders in each state. **The larger the state and the more hunting licenses a state sells, the larger the portion of the "P-R pie" the state is eligible to receive.**

Initially, the state game departments must pay for the full cost of each project through license and stamp sales. Once everything has been completed according to a pre-approved plan, the projects may then be reimbursed up to 75 percent of the total cost from the federal fund. Therefore, the states ultimately pay for only 25 percent of each approved project (Johnson, 1958; Moum, 1987b). Pittman-Robertson funds are primarily used by the states for the purchase, development and maintenance of wildlife habitat and also for scientific research into problems facing wildlife restoration (Moum, 1987b; Madson, 1994).



The Migratory Bird Hunting Stamp Act of 1934 and the Pittman-Robertson Act of 1937 are similar legislations in that both were passed to secure funding for wildlife conservation projects—with an emphasis on migratory waterfowl restoration and conservation. While “duck stamp” sales to date have raised about \$500 million to fund federal waterfowl management areas, the Pittman-Robertson Program has collected over \$2.5 billion for wildlife conservation work at the state level (Madson, 1994).

Following the 1930s federal and state waterfowl management areas were, for the most part, developed to meet three major objectives:

- To provide habitat, food and protection for breeding and migrating waterfowl.
- To provide an adequate source of feed to migrating waterfowl so as to minimize depredations to agricultural crops.
- To provide regulated waterfowl hunting for sports men who could not afford to belong to private clubs.

For the federal areas especially, the goal of protection has generally been of primary concern. For state areas, the emphasis has sometimes shifted in order to deal with local conditions and priorities. A classic example occurred in California during the 1940s and 1950s.

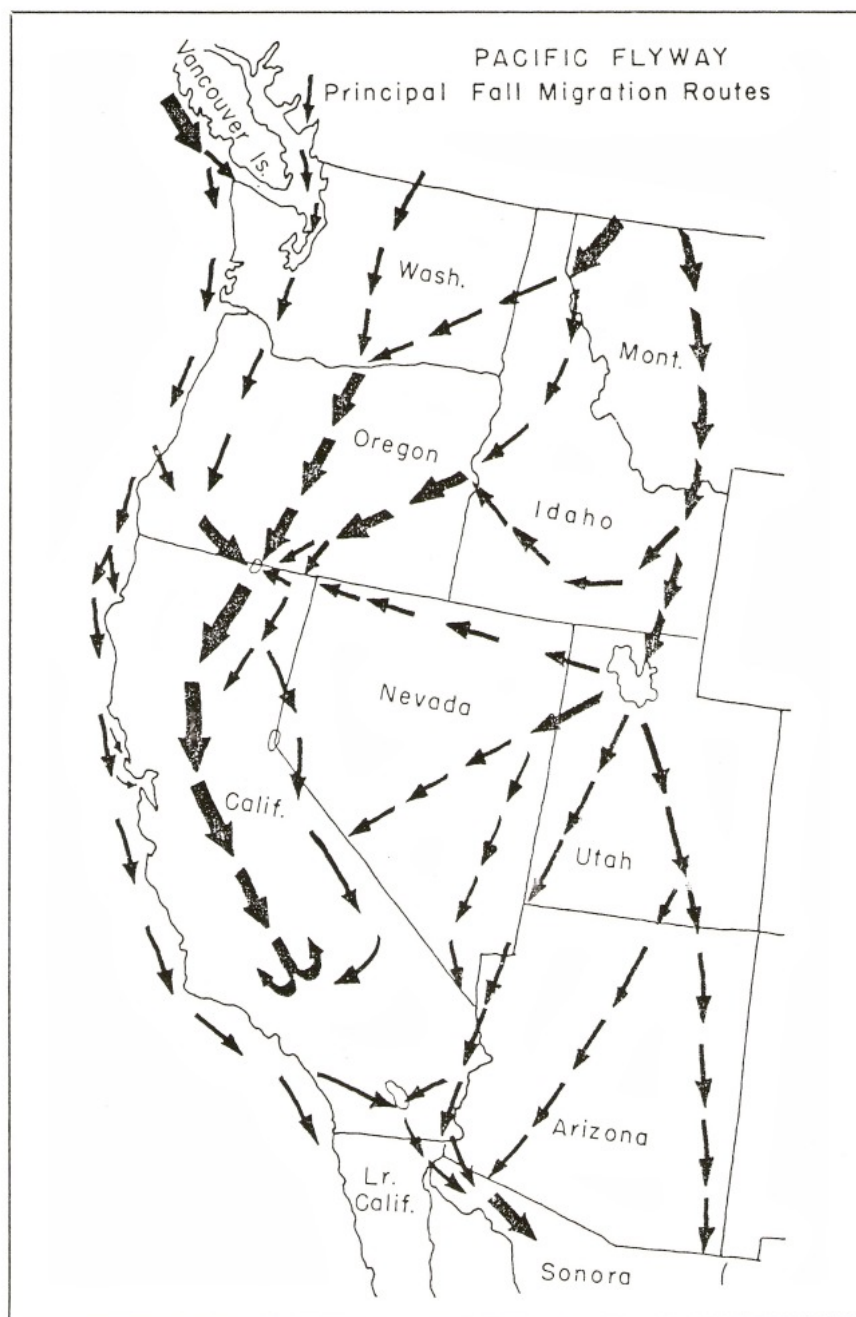
## California: Ancestral Wintering Ground

Waterfowl migration can be defined as “the annual spring and fall movement of a population between its breeding and wintering ranges” (Wesley and Leitch, 1987). In general, migratory waterfowl leave their principal breeding grounds in Alaska, the Arctic and Canada in the late summer or fall to “fly south for the winter.” Depending on the species, birds seeking less harsh to warm climates spend their winters in the U.S., Mexico, Central America or South America. In the spring they return instinctively to their ancestral breeding grounds.

In 1935 Frederick C. Lincoln of the Bureau of Biological Survey introduced the “flyway” concept. As a result of extensive waterfowl banding studies, Lincoln recognized what he referred to as “distinct migration corridors” or “lanes of travel” (Hanson and Smith, 1950; Bartonek, 1994). Lincoln showed that ducks and geese strictly adhere to ancestral flight routes. This trait causes them to concentrate over specific regions of the continent as they migrate, as opposed to being more randomly dispersed. Lincoln identified four major regions of concentration and named them the Pacific, Central, Mississippi and Atlantic Flyways (Hanson and Smith, 1950; Flyway Concept, 1955).

California is located within the Pacific Flyway, along with the western states of Alaska, Arizona, Idaho, Nevada, Oregon, Utah and Washington. Ducks and geese using the Pacific Flyway breed and nest primarily in the prairie provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan, but also to a great extent in Alaska, parts of British Columbia and even Siberia (Flyway Concept, 1955). In the fall Pacific Flyway waterfowl migrate south, keeping west of the continental divide while making their way to wintering grounds in California and Mexico.

California is the main wintering ground for Pacific Flyway waterfowl, with more than 75 percent of the ducks and geese spending at least part of their winters there (Gordon, 1950; Bartonek, 1994). Seven Pacific Flyway migration routes converge at the Tule Lake-Lower Klamath Lake area in northeast California alone — making it the largest flyway concentration area in the United States. From there, the waterfowl move down through the central valley of the state (see Figure 7).



**FIGURE 7. CALIFORNIA IS THE ANCESTRAL WINTERING GROUND FOR THE MAJORITY OF WATERFOWL USING THE PACIFIC FLYWAY.**

The breeding grounds for Pacific Flyway waterfowl in Alaska and British Columbia suffered far less from drainage and drought than those contributing to the other major flyways. Starting in 1935, drought conditions in the prairie provinces were relieved by increasing rainfall and snowfall. Aquatic vegetation quickly recovered as the lakes filled with water, restoring the waterfowl principle food source. Restoration of the Canadian breeding grounds was further accomplished through the efforts of the Canadian government and Ducks Unlimited.

In the U.S., federal waterfowl refuges were established in eastern Washington, eastern Oregon and northeastern California. Hunting pressure was reduced throughout the western states. First through more restrictive federal regulations which included the outlawing of market hunting, then as a byproduct of U.S. involvement in World War II. These events allowed waterfowl populations in the Pacific Flyway to rebound strongly and by the late 1940s the number of ducks and geese wintering in California numbered 10 million per year (Pacific Waterfowl Flyway Report Number Two, May 1948; Waterfowl Pose California Problem, 1955).

Changes in California's land use, initiated by white settlers in the mid 1880s, had accelerated over the previous thirty years. The state could no longer accommodate such large numbers of waterfowl without problems arising. By far the most serious problem was depredation to agricultural crops. In other words, wintering waterfowl were eating the farmer's crops.

Previous to settlers entering California, much of the state's great central valley extending from present day Chico in the north to Bakersfield in the south consisted of vast marshlands (see Figure 8). The marshes were formed by flooding caused by fall and winter storms and were maintained in the summer by the runoff from melting snow in the Sierra Nevada mountains. For thousands of years Pacific Flyway waterfowl had depended on the marshlands for up to six months out of the year (Gordon, 1952a).

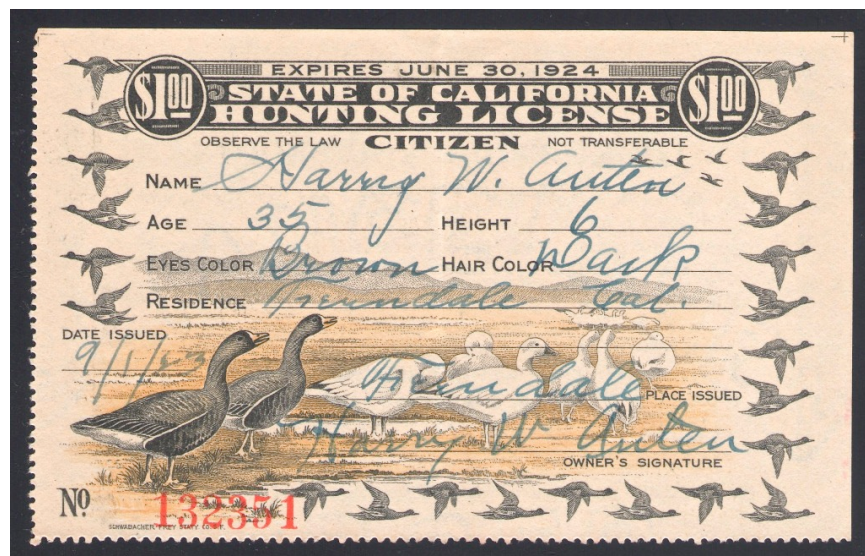


FIGURE 8. 1923-24 CALIFORNIA HUNTING LICENSE SHOWED GEESSE ON THE CENTRAL VALLEY MARSHLANDS.

Many of the settlers were farmers. Early development of California's fertile valleys regulated the flow of water onto the marshes. Flood control projects were built and soon the marshlands were being drained and used for irrigation purposes. As many "reclaimed the land" for farming, the once vast marshlands began to disappear (Gordon, 1952a; Waterfowl Pose California Problem, 1955). Larger and larger segments of the existing waterfowl habitat were taken over for agricultural use.

Many of the ancestral waterfowl areas were turned into rice fields. Rice acreage in California increased from 1,400 in 1912 to 162,000 in 1920 and 485,000 by 1954 (Waterfowl Pose California Problem, 1955). According to an excerpt from a speech by California Wildlife Conservation Board Consultant Seth Gordon in 1952, “[The rice fields] provided choice food and water in the same place. From a duck’s point of view, a rice field is merely an improved marsh; and since the great rice growing districts of the state are located on the sites of some of the best of the original marshes, the birds naturally gravitate to those areas...”

The subsequent losses from duck depredation on rice were enormous, especially when the harvest was delayed. In 1943 alone, ducks ate over \$1 million worth of rice. Similarly, widgeon and geese consumed large amounts of fall-planted grains, clover and irrigated pasture grasses, “trampling and puddling what they did not eat” (Gordon, 1952a; Waterfowl Pose California Problem, 1955). During the 1940s the state’s rice industry and the Farm Bureau continuously requested relief from the California Department of Fish and Game (DFG).

Since it was the federal government that regulated the harvest of waterfowl, there was little the DFG could do. The DFG and USFWS representatives attempted to school farmers in “herding” techniques. Herding proved to be a temporary solution at best. Once herded away, if the birds had no comparable place to go and stay — they simply returned.

In the mid 1940s the USFWS achieved promising results with an experimental feeding program. The agency leased several tracts of land, planted them with rice and other cereal grain crops, and then left it all unharvested for the birds. Once herded to these feeding areas, the waterfowl usually stayed. Although successful to a degree, there were too few areas to do the whole job (Waterfowl Pose California Problem, 1955). At about this same time, the DFG started to feel additional pressure from another segment of the population with regard to the waterfowl situation.

## **The Demand for Public Hunting Grounds**

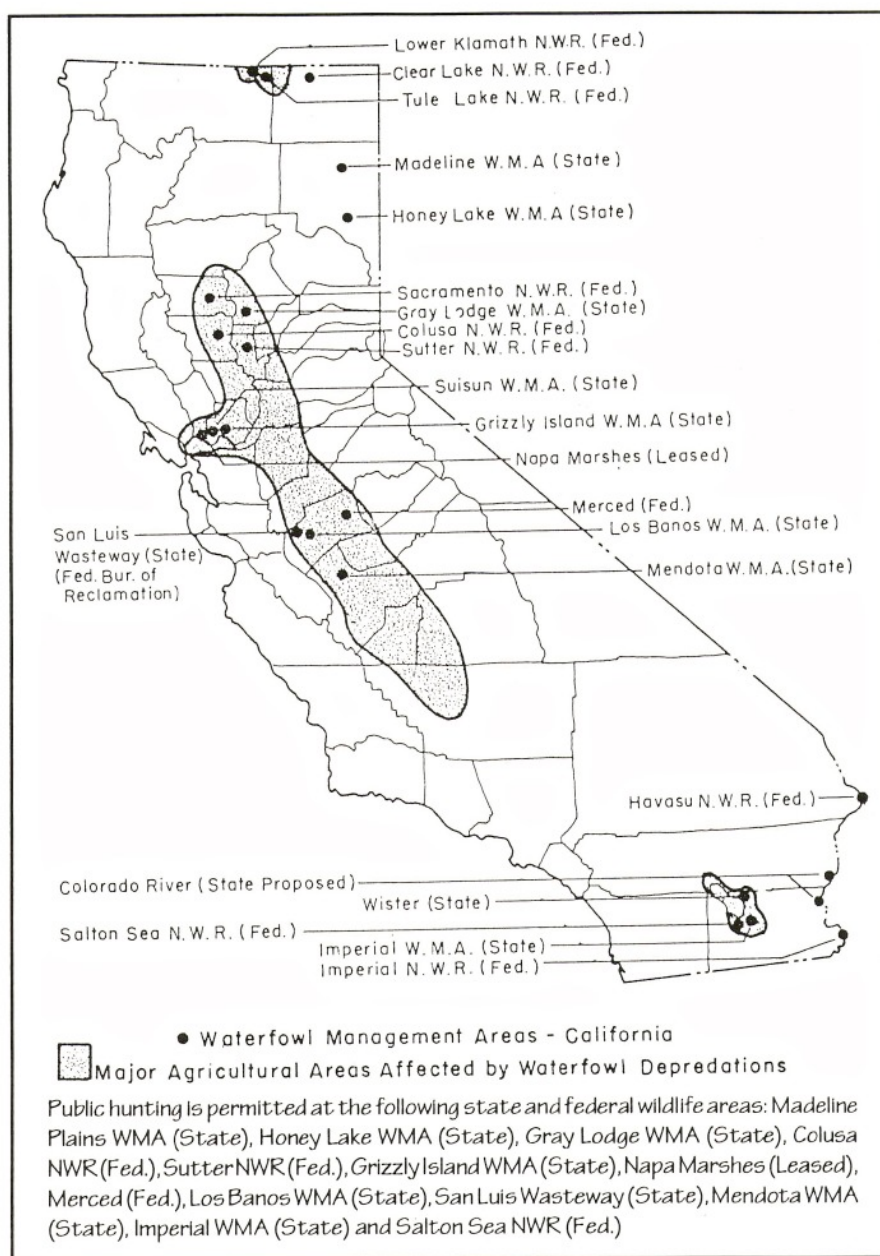
World War II was responsible for a mass migration of people into California to work in the state’s war industries. After the war, the state’s population continued to grow at a tremendous rate. During one ten-year period alone, from 1946 to 1956, it increased by over 40 percent. This unprecedented increase in population was accompanied by a proportionate increase in sportsmen (Torre, 1993b). Since waterfowl habitat was shrinking, there were fewer places left to hunt. This resulted in an intense demand for additional waterfowl hunting areas available to the public.

The California Fish and Game Commission determined that waterfowl management areas could provide relief for both the state’s farmers and its sportsmen. Such areas had been previously developed to serve primarily as refuges. During the late 1940s and early 1950s these areas were extensively redeveloped to better meet the state’s current priorities. During this time many new waterfowl management areas were purchased and developed. Thanks to the Pittman-Robertson Act, funding was available for these projects.

Throughout the 1950s, an emphasis was placed on growing cereal grain crops for the purpose of attracting waterfowl away from the rice fields and farmlands. According to the DFG Monthly Progress Report for May 1955, “Farming was the major activity on most waterfowl management areas during the month. Grain grown is left as feed for the ducks and geese to hold them off agricultural crops...and prevent depredation.”

The feeding program proved quite successful. The 44th Biennial Report, issued by the DFG for the years 1954-56, states “During the period of this report, waterfowl depredations have been at an all time low, evidence that waterfowl management areas play a major role in the control of crop damage.”

In order to satisfy the demand for waterfowl hunting areas, portions of all state management areas were operated as seasonal public hunting grounds. The DFG, in cooperation with the USFWS, also operated public hunting grounds on many federal waterfowl management areas located within California (see Figure 9).



**FIGURE 9. BY THE MID 1950S, THE DFG OPERATED PUBLIC HUNTING GROUNDS ON THIRTEEN STATE AND FEDERAL WATERFOWL AREAS.**



All told, the number of public hunting areas was increased from three in 1948 to thirteen by 1954. During this time the total acreage open to public hunting was increased from 7,730 to 48,410 (Program Review and Analysis of the Department of Fish and Game, July 27, 1956). Of particular interest to stamp collectors are the public hunting grounds which were operated at the Honey Lake and Madeline Plains waterfowl management areas in northeastern California.

## Honey Lake

Honey Lake is centered within a valley that bears the same name. Honey Lake Valley is located at the western edge of the Great Basin near the California-Nevada border, approximately 60 miles north of Reno. The surrounding countryside is rugged and picturesque, consisting of forest and desert mountain ranges. The area is relatively isolated and has always been sparsely populated. Honey Lake is unusual in that although covering nearly 100 square miles, the average depth rarely exceeds two feet (Holmes, 1993). This characteristic provides for much of the lake's beauty and mystique (see Figure 10).



**FIGURE 10. ALTHOUGH COVERING NEARLY 100 SQUARE MILES, HONEY LAKE RARELY EXCEEDS TWO FEET IN DEPTH.**

In the early morning calm, it appears as though a sheet of polished glass has been laid among the jagged peaks. Later in the day, sunlight reflects off the yellow-amber lake bed and the lake occasionally appears to glow. Legend has it that the area's first settlers observed this color from atop a nearby mountain and gave the lake its name (Holmes, 1993). According to another story, the name was given by settlers who encountered a sweet-tasting substance on surrounding vegetation (Purdy, 1983).

Although distant from the prime agricultural areas of the state, Honey Lake is otherwise strategically located just to the southeast of the Tule Lake – Lower Klamath Lake concentration area of the Pacific Flyway. Along with providing resting and feeding areas for migrating waterfowl, Honey Lake has always served as one of the state's major nesting areas (Kozlik, 1955). In recent years the primary management objective of the area has been, in fact, to provide nesting habitat for waterfowl (Honey Lake Wildlife Area, 1987). Canada geese, mallards, pintails and gadwall are among the waterfowl which nest on the area.

The state waterfowl management area is located at the northern edge of the lake, near the small town of Wendel. Most of the present day 7,843 acres were purchased with Pittman-Robertson funds between 1942 and 1950. The management area is comprised of two distinct units, Fleming and Dakin, which are separated by approximately five miles.

The Fleming Ranch, consisting of 2,092 acres, was purchased in 1942 at a cost of \$60,000. The Dakin Ranch (see Figure 11), consisting of 980 acres, was purchased in 1944 at a cost of \$22,050 (DFG Game Management Branch Handbook, 1954). Surrounding tracts of land were acquired and merged with the two ranches as they became available. By the mid 1950s the Fleming and Dakin units totaled 5,500 acres (Kozlik, 1955).



**FIGURE 11. PHOTO OF MARSH AREA AT HONEY LAKE'S DAKIN UNIT.**

Grain has always been grown on portions of both units to provide feed for nesting and migrating waterfowl. The post-war emphasis on growing cereal grain crops resulted in nearly 1,000 acres being devoted to this endeavor by 1956 (DFG News Release, September 7, 1956). These included winter wheat, barley and rye. After statewide waterfowl depredations were brought under control, cereal grain crop production was reduced to 300 to 400 acres annually (Holmes, 1994).

Very little hunting occurred at the Honey Lake Waterfowl Management Area (HLWMA) until the late 1940s, despite the fact that half of the area's acreage was open to public hunting from the beginning. This can be attributed to at least three factors: the remoteness of the area, U.S. involvement in World War II and the fact that very few improvements were made to the area before 1951 (Mall, 1958).

With the increased demand for public hunting areas following the war, the DFG initiated a ponding program at the HLWMA to upgrade hunting conditions. The ponds combined with the increased production of cereal grain crops to attract large numbers of migrating waterfowl. The number of hunters using the area soared from 558 during the 1949-50 season to 1,003 for 1950-51 and 3,611 for 1951-52 (41st Biennial Report for the Years 1948-50; Kozlik, 1955).

Every state waterfowl management area has a "daily shooter capacity." During the 1950s, 150 persons a day were allowed to shoot at the HLWMA—100 at Fleming and 50 at Dakin. Persons intending to hunt on the area, as with all state-operated hunting areas, had to mail a completed application to DFG Headquarters in Sacramento to reserve a date. Validated reservations were then mailed to successful applicants ten days in advance of the reserved shooting date. If any vacancies remained they were filled on a first-come, first-served basis at the area's checking stations (Advance Registration, 1955).

Primarily due to the isolated nature of the area, Lassen County residents accounted for 79 percent of the hunters using the HLWMA during the peak years of 1951-52 and 1952-53 (Mall, 1958). Following the 1952-53 season, local economic conditions took a downturn and the number of hunters began to decline (see Table I).

**Table I**

**Total number of hunters using the  
state waterfowl management areas  
in Lassen County**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Honey Lake</b>	<b>Madeline Plains</b>
1948-49	586	93
1949-50	558	75
1950-51	1,003	16
1951-52	3,611	111
1952-53	3,677	473
1953-54	2,912	1,064
1954-55	2,237	918
1955-56	742	250
1956-57	1,695	173
1957-58	2,147	—



The acceleration of this decline reached a high point in 1955 for two reasons. First, local unemployment reached an all-time high during the year. Second, in order to help defray the cost of the public hunting program at the HLWMA, a \$2 daily hunting fee was imposed for the 1955-56 season. Area Manager Rolf E. Mall compiled a hunting trend analysis for the HLWMA in 1958. According to an excerpt from the report, "In 1955, the inauguration of a two dollar daily fee...placed an additional economic restraint on the already depleted work force of Lassen County." Consequently, Lassen County contributed only 44 percent of the hunters using the HLWMA during the 1955-56 season. This resulted in the total number of hunters falling from 2,237 in 1954-55 to 742 (44th Biennial Report for the Years 1954-56).

It should be noted that previous to the 1955-56 season all other state-operated areas, with the exception of near-by Madeline Plains, charged persons 16 years of age or older the \$2 fee (Fine Public Shooting, 1955). Basically, the DFG had been giving Lassen County residents a break that was no longer feasible. A generic \$2 daily permit in card form was used statewide (see Figure 12).

STATE OF CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME					
Date <b>DEC 3 0 1953</b>		STATE-CONTROLLED HUNTING AREA PERMIT			
Fee: \$2.00		GENERAL PERMIT N <sup>o</sup> 1658 G			
Important—Read Before Signing					
1. All hunters must obtain valid permits before hunting on this area and return filled out permits before leaving the area or at the end of the period for which issued. 2. Permits are valid only for dates and area issued. 3. Where identification markers are issued, they must not be removed from the area where issued and must be turned in at the end of the day or period for which the permit is issued. 4. The State reserves the right to refuse to issue a permit to anyone and to revoke any permit and to eject the holder from the area for any reason when it appears that the safety or welfare of the area, or that of other permittees, is endangered. Decision of the authorized employee of the Department of Fish and Game in this respect shall be final. 5. Permits will be issued only to holders of valid hunting licenses. Deer tags, pheasant tags, or Federal Migratory Waterfowl stamps are required where applicable. 6. Any unauthorized person who enters upon a state-controlled hunting area shall be deemed a trespasser. 7. Only the species and sex of game designated by the permit may be taken. 8. Any portion of this state-controlled hunting area may be closed or restricted by the Department of Fish and Game by legally posting notice of the same. 9. Use of this area shall be at the sole risk of the permittee, and neither the Department of Fish and Game nor the landowner shall be liable in damages to any permittee. 10. The Rules and Regulations for the operation of this area are posted in all checking stations and are incorporated in and made a part of this permit as though set out in full herein.					
<i>I, the undersigned, acknowledge that I have read all the rules and regulations pertaining to this permit, some of which are set forth hereinabove, and agree to be bound by the same. By signing my name hereto, I specifically waive for myself, my heirs, administrators, assigns and assignees, all claim and demand against the State of California, its officers, agents, servants, or employees, or the owner or owners of any land contained in this area, for all injury or loss accruing or arising in any manner whatsoever while I am exercising the privileges granted by this permit, using the area, or while en route to or from the same.</i>					
Signature of Permittee <u>John E. Drake</u>					
Address <u>240 Marsh Ave, Duck City</u> (Street and Number) (City)					
-----					
STATE OF CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME					
Date <b>DEC 3 0 1953</b>		HUNTER PERMIT N <sup>o</sup> 1658 G			
Fee: \$2.00		GENERAL PERMIT			
State-Controlled Hunting Area					
The bearer is hereby granted permission to hunt on this hunting area in accordance with rules and regulations of the Fish and Game Commission.					
This permit is valid only on date or dates and area for which issued and is not transferable.					
Use of this area is at the sole risk of the permittee, and neither the Fish and Game Commission nor the landowner shall be liable in damages to any permittee.					
Coot.....		KILL RECORD		Validated <u>CRT</u>	
	MALE	FEMALE		MALE	FEMALE
Mallard	1		Shoveller		Canada Goose
Gadwall			Ruddy		Cackling Goose
Baldpate		1			White Front 1
Pintail	2				Lesser Snow
G W Teal	2	1	TOTAL DUCKS	5	2
			TOTAL GEESE	1	

FIGURE 9. SAMPLE APPLICATION (TOP) AND \$2 DAILY PERMIT USED ON STATE OPERATED HUNTING AREAS.

By the late 1950s, use of the cards was discontinued and the sportsman's state hunting license was validated with a rubber stamp (See Figures 10a and b).

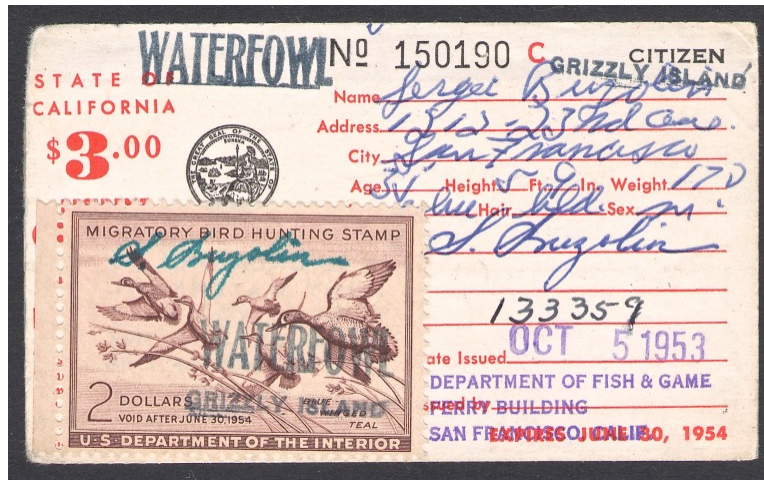


FIGURE 10A. 1953-54 CALIFORNIA HUNTING LICENSE RUBBER STAMPED "GRIZZLY ISLAND".



FIGURE 10B. 1957-58 CALIFORNIA HUNTING LICENSE RUBBER STAMPED "SUTTER".

## Madeline Plains

(Author's note: The Madeline Plains Waterfowl Management Area was located two miles south of the small town of Madeline. In this article "Madeline Plains" refers to the waterfowl management area—not the town. This avoids the extended use of an additional acronym (MPWMA) and hopefully allows for more pleasurable reading.)

Madeline Plains shared many similarities with the HLWMA. Madeline Plains was also located in Lassen County, approximately 70 miles north of Honey Lake. The terrain was considerably more rugged and being farther from the county seat of Susanville, Madeline Plains was more isolated (see Figure 11).



**FIGURE 11. MADELINE PLAINS FEATURED VERY RUGGED TERRAIN.**

Like Honey Lake, Madeline Plains was an important waterfowl nesting site. Nearly all of the land comprising the management area was acquired from a George Williams in 1945 and 1946. In four separate transactions, 4,776 acres were purchased as Pittman-Robertson projects for a total of \$43,913.20. In 1949 two adjacent pieces of property totaling 400 acres were purchased and merged with the area (DFG Game Management Branch Handbook, 1954).

Although roughly the same size as the HLWMA, a much smaller percentage of the acreage at Madeline Plains was able to support cereal grain crops—320 acres vs. 880. This disappointment can be attributed to several factors including a harsher climate, inferior soil quality and a lack of an adequate water supply.

When Madeline Plains was opened to public hunting in 1945-46 it was considered a poor place to hunt (Kozlik, 1955). Eight hundred acres of ponds were added, the same as at the HLWMA, but Madeline Plains always lagged far behind in the number of hunters checked. During the 1950-51 season only 16 hunters used Madeline Plains, as compared to 1,003 for the HLWMA. For 1952-53, it was 473 as compared to 3,677. The number of hunters using Madeline Plains peaked during the 1953-54 season at 1,064 (Kozlik, 1955) and then went into a decline with the Lassen County economy.



In 1955 the \$2 daily hunting fee was also imposed at Madeline Plains. Combined with the high unemployment, it had the drastic effect of reducing the number of hunters using the area from 918 during the 1954-55 season to only 250 the next season (44th Biennial Report for the Years 1954—56).

Following the 1955-56 season, two men representing the sportsmen of Lassen County made a plea to the California Fish and Game Commission. Their aim was to reduce the financial burden on local residents wishing to hunt on the two state waterfowl management areas. According to the minutes of the commission meeting of June 29, 1956: "Mr. Harp [Commission Secretary], has recorded telegrams from A.U. Zimmerman, President of the Lassen Fin and Antler Club, Susanville, and from James H. Peterson, Director of the Chester-Almanor Sportsman Club, recommending a \$5.00 seasonal charge or a \$2.00 daily charge for [the] Honey Lake and Madeline Plains areas."

The \$5.00 seasonal charge would provide a savings for hunters using the areas more than two days during the season. The minutes continued, "Mr. [Dan] Gladding [Chief of Game Management for the DFG] said the department would study the matter before the August meeting at which time it would make its recommendation to the commission."

## Stamps Issued

At the August meeting of the California fish and Game Commission, the DFG announced that it supported a seasonal fee for the Lassen County waterfowl management areas. It was hoped that such a fee would encourage more use of the areas. The commissioners then amended Section 271, sub-section (f), of the Waterfowl Management Area Hunting Regulations to read: "Shooting Fees. Shooting fees on all waterfowl hunting areas (except Napa Marshes) shall be \$2.00 per day for persons 16 years of age or over except that on Honey Lake Waterfowl Management Area and Madeline Plains Waterfowl Management area the shooting fee shall be either \$2.00 per day or \$5.00 per season for persons 16 years of age or over. Holders of such seasonal permits shall be subject to the same restrictions as holders of daily permits, and shall be accommodated on the same first-come, first-served basis up to the shooting capacity of the areas named" (Fish and Game Commission Minutes, meeting of August 17 1956).

To make the purchase of seasonal permits even more attractive, the commission made two further changes. First they dropped the advance reservation procedure for the two Lassen County areas. Section 271, subsection (a), was amended to read, "At the Honey Lake Waterfowl Management Area and the Madeline Plains Waterfowl Management Area permits for each shooting day will be issued in the order of registration on the area, but never at any one time in a number exceeding the shooting capacity of the area as determined by the state employee in charge of each area" (Fish and Game Commission Minutes, meeting of August 17, 1956). By doing away with reservations, holders of the seasonal permits could not be prevented from hunting on days which might have otherwise sold out in advance.

The commission also decided to allow pheasant hunting on the HLWMA, on regular waterfowl shoot days, at no extra charge to holders of daily or seasonal waterfowl permits. A new Section 271.2 was adopted for pheasant hunting on waterfowl management areas. Subsection (a) read: "Pheasant hunting will be allowed on the Honey Lake Waterfowl Management Area as follows: On waterfowl shoot days (Saturdays, Sundays Wednesdays and holidays) as established in section 271, pheasant hunting will be permitted by persons holding regular waterfowl shooting permits during the regular shooting hours for pheasants...Such pheasant shooting shall be allowed at no additional fee other than the regular entry fee on waterfowl shooting days." No pheasant hunting was to be allowed at the Madeline Plains Waterfowl management Area. (Fish and Game Commission Minutes, meeting of September 28, 1956).

Unlike the daily permit cards employed at the time, the seasonal permits used at the Honey Lake and Madeline Plains waterfowl management areas were in the form of stamps. Once purchased, the stamps were to be affixed to the reverse of the holder's state of hunting license. A federal waterfowl stamp was required in addition to the seasonal permit stamp (see Figure 12). The license was presented at manned check stations to show that the state and federal fees had been paid.



FIGURE 12. HONEY LAKE SEASONAL PERMIT STAMPS WERE AFFIXED TO THE REVERSE OF THE HOLDER'S STATE HUNTING LICENSE.

The 1956-57 Honey Lake seasonal permit stamps were printed in black ink on white paper. As with all Honey Lake stamps, they were printed as single stamp booklet panes with a tab attached to the top. The panes are rouletted between the stamp and the tab. Fifty panes were stapled together to form a booklet. The stamp without the tab measures approximately 49 x 37 mm (see Figures 1 and 14).



The Handbook of Fish and Game Stamps states that 750 stamps were printed. As reported by Applegate, the stamps were printed the State Printing Office. Verification of this fact can be seen on the stamps themselves, included in the imprint located in the lower right corner. The 1956 Honey Lake stamps were serial numbered "XXH" to differentiate them from those printed for Madeline Plains, which were numbered "XXM" (Vanderford, 1973).

A DFG "Report of Licenses Delivered" on October 2, 1956, shows that 250 stamps were initially delivered to Area Manager Mac Foster (see Figure 13). These were numbered 1H to 250H. A similar report dated November 1, 1956, shows that Foster received an additional 300 stamps at this time (numbers 251H to 550H). When a delivery of stamps was received, it was divided up between the two units. Therefore, the seasonal permit stamps were not issued in consecutive numerical order.

STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

### REPORT OF LICENSES DELIVERED

No. **83139**

To Mac Foster Honey Lake Date 10/2/56

Street State Control City Wendel Calif

QUANTITY	KIND	NUMBERS		UNIT PRICE	VALUE
		FROM	TO		
	Hunting, Citizen			3.00	
	Hunting, Citizen (Junior)			1.00	
	Hunting, Non Resident			25.00	
	Hunting, Alien			50.00	
	Deer Tags, Citizen			1.00	
	Deer Tags, Non Resident - Alien			10.00	
	Angling, Citizen			3.00	
	Angling, Non Resident			10.00	
	Angling, Alien			10.00	
	Angling, (10 Day - Non Res. Tourist)			3.00	
	Angling, (3 Day - Pacific Ocean only)			1.00	
	Pheasant Tag			1.00	
	Market			10.00	
<u>250</u>	<u>Deer Meat Permit</u>	<u>1H</u>	<u>250H</u>	<u>5.00</u>	<u>1250</u>
<u>200</u>	<u>State Control Per</u>	<u>17101</u>	<u>17300</u>	<u>2.00</u>	<u>400</u>
<u>25</u>	<u>State Control Per</u>	<u>9101</u>	<u>9125</u>		<u>No Fee</u>
<u>25</u>					
Total Consignment					<u>1650</u>

AGENT PLEASE CHECK INVOICE. CLAIMS FOR ANY MISSING LICENSES WILL NOT BE ALLOWED AFTER TEN DAYS.

Signed [Signature]

UARCO INC. - OAKLAND 46317

AGENT'S COPY

FIGURE13. THE FIRST LINE OF BLUE INK TOWARDS THE BOTTOM SHOWS THAT 250 HONEY LAKE SEASONAL PERMIT STAMPS WERE DELIVERED TO MAC FOSTER IN 1956.

Both Applegate and Vanderford have reported that 236 stamps were sold at the HLWMA during the 1956-57 season. This number has been verified through monthly sales and inventory reports obtained from the Fleming Unit office. The stamps were numbered 1H-35H and 51H- 251H. Of the 236 stamps sold, only three examples have been recorded. Of the three examples, only one of the stamps has survived affixed to a license (see Figure 14). For quantities of Honey Lake seasonal permit stamps printed and sold through 1966-67, see Table II.

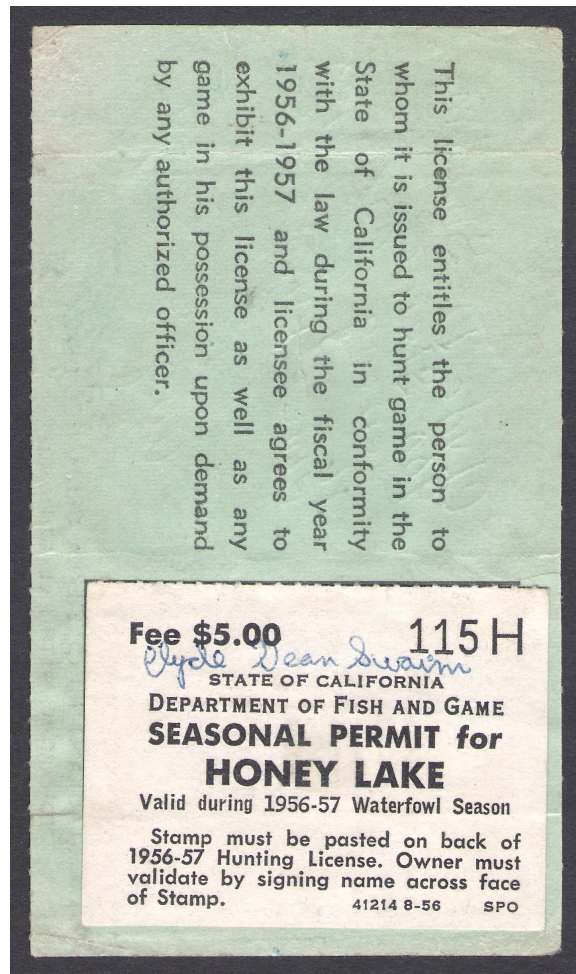


FIGURE 14. 1956-57 HONEY LAKE STAMP USED ON THE REVERSE OF A CALIFORNIA HUNTING LICENSE.



**Table II**

**Quantities of Honey Lake stamps printed  
and sold through 1966–67**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Total Printed</b>	<b>Total Sold</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Total Printed</b>	<b>Total Sold</b>
1956–57	750 <sup>1</sup>	236	1962–63	450	278
1957–58	500	306	1963–64	450	435
1958–59	500	245	1964–65	550	518
1959–60	500	249 <sup>2</sup>	1965–66	600	563
1960–61	400	287	1966–67 Type I	700	700
1961–62	450	NA	1966–67 Type II	NA	93

<sup>1</sup>According to information E. L. Vanderford received from the DFG License Section.

<sup>2</sup>Does not include about 25 unused stamps sold to Bill Oliver following the season.

The economical seasonal permits combined with an improving Lassen County economy to push the total number of hunters using the HLWMA up to 1,695 during the 1956-57 season (44th Biennial Report for the Years 1954-56). The increase in hunter usage reflected a statewide trend. The 1956-57 season set a record for the number of hunters using state-operated waterfowl management areas (48,661), as well as for the number of birds killed (150,803) and the average number of birds per hunter (3.1). The average of over three birds per hunter “was by far the best of any public shooting areas in the United States” (Waterfowl Hunters Bag Record, 1957).



## Madeline Plains Stamp Not A Myth

Although reported by Applegate (in the early 1960s) and Vanderford (1973) as having been issued for 1956-57, no Madeline Plains seasonal permit stamp has ever been recorded. Vanderford obtained a description of the stamp from a license clerk at DFG Headquarters in Sacramento. This information led to the following listing in the Handbook of Fish and Game Stamps: "1956-57 \$5.00 black on deep yellow, 49 x 37 mm. Serial numbers 1M to 250M. (250 to printed—119 sold)."

Beneath the listing Vanderford made a request for verification of the stamp actually being issued. As not one of the 119 stamps ever turned up, Vanderford became convinced that the information provided to him was in error and that the Madeline Plains stamp was never issued. For this reason he deleted the stamp's description from his Checklist of State and Locally Issued Migratory Waterfowl Stamps published in 1977.

Thirty years after Applegate's catalog was published, I finally confirmed that stamps were printed and used at Madeline Plains during the 1956-57 season. Also dated October 2, 1956, a second DFG Report of Licenses Delivered shows that 150 Madeline Plains seasonal permit stamps, numbered 1M to 150M, were delivered to Mac Foster (see Figure 12).

STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

**REPORT OF LICENSES DELIVERED**

No. **83140**

To Mac Foster Madeline Date 10/2/56.

Street State Control. City Wendel Calif

QUANTITY	KIND	NUMBERS		UNIT PRICE	VALUE
		FROM	TO		
	Hunting, Citizen			3.00	
	Hunting, Citizen (Junior)			1.00	
	Hunting, Non Resident			25.00	
	Hunting, Alien			50.00	
	Deer Tags, Citizen			1.00	
	Deer Tags, Non Resident - Alien			10.00	
	Angling, Citizen			3.00	
	Angling, Non Resident			10.00	
	Angling, Alien			10.00	
	Angling, (10 Day - Non Res. Tourist)			3.00	
	Angling, (3 Day - Pacific Ocean only)			1.00	
	Pheasant Tag			1.00	
	Market			10.00	
	Deer Meat Permit				
100	State Control Per	17301	17400	2.00	200.00
25	✓	9126	9150		No Fee
150	Seasonal Per. Stamp.	1 M	150 M	5.00	750.00
Total Consignment					950.00

AGENT PLEASE CHECK INVOICE, CLAIMS FOR ANY MISSING LICENSES WILL NOT BE ALLOWED AFTER TEN DAYS.

Signed [Signature]

BARCO INC. - OAKLAND 46317  
**AGENT'S COPY**

**FIGURE 15. THE LAST ENTRY ON THIS REPORT SHOWS THAT 150 MADELINE PLAINS SEASONAL PERMIT STAMPS WERE DELIVERED TO MAC FOSTER ON OCTOBER 2, 1956.**

Foster also served as manager for Madeline Plains at the time. Not all of the information given to Vanderford by the license clerk was correct, however. Monthly sales and inventory records for Madeline Plains were also recently discovered at the Fleming Unit office. The records show that for 1956-57, only 18 Madeline Plains seasonal permit stamps were sold. Stamps numbered 19M to 150M were returned to the DFG Accounting Office in Sacramento by Mac Foster (see Figure 16).

1-17-57

The following waterfowl permits are  
being returned to the Accounting Office.

Seasonal Permit      36 H - 50 H  
                             252 H - 550 H  
                             19 M - 150 M

446 at \$5.00 = 2230.00

State Control Permits

17680 - 17700  
37524 - 37540  
37547 - 37550

42 at \$2.00 = 84.00

---

State Control Permits - Jr.      \$2314.00

9132 - 9150

No Fee

M. E. Foster  
Game Manager II

FIGURE 16. ALL BUT 18 OF THE MADELINE PLAINS STAMPS WERE RETURNED FOLLOWING THE 1956-57 SEASON.

In sharp contrast to the renewed interest shown by hunters for the HLWMA during 1956-57, the number of hunters using Madeline Plains decreased to 173. Of this total, 130 were checked in on the opening week end of the season (DFG Press Release, October 26, 1956; 44th Biennial Report for the Years 1954-56). Madeline Plains was now seen as a total failure by the DFG. First, the area could not produce cereal grain crops in quantities sufficient to aid in controlling waterfowl depredations. Now it was a bust with the local hunters as well. There would be no stamps issued for Madeline Plains after 1956-57.

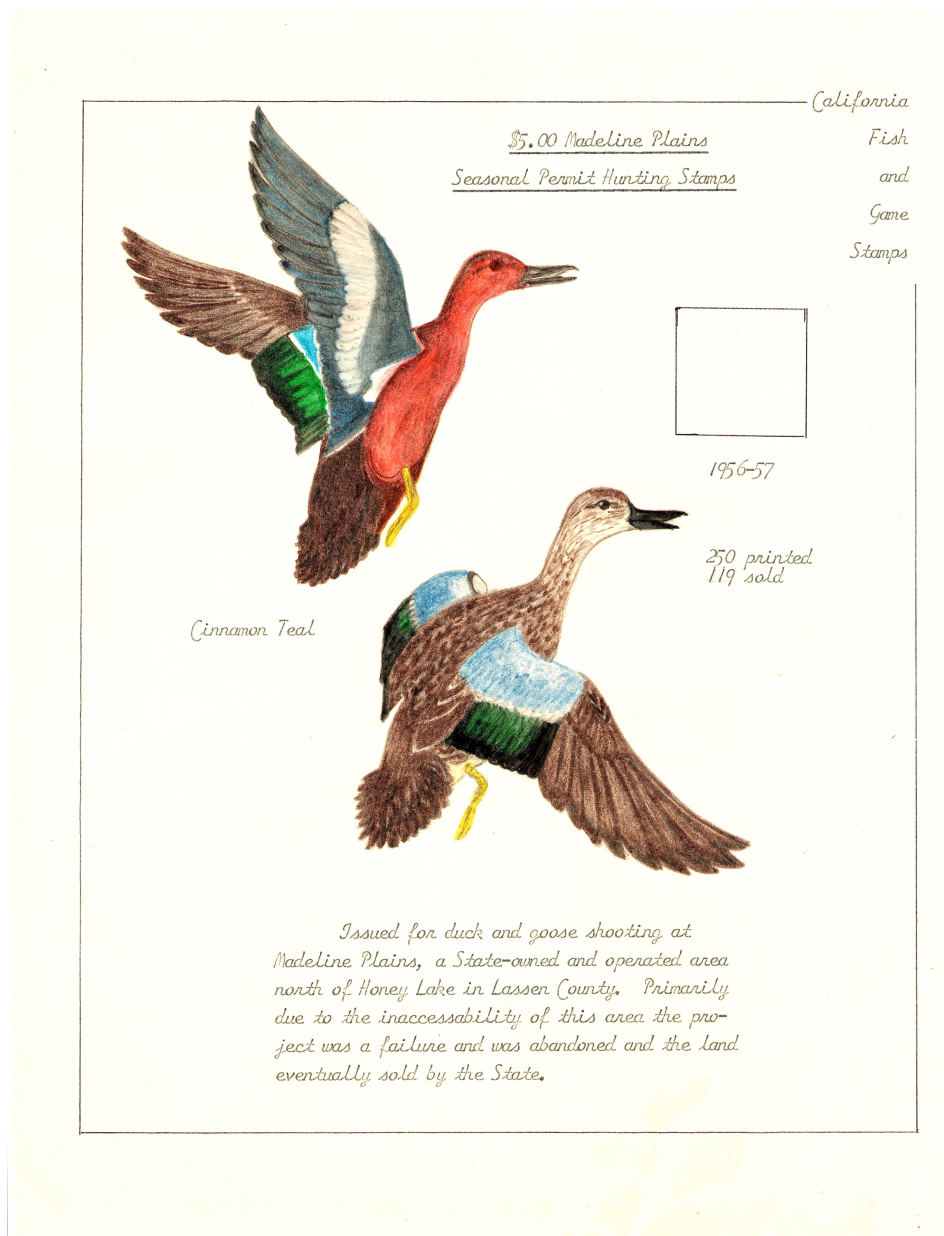
According to an excerpt from the 45th Biennial Report, issued by the DFG for the years 1956-58: "Upon the recommendations of the department, the Madeline Plains Waterfowl Management Area was declared surplus property by the 1957 Legislature. Disposal of this land is now under way by the Lands Acquisition Division of the Department of Finance. Madeline Plains had failed to come up to expectations. A rigorous climate and lack of adequate water supplies doomed its development into an efficient management area."

To this day, the 1956 Madeline Plains stamp remains the most elusive of all the legendary U.S. fish and game stamps, with no examples recorded. None of the the foremost collectors of the pioneer era, Burt Hubbard, Joseph Janousek, Morton Dean Joyce, Mrs. Powell or E.L. Vanderford nor contemporary collectors such the Csaplars, Jeannette Rudy or myself have ever been able to acquire the stamp.



Mrs Powell was a successful attorney and money was no object in her pursuit. After forming the best collection of fish and game stamps through the 1960s, she became interested in exhibiting. Contemporaries Joseph Janousek of Arizona and Les Lebo of Tennessee probably had the second and third best collections at the time (later, Vanderford acquired the Janousek and Powell collections, thereby becoming the leading fish and game collector by the mid 1970s).

While Janousek and Lebo were continually frustrated with their low level of awards in organized philatelic exhibiting, Powell's exhibit was recognized as being extremely powerful and she became the first fish and game collector to achieve success (see Figure 17).



**FIGURE 17. MRS. POWELL'S ALBUM PAGE FOR MADELINE PLAINS, SHOWING A BLANK PLACE HOLDER. MRS POWELL WAS A WEALTHY ATTORNEY AND ARTIST FROM IOWA. SHE HAD THE BEST COLLECTION OF FISH AND GAME STAMPS IN HER ERA AND DESIGNED HER OWN ALBUM PAGES COMPLETE WITH HER OWN ORIGINAL ART. ALTHOUGH OWNING THE 1956 AND 1958 HONEY LAKE STAMPS, THE MADELINE PLAINS STAMP ELUDED HER AS IT HAS EVERY COLLECTOR SINCE. HER STATEMENT OF "119 SOLD" WAS THE BEST INFORMATION COLLECTORS HAD AT THE TIME.**

## Stamps After 1956-57

Effective with the 1957-58 season, the DFG changed the procedure for delivering hunting permits to the state waterfowl management areas. This included seasonal permit stamps printed for the HLWMA. Whereas the 1956-57 stamps were shipped directly from DFG Headquarters in Sacramento to Mac Foster, the 1957-58 stamps were first sent to the DFG Regional Office in Redding. From Redding the stamps were distributed to the HLWMA Manager along with a supply of daily permits. Following the season, all unissued permits were returned to the Redding office, which was accountable to the Central Headquarters License Section (DFG IntraOffice Correspondence dated December 26, 1956).

It is believed that the Redding office annually forwarded the remainders to Sacramento for a final accounting and subsequent destruction (Vanderford, 1993; Wertz, 1993). This procedure was used through the beginning of the 1961-62 season. In November of 1961, the Redding office advised HLWMA Manager Robert Weld, "Please submit license report forms...to [the] Sacramento License Section...The Redding office no longer handles licenses nor do we accept license returns" (DFG IntraOffice correspondence dated November 7, 1961). After this notice it is assumed that all deliveries and returns of the permits were done directly between the DFG License Section in Sacramento and the HLMWA in Wendel.

The 1957-58 stamps were printed in black ink on blue-green paper and measure approximately 49 X 37 mm. The text printed on the stamps is similar to those from the first year, with a few notable exceptions. First, the year date was changed. Second, since there were no Madeline Plains stamps for 1957-58, the "H" was deleted from the end of the serial numbers. Third, starting with the 1957-58 issue and continuing through 1966-67 Type I, the State Printing Office included the number of stamps ordered and printed as part of the imprint in the lower right corner. The imprint on the 1957-58 stamps indicates that a total of 500 stamps were printed (see Figure 18).



FIGURE 18. STARTING WITH THE 1957-58 ISSUE, THE NUMBER OF STAMPS PRINTED (500 IN THIS CASE) WAS INCLUDED IN THE INFORMATION PRINTED IN THE BOTTOM RIGHT CORNER.

Four examples of the 1957—58 stamp have been recorded. One of the stamps was acquired from a woman in Payette, Idaho, by E. L. Vanderford in the late 1970s. The woman was the mother-in-law of a hunter Vanderford met in a sporting goods store in Susanville. The hunter, whose last name was Vashe, told Vanderford that he had given the woman an old license bearing the Honey Lake seasonal permit as she was an avid collector of duck stamps. Vanderford was able to obtain the Honey Lake stamp in trade for several federal duck stamps she was missing (Vanderford, 1991).

Vanderford recalls being elated with the acquisition of the 1957-58 stamp, for it was the last one he needed to complete the Honey Lake series. Much to his surprise, Vanderford soon received a second copy of the stamp (the example shown in Figure 18) in the mail from a collector in Los Angeles. It was included in a small lot of fish and game stamps, the rest of which were quite common (Vanderford, 1994).

Vanderford acquired one of the four recorded examples of the 1958-59 stamp directly from Vashe (see Figure 19, left). The 1958-59 stamps were apparently miscut by the State Printing Office. I have examined all four stamps, numbers 4, 65, 83 and 115. The stamps are from two separate books, yet they all measure 51 x 48 mm and have staple holes along the left side.

Normally the tabs were stapled together. It seems that the 1958-59 stamps were cut to this larger size, which should have included the tab, in error. In order to staple the oversized panes between the booklet covers, the tabs must have been removed and the stamps inserted sideways. Unused copies exist from 1959-60 with the tab still attached (see Figure 19, right). If one of the 1958-59 stamps is turned sideways, it has approximately the same dimensions as a 1959-60 stamp including the tab.



FIGURE 19. ALL OF THE 1958-59 STAMPS WERE MISCUT BY THE STATE PRINTING OFFICE (LEFT.) THE LAST STAMP PRINTED (NUMBER 500) FOR 1959-60 WAS SOLD TO BILL OLIVER FOLLOWING THE SEASON (RIGHT).

It is believed that collectors first discovered the Honey Lake stamps following the 1959-60 season. Bill Oliver, a stamp collector who worked in the same building as the DFG Headquarters in Sacramento, had recently become interested in fish and game stamps. The DFG would not officially make remainders of the Honey Lake stamps available to collectors until after the 1974—75 season. Oliver, however, was allowed to purchase about 25 stamps from an unused book which had been returned following the 1959-60 season. Oliver recalls paying face value (\$5.00) for each of the stamps (Oliver, 1990 and 1993).

The balance of the book, which contained stamps numbered 451 to 500, was crumpled-up and thrown into a wastebasket by the License Supervisor (Vanderford, 1993). A license clerk by the name of Dean Cook retrieved the discarded stamps from the trash. Cook was also a quasi-collector of fish and game stamps. Cook showed the stamps to E. L. Vanderford who later obtained them in a trade. According to Vanderford, Cook rescued about 15 stamps — the rest were too badly damaged. Therefore, approximately 40 unused examples of the 1959-60 Honey Lake stamp are in collectors hands today. The stamps that were rescued from the trash exhibit varying degrees of creasing.

Oliver traded a few of his stamps but saved the majority for exactly thirty years, finally selling them to me in 1990. Vanderford sold or traded all of his duplicate 1959-60 stamps within a few years. At this time state revenue dealer Frank Applegate somehow obtained stamp number 466 (Hubbard, 1991). Applegate subsequently listed the Honey Lake seasonal permit stamps in his Catalogue of State and Territorial Game and Fishing License Stamps, which was published in the early 1960s (see Figures 21 and 22). Stamp number 466 was noted and priced at \$7.00. It was later acquired by the legendary revenue collector Morton Dean Joyce (Jackson 1991).

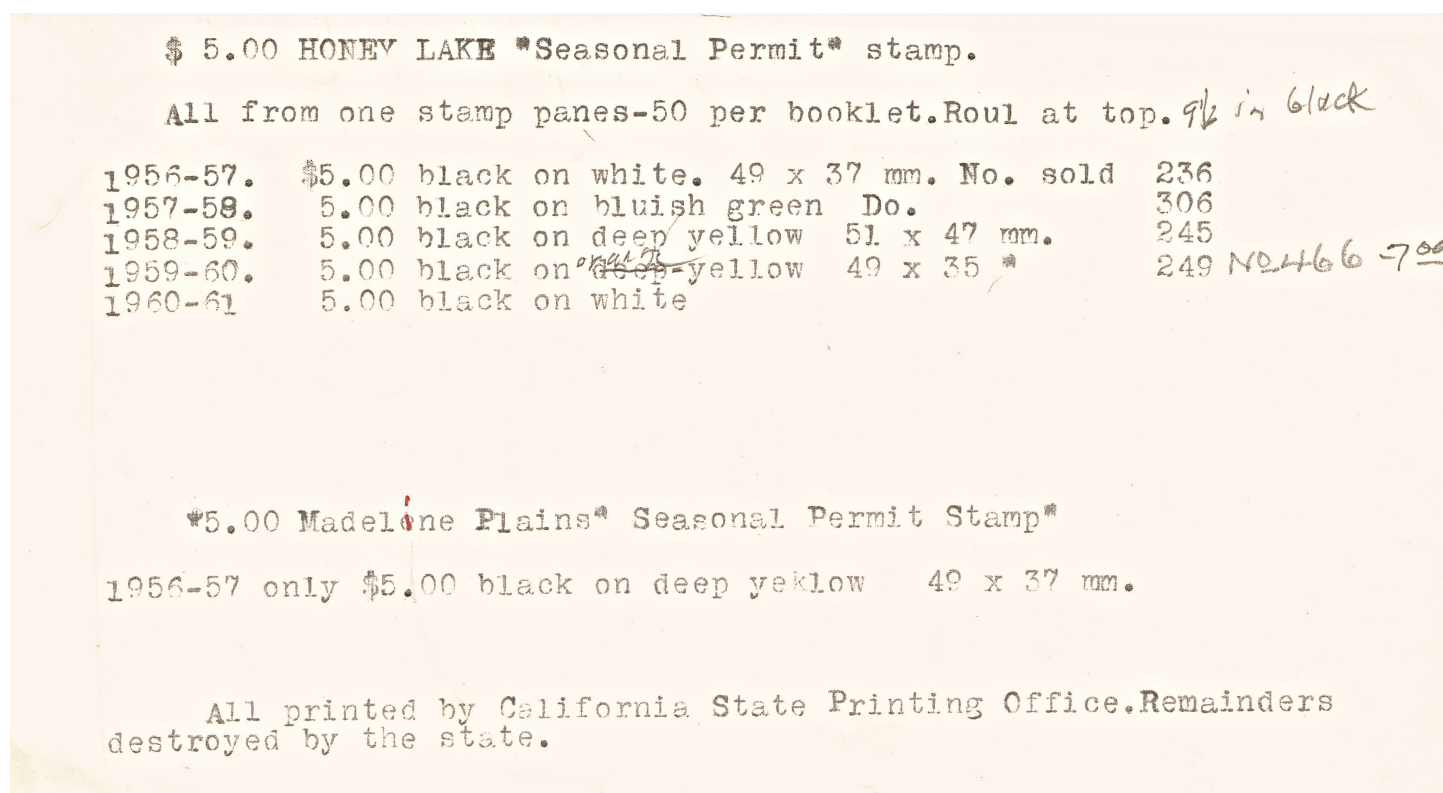


FIGURE 21. EXCERPT FROM APPLGATE'S CATALOG, PRICING STAMP #466 AT \$7.00.





FIGURE 22. 1959-60 HONEY LAKE STAMP #466 FROM THE MORTON DEAN JOYCE COLLECTION.

Oliver's fish and game interest soon narrowed to fishing stamps only. He did not attempt to purchase Honey Lake stamps in future years. Vanderford, despite having excellent contacts in the DFG License Section, was not allowed to purchase any Honey Lake stamps until remainders were made available to the general public following the 1974-75 season.

The only other year for which unused Honey Lake stamps are known to exist prior to the remainders being put on sale is 1964-65. Two partial books containing a total of 22 stamps were found by Area Manager Chuck Holmes while cleaning out office desks in 1991 and 1994 (Holmes, 1991 and 1994). The 1964-65 stamps measure 49 x 50 mm including the tab (see Figure 23).

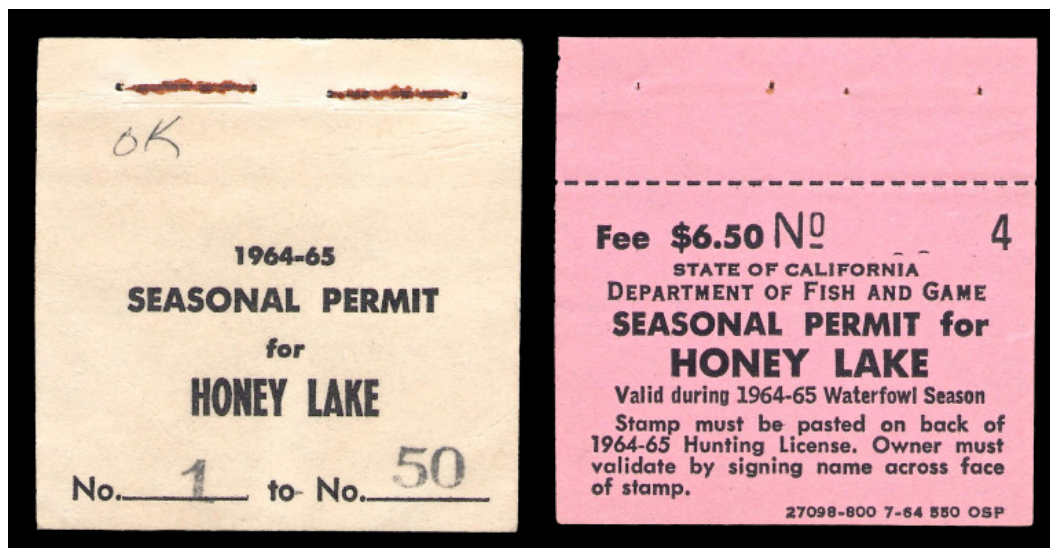


FIGURE 23. BOOKLET COVER AND SINGLE STAMP PANE ISSUED FOR 1964-65.

## Stamps Run Out



In the 1960s, the HLWMA became a very popular place to hunt. According to former Area Manager Bob Weld, this can be attributed to the great success hunters enjoyed there during this time period (Weld, 1994). The number of hunters using the area increased for five straight years, from 1,610 during the 1961-62 season to 4,130 during 1966-67 (Resources Agency Memorandum dated January 16, 1985).

From Table II it can be seen that the number of seasonal permit stamps sold during this time increased proportionately. It is also evident that a cost-conscious DFG cut it very close when ordering stamps during this period. For the 1963-64 season 450 stamps were printed and of these, 435 were sold. For the 1964-65 season 550 stamps were printed and 518 were sold. For the 1965-66 season 600 stamps were printed and 563 were sold. Finally, during the 1966-67 season, the DFG got caught short.

The imprint on 1966—67 Type I stamps indicates that 700 were printed. They were printed in black ink on yellow paper and measure approximately 50 x 34 mm. DFG License Section records show that 793 seasonal permit stamps were sold during that season. The 1966-67 Type II stamps listed in the Handbook of Fish and Game Stamps obviously were necessitated by the HLWMA exhausting their supply of seasonal permits prior to the end of the season. The records indicate that 93 stamps were sold from what was likely a hasty second printing. Of these, less than five can be accounted for in collections today.

The Type II stamps are similar to Type I with several exceptions (see Figure 2). First, they are printed on a slightly darker yellow paper. Second, they differ slightly in size, measuring approximately 49 x 35 mm. Third, whereas the word “during” on Type I stamps is set with a small “d,” Type II stamps have “During” set with a capital “D.” Most significantly, the Type II stamps lack the printer’s imprint. Never again did the imprint indicating how many stamps were ordered and printed appear on a Honey Lake stamp (see Figure 24).



FIGURE 24. 1966-67 HONEY LAKE STAMP USED ON LICENSE.  
NOTE THE PRINTER'S INFORMATION IS NO LONGER INCLUDED AT THE LOWER RIGHT.

I have been relatively unsuccessful at finding out the number of stamps which were printed each year after 1966-67. Records found at the Fleming Unit office show that 950 stamps were delivered for 1984-85 and 1,000

for 1985-86. Since DFG License Section records show that sales of the seasonal permits never exceeded the 793 recorded for 1966-67, it is possible that 1,000 stamps were printed each year thereafter. The number of stamps sold to hunters each year from 1967-68 through 1985-86 is shown in Table III. It is important to note that the figures do not include the number of stamps sold to collectors as remainders were made available starting with the 1974-75 issue.

Table III

### Quantities of Honey Lake stamps sold from 1967-68 through 1985-86<sup>1</sup>

Year	Total Sold	Year	Total Sold
1967-68	711	1977-78	409
1968-69	757	1978-79	404
1969-70	394	1979-80	285
1970-71	405	1980-81	476
1971-72	426	1981-82	251 <sup>2</sup>
1972-73	278	1982-83	319
1973-74	261	1983-84	404
1974-75	307	1984-85	323
1975-76	303	1985-86	255
1976-77	307		

<sup>1</sup>Does not include remainders sold to collectors starting with the 1974-75 issue

<sup>2</sup>No remainders put on sale. See text below.

The two largest accumulations of pre-remainder era Honey Lake stamps were formed by a sporting goods dealer in Susanville named Jack Roberts (Vanderford, 1994) and by state fish and game dealer Art J. Soderling. According to Vanderford, Roberts unintentionally accumulated 20-40 Honey Lake stamps for each year on expired licenses. It seems that he was really after the attractive federal duck stamps which were also affixed to the licenses. One day prior to proposing some kind of trade, Vanderford was dismayed to learn that Roberts had recently soaked the federal stamps off of the licenses — and had thrown all the Honey Lake stamps away!

Art Soderling was actively dealing in fish and game stamps during the 1960s. He had many sources for stamps across the country including several in California. There is no way to know how large Solderling's stock of Honey Lake stamps was during its prime. Toward the end of his career, Soderling offered his remaining inventory for sale to several of his major clients.

In a letter to E. L. Vanderford dated July 14, 1973, Solderling wrote: "Dear Van...I would like to dispose as many stamps as I can...I [still] have a fairly nice stock of fishing and hunting stamps...[of] Calif. Honey Lake [I have] at least 40..." The lot of Honey Lake stamps was eventually purchased by state revenue specialist Dr. Kenneth Pruess, who has an affinity for all stamps related to "bees and honey" (Pruess, 1990). By the time the author saw the accumulation, it had provided Pruess with "swapping material" for many more years. It still numbered over 50 stamps in total.

In 1972 the name of the HLWMA was changed. Once developed exclusively for waterfowl, the area was renamed the Honey Lake Wildlife Area (Regulations for Hunting on State and Federal Areas, 1972) in order to

reflect the diversity of the wildlife now found there. For reasons I cannot determine, relatively few stamps were sold for 1972-73 and 1973-74. The numbers sold, 278 and 261 respectively, are comparable to the numbers sold in the 1950s and these stamps have proved to be very difficult for collectors to obtain (see Figure 25).



FIGURE 25. RELATIVELY FEW STAMPS WERE SOLD TO HUNTERS IN 1972-73 AND 1973-74.

Bob weld's stamp for 1973-74 is shown in figure 26. In addition to very carefully signing his name, Weld carried the stamp loose from his license. Therefore, it is the only recorded example from this year with full original gum.



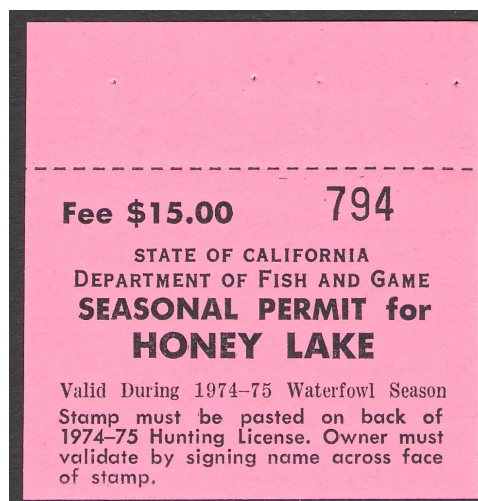
FIGURE 26. BOB WELD'S STAMP FOR 1973-74.



Starting with the 1974-75 issue, the DFG License Section made remainders of the Honey Lake stamps available to collectors following the end of the hunting season. There were no records kept of the number of stamps put on sale or the number sold to collectors (Raglen, 1993). If it is true that approximately 1,000 stamps were printed each year, then according to Table III there should have been between 524 and 749 remainders of each stamp made available. Vanderford says this simply was not the case.

For some issues, Vanderford recalls that only a single book of 50 stamps was saved by the License Section for collectors. It is unlikely that more than 200 to 250 stamps for any one issue were sold to collectors (Vanderford, 1994). For every year after the remainders were put on sale, either fish and game dealer Barry Porter or David Curtis bought a full booklet of 50 stamps (some years both did).

Therefore, unused stamps exist with full tabs for all Honey Lake stamps from 1974-75 until the series was discontinued (see Figure 27). The lone exception is for stamps from 1981-82. If a collector purchased less than a full booklet, the stamps were torn out and the tabs stayed with the booklet. For this reason, a number of stamps from the remainder period also can be found without tabs.



**FIGURE 27. STARTING WITH THE 1974-75 ISSUE, UNUSED REMAINDERS OF HONEY LAKE STAMPS WERE MADE AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC.**

The 1980-81 stamps are interesting in that they all contain a typesetting error. The stamps have “Fee \$15.00” printed on them when the fee charged to hunters was actually \$20.00 (1980 California regulations for Hunting on State and Federal Areas). The few used examples I have seen all have the incorrect fee crossed out and the correct fee manually written in with a ball point pen (see Figure 28).

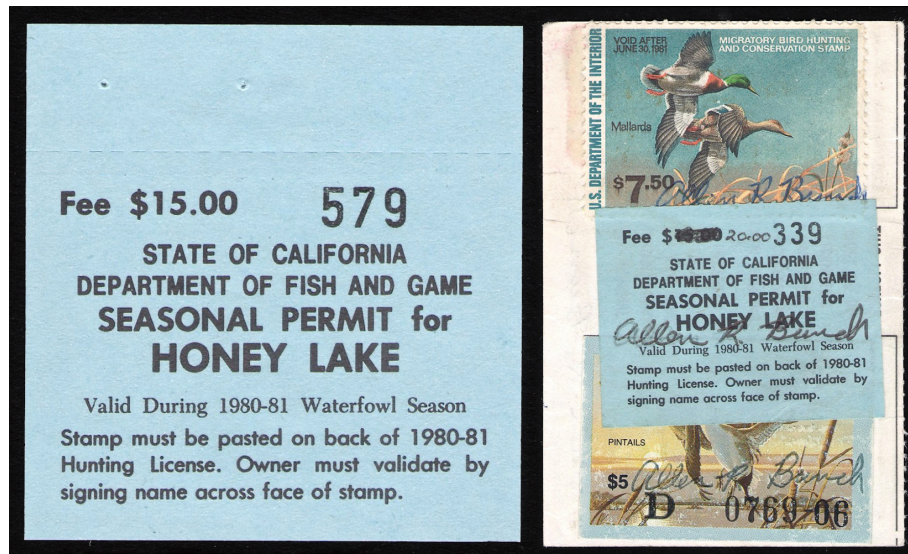


FIGURE 28. ALL 1980-81 STAMPS WERE PRINTED WITH A MAJOR TYPESETTING ERROR (LEFT). THE CORRECT FEE WAS \$20.00 AND THE STAMPS THAT WERE SOLD TO HUNTERS HAVE THE FEE CORRECTED MANUALLY (RIGHT).

Following the 1981-82 season, all of that season's remainders were accidentally destroyed by a license clerk (Vanderford, 1991). Less than ten examples of the 1981-82 Honey Lake stamp have been recorded, all of them in used condition. Once again, Bob Weld did not affix his stamp to his license so it retains full original gum. The stamps were printed in black ink on light yellow-brown paper. They measure approximately 48 x 38 mm with the tab removed (see Figure 29).

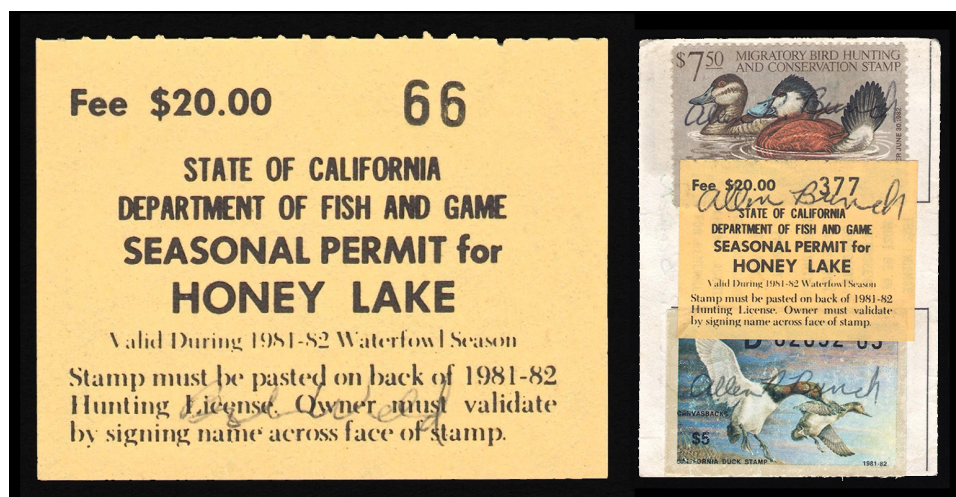


FIGURE 29. ALL OF THE REMAINDERS FOR THE 1981-82 WERE ACCIDENTALLY DESTROYED. BOB WELD'S STAMP (LEFT) WAS NEVER AFFIXED TO HIS LICENSE AND STILL HAS FULL ORIGINAL GUM.



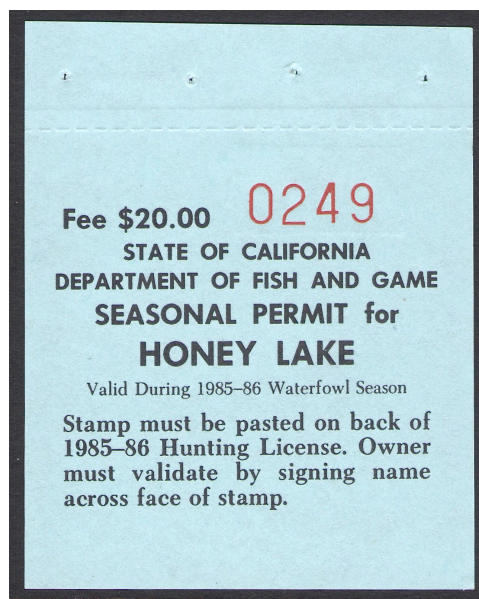
## Honey Lake Stamps Discontinued

In the mid 1980s several changes were made in the way the public hunting program was operated at the Honey Lake Wildlife Area. In an effort to cut costs, the DFG reduced the number of area personnel from seven to three (Holmes, 1993). According to an excerpt from a Resources Agency Memorandum dated January 16, 1985: "Check stations presently require four-five people to operate them each shoot day exclusive of [the waterfowl and pheasant] opening weekends which require additional manpower. Under the new program only two-three HLWA personnel will be required."

Daily permits were no longer sold at the Honey Lake Wildlife Area during the season. The only daily permits available from the Area Manager were for the opening weekends of the waterfowl and pheasant seasons and those only by applying for an advance reservation. After the opening weekends hunting was allowed only by seasonal permit.

The check stations were no longer manned, except for on the opening weekends and for one hour prior to the legal shooting time for the rest of the season. Hunters were required to check-in to the area during this one hour period. The daily hunter quotas remained in effect. The Honey Lake Wildlife Area employee in charge would check-in hunters on a first-come, first-served basis and would close the area if the hunter capacity was reached. The daily hunter capacity for the area at this time was 125 for the Fleming Unit and 100 for the Dakin Unit (1985 California Regulations for Hunting on State and Federal Areas).

Hunters were put on their honor regarding bag limits and the skeleton Honey Lake Wildlife Area staff made spot checks to provide enforcement. The 1985-86 seasonal permit stamps would be the last issued for the Honey Lake Wildlife Area. The stamps were printed in black ink on light blue paper with red serial numbers. They were oversized, measuring approximately 51 X 52 mm (see Figure 30).



**FIGURE 30. FOLLOWING THE 1985-86 SEASON THE HONEY LAKE STAMPS WERE DISCONTINUED.**

Previous to the 1986-87 season, the DFG placed all of the state-operated public hunting areas in categories according to hunter usage. Heavily hunted areas were designated as "A" Areas; moderately hunted areas, such as the Honey Lake Wildlife Area, were "B" Areas; areas with little hunting were placed in the "C" category. Generic seasonal permits were printed and issued to hunters in card form (see Figure 31). Type A permits allowed hunting at any area statewide and cost \$75.00. Type B permits allowed hunting at any B or C Area and cost \$25.00 (DFG News Release, September 20, 1986). **As the seasonal permit stamps were specific for the Honey Lake Wildlife Area, they were discontinued** (Holmes, 1993).

The image shows two parts of a permit card. The top part is the obverse, which is pink with black text and a black border. It features the California Department of Fish & Game seal in the top left. The text reads: "No. 000005 - 02", "STATE OF CALIFORNIA", "DEPARTMENT OF FISH & GAME", "TYPE B HUNTING AREA", "1993-94", "SEASON PASS", "FEE \$27.85 NONTRANSFERABLE", and "NOT VALID UNTIL FULLY COMPLETED IN INK". Below this are fields for "PRINT NAME", "ADDRESS", "CITY, STATE", "ZIP", "1993-1994 CALIF. HUNTING LIC. NO. H", "DRIVER'S LIC. NO.", "DATE ISSUED", and "EXPIRES JAN. 31, 1994". The bottom part is the reverse, also pink with black text and a black border. It reads: "NOTICE TO HUNTERS", "THIS IS NOT A RESERVATION", and a paragraph of fine print: "This pass allows bearer access to any TYPE B state controlled hunting area, provided space is available, without further payment of any daily shooting fee for purposes of hunting during legal waterfowl or pheasant hunting season on authorized shoot days, in accordance with the rules and regulations of the Fish and Game Commission."

FIGURE 31. OBERSE (ABOVE) AND REVERSE OF GENERIC SEASONAL PERMIT CARDS THAT WERE ISSUED TO HUNTERS STARTING IN 1986.

As of 1994, hunting is still allowed at the Honey Lake Wildlife Area with a Type A or B permit. The permits may be purchased "through the mail, at license agents, or at DFG regional offices" (Hunter Information Sheet for the Honey Lake Wildlife Area, 1993). Hunting on the opening weekend for waterfowl continues to be by reservation only at the Honey Lake Wildlife Area. Many other state-operated areas, being more heavily hunted, require applications for reservations for each day of the season. Previous to the 1986-87 season, the statewide



reservation system was "restricted to allow an individual to apply only once for each area during each half of the waterfowl season" (DFG News Release, June 8, 1985).

Starting in 1985, hunters were allowed to submit one application for each day of the season per area. This greatly increases their chances of being allowed to hunt for at least one day during the season. The applications are in the form of computer cards. There are two types, one for Type A Areas and one for type B and C Areas. The application for type B and C Areas is used to apply for opening weekend of the waterfowl season at the Honey Lake Wildlife Area (see Figure 32).

### APPLICATION FOR WATERFOWL RESERVATION — TYPE A AREAS

**READ INSTRUCTIONS BELOW AND BOOKLET "HUNTING ON STATE & FEDERAL AREAS" BEFORE COMPLETING THIS APPLICATION**

1. Read Booklet for each area's shooting days. NOT ALL DATES AVAILABLE FOR ALL AREAS.
2. Punch out and circle ONE MONTH, ONE DAY, AND ONE AREA ONLY on each application submitted. (Only one application for each area for each date is allowed.)
3. Fill in NAME, ADDRESS, SIGNATURE AND HUNTING LICENSE NUMBER on back of application in ink.
4. Affix \$1.00 WATERFOWL APPLICATION STAMP in stamp box provided.

MAIL APPLICATION TO: DEPT. OF FISH & GAME, 3211 S Street, Sacramento, CA 95816.  
Application must be received in that office at least 10 days before date selected. Notices to successful applicants will be mailed approximately 7 days before shooting date. OTHERS WILL NOT BE NOTIFIED.

DO NOT FOLD, SPINDLE, OR MUTILATE THIS CARD. Cards not accepted by computer will not be included in drawing.

**IMPORTANT!** DRAWINGS WILL BE HELD FOR SUNDAY RESERVATIONS AT ALL TYPE A AREAS, EXCEPT KERN AND MERCED WHERE SHOOT DAYS ARE SATURDAYS AND WEDNESDAYS ONLY.

MONTH: OCT NOV DEC JAN

DATE: 1 11 21 2 12 22 3 13 23 4 14 24 5 15 25 6 16 26 7 17 27 8 18 28 9 19 29 10 20 30 31

RESERVATIONS MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY EITHER A 1-DAY, 2-DAY, or TYPE A SEASON PERMIT. Reservations must be presented at least one hour before shooting time on all areas except Wister, Merced, & Kern where exchange must be made at least one and one-half hours before shooting time. Wister & Sacramento reservations will be honored in the order they are numbered.

WISTER ☐ KERN ☐

GRAY LODGE ☒ GRIZZLY ISLAND ☐ LOS BANOS ☐ MENDOTA ☐ SACRAMENTO ☐ SAN LUIS ☐ KESTERSON ☐ COLUSA ☐ SUTTER ☐ VOLTA ☐ MERCED ☐ DELEVAN ☐

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE

25 87

Reservation valid ONLY for date & area printed above.

**NON-REFUNDABLE WATERFOWL APPLICATION STAMP**

100

Expires Jan. 31, 1988

RBF 1637A

### 1993/94 APPLICATION FOR WATERFOWL RESERVATION — TYPE B AND TYPE C AREAS

**INSTRUCTIONS**

1. Read "REGULATIONS FOR HUNTING ON STATE/FEDERAL AREAS" for area shoot days (not all dates available for all areas).
2. Punch out and circle only ONE MONTH, ONE DAY and ONE AREA on each application. Only one application per area for each shoot day is allowed.
3. Complete all information on back of application in ink.
4. Affix \$1.05 waterfowl application stamp in stamp box provided.
5. Mail application to: DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME, License and Revenue Branch, 3211 S Street, Sacramento, CA 95816.

APPLICATION MUST BE RECEIVED (NOT POSTMARKED) IN THAT OFFICE AT LEAST 10 DAYS BEFORE SHOOT DAY SELECTED. Successful applicants will be notified by mail approximately 7 days before shoot day. Others will not be notified.

BRC-1635A

MONTH: OCT NOV DEC JAN

DATE: 1 11 21 2 12 22 3 13 23 4 14 24 5 15 25 6 16 26 7 17 27 8 18 28 9 19 29 10 20 30 31

RESERVATIONS FOR TYPE B AREAS MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY TYPE A OR TYPE B SEASON PASS. NO DAILY OR SEASON PASS REQUIRED AT TYPE C AREAS. Reservations available as follows: ASH CREEK, BUTTE VALLEY, WILLOW CREEK and SHASTA VALLEY—Opening day of waterfowl season (good for both Saturday and Sunday); HONEY LAKE—Opening day of waterfowl season and opening day of pheasant season (good for both Saturday and Sunday). SAN JACINTO—All Saturdays and Wednesdays during duck season. BALDWIN LAKE—First seven shoot days (Saturday and Wednesday) of duck season.

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE

NONTRANSFERABLE

Reservation valid ONLY for date and area printed above.

**AFFIX \$1.05 NONREFUNDABLE WATERFOWL APPLICATION STAMP**

ASH CREEK ☐ BUTTE VALLEY ☐ HONEY LAKE (Dakin) ☐ HONEY LAKE (Fleming) ☐ WILLOW CREEK ☐ SHASTA VALLEY ☐ SAN JACINTO ☐ BALDWIN LAKE ☐

**TYPE B**

**TYPE C**

**FIGURE 32. APPLICATIONS FOR WATERFOWL HUNTING RESERVATIONS WERE HANDLED BY COMPUTER STARTING IN 1985. A USED CARD FOR TYPE A AREAS IS SHOWN ABOVE WITH A 1987-88 APPLICATION STAMP AFFIXED AND AN UNUSED CARD FOR TYPE B AND C AREAS BELOW. IN THE CASE OF THE USED EXAMPLE, THE HUNTER ASKED FOR AND SUBSEQUENTLY WAS SELECTED TO HUNT FOR A DAY AT THE GRAY LODGE WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA.**



In order to help defray the cost of the new application program, a non-refundable \$1.00 application fee was imposed starting with the 1986-87 season (DFG News Release, September 20, 1986). To show that the fee has been paid, the prospective hunter is required to purchase a “waterfowl application stamp” and affix one to each application submitted. The first stamp was printed in black on blue paper (see Figure 33).



**FIGURE 33. 1986-87 WATERFOWL APPLICATION STAMP,  
FORMERLY IN THE VANDERFORD COLLECTION.**

Starting in 1990, the fee was raised to \$1.05 and license agents were allowed to retain five cents for each stamp sold. The application stamps are all non-pictorial and are identical every year, with two exceptions. The paper color is changed and they have a new expiration date. The stamps are die cut and feature pressure sensitive gum. They are placed on a backing material and issued in booklet panes of ten (2 x 5) with a tab at the top (see Figure 34). Five panes are stapled together to form a booklet. Once removed from the backing material, individual stamps measure approximately 17 x 25 mm. For quantities of waterfowl application stamps sold through the 1992-93 season, see Table IV.

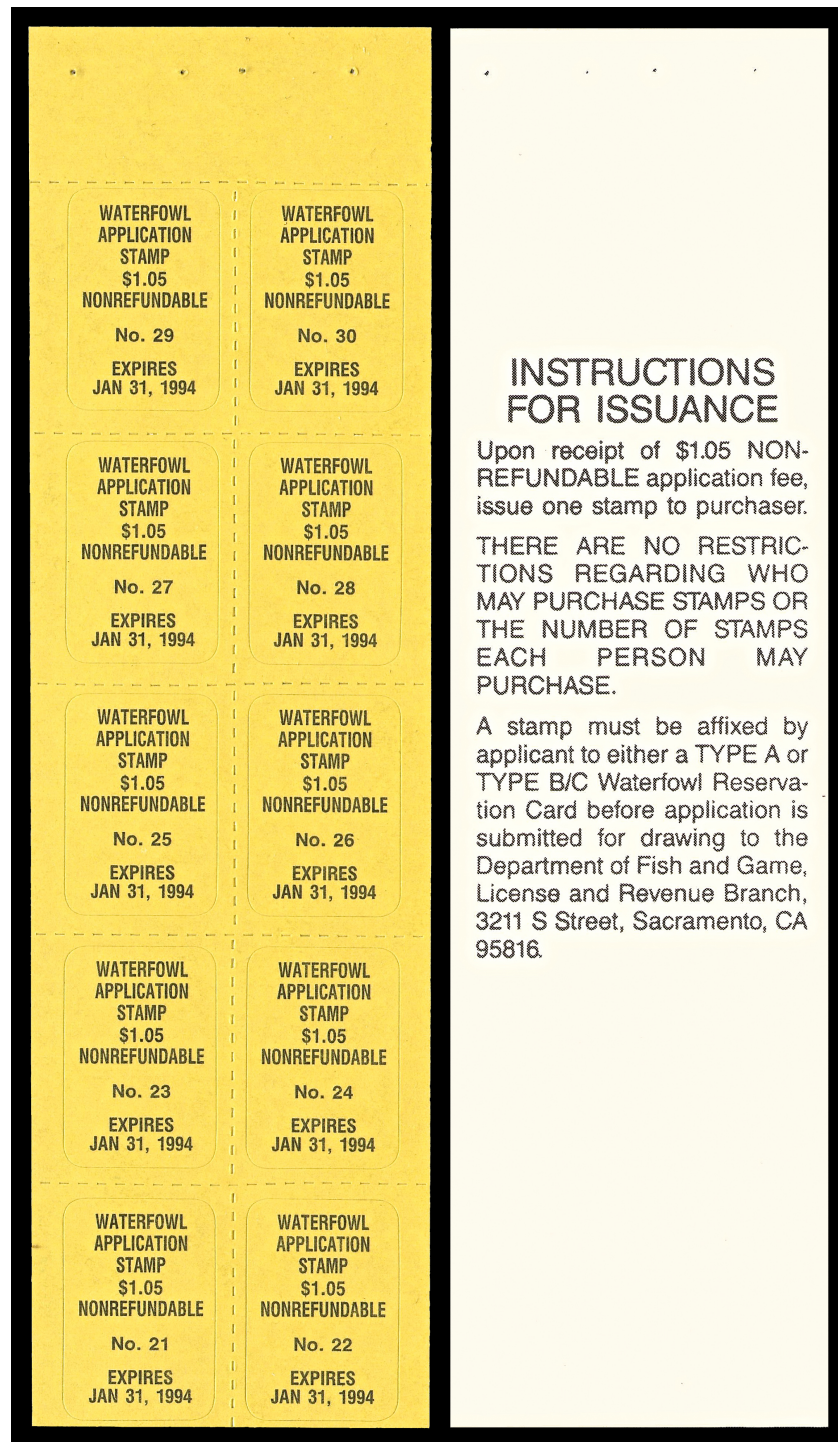


FIGURE 34. PANE OF NON-REFUNDABLE WATERFOWL APPLICATION STAMPS REQUIRED ON EVERY APPLICATION SUBMITTED (LEFT) AND BOOKLET COVER (RIGHT).

Table IV

### Quantities of Waterfowl Application stamps sold

Year	Total Sold	Year	Total Sold
1986-87	116,089	1990-91	144,665
1987-88	133,645	1991-92	159,183
1988-89	113,084	1992-93	150,592
1989-90	133,085		

The Will and Abby Csaplar collection contains an unusual usage of a waterfowl application stamp during the 1987-88 season (see Figure 35). The application stamp is used on the hunter's California hunting license. In no way is this a proper usage and it would not have secured him a day to hunt at a management area. As the stamps were still fairly new, I assume the hunter was confused as to where to place the stamp. Interesting, to say the least.



FIGURE 35. WATERFOWL APPLICATION STAMP USED ON A STATE HUNTING LICENSE, CSAPLAR COLLECTION.

When the Honey Lake seasonal permit stamps were discontinued following the 1985-86 season, it brought to an end the longest consecutively issued series of waterfowl stamps by a state government in the twentieth century. The Honey Lake series ranks second only to those issued by Marion County, Kansas, for both state and local governments in the twentieth century (Torre, 1993a). For descriptive information on Honey Lake stamps from specific years, see Table V.



Table V

### Description of Honey Lake seasonal permit stamps

Year	Face Value	Colors	Approximate dimensions without tab	Remarks
1956–57	\$5.00	black on white	49 x 37 mm	an "H" follows the serial number
1957–58	\$5.00	black on blue-green	49 x 37 mm	the quantity printed is included in the imprint
1958–59	\$5.00	black on dark yellow	51 x 48 mm	stamps were miscut; have staple holes at left
1959–60	\$5.00	black on dark yellow	49 x 35 mm	about 40 unused stamps exist with tabs intact
1960–61	\$5.00	black on white	49 x 35 mm	
1961–62	\$5.00	black on blue-green	48 x 35 mm	
1962–63	\$5.00	black on dark yellow	49 x 34 mm	
1963–64	\$5.00	black on white	51 x 35 mm	
1964–65	\$6.50	black on pink	49 x 35 mm	22 unused stamps exist with tabs intact
1965–66	\$6.50	black on white	50 x 35 mm	
1966–67	\$6.50	black on yellow	50 x 34 mm	Type I; serial numbers 1 to 700
1966–67	\$6.50	black on dark yellow	49 x 35 mm	Type II; serial numbers above 700; lack printer's imprint
1967–68	\$10.00	black on pink	48 x 35 mm	
1968–69	\$10.00	black on blue	49 x 35 mm	
1969–70	\$10.00	black on green	49 x 35 mm	
1970–71	\$15.00	black on dark yellow	49 x 36 mm	
1971–72	\$15.00	black on pink	50 x 35 mm	
1972–73	\$15.00	black on blue	49 x 35 mm	
1973–74	\$15.00	black on blue	49 x 35 mm	
1974–75	\$15.00	black on pink	49 x 35 mm	starts remainders with tabs intact
1975–76	\$15.00	black on green	50 x 38 mm	
1976–77	\$15.00	black on light yellow	50 x 38 mm	
1977–78	\$20.00	black on blue	50 x 35 mm	
1978–79	\$20.00	black on light yellow-brown	51 x 36 mm	
1979–80	\$20.00	black on light yellow	50 x 36 mm	
1980–81	\$15.00	black on light blue	49 x 38 mm	face value should read "\$20.00"
1981–82	\$20.00	black on light yellow-brown	48 x 38 mm	all remainders accidentally destroyed
1982–83	\$20.00	black on pink	49 x 38 mm	
1983–84	\$20.00	black on light green	49 x 38 mm	
1984–85	\$20.00	black on dark yellow	49 x 38 mm	
1985–86	\$20.00	black on light blue	51 x 52 mm	serial numbers printed in red ink

According to a memorandum from Area Manager Kit Novick to DFG Wildlife Management Supervisor Banky Curtis, dated October 24, 1986, "All of the new hunting programs (season permits, no checking stations, reservations) are working well and still provide high hunter opportunity and hunt quality with less DFG manpower and time... The new system works fine—let's not change it." Although stamps are no longer seen as an indispensable part of the Honey Lake operation in California, they continue to serve an important role on public hunting grounds in Illinois. In the next issue of *The American Revenuer*... "The Illinois Daily Usage Stamps."

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