

Marion County, Kansas — The First Local Waterfowl Stamps

Marion County is located in central Kansas. In the early 1930s local residents, including many sportsmen, became interested in building a recreational park featuring a lake. The Board of Commissioners selected Jerry E. Mulliken, a former peace officer with a lifelong interest in wildlife conservation, as the first "Park and Lake Superintendent." After the park opened in 1939, the lake attracted large numbers of migrating ducks. In 1941, Marion County became the first local government to issue waterfowl stamps.

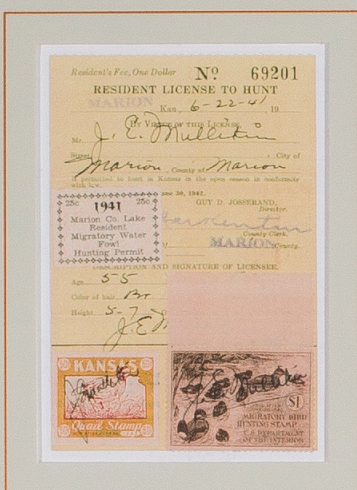


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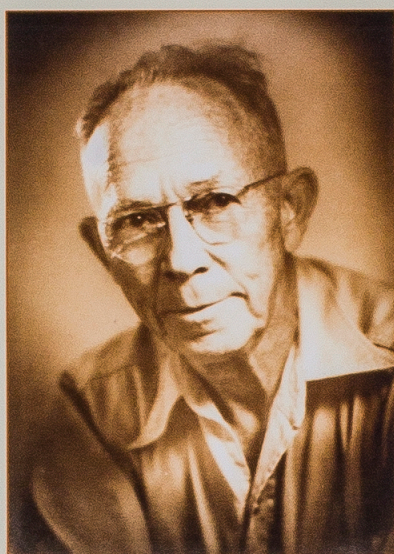
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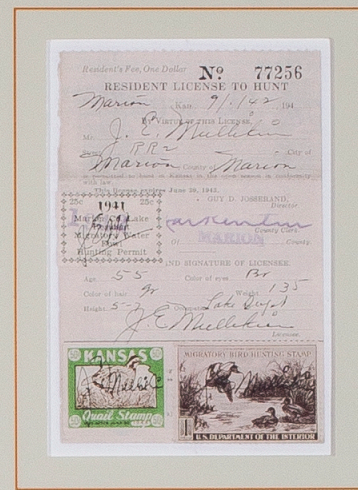
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1941 Marion County waterfowl stamp on an original license, issued to J. E. Mulliken. This stamp is believed to be the first copy sold.
Three recorded examples - the only example on a license



J. E. Mulliken, the first Marion County Park and Lake Superintendent

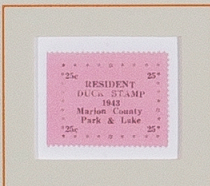


1942 Marion County waterfowl stamp on an original license issued to J. E. Mulliken. 100 remainders of the 1941 stamps were overprinted "1942" and initialed by Mulliken. This was the first use of an overprint on a U.S. fish and game stamp.
The only recorded example

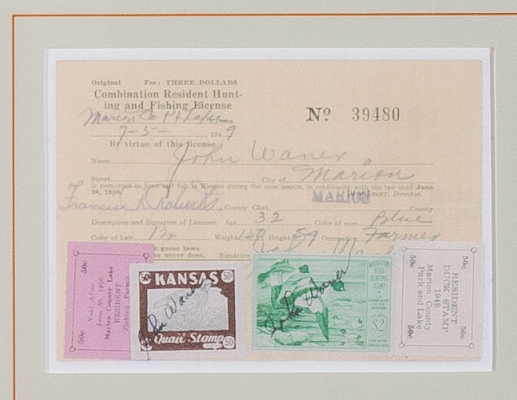


Marion County Lake, 1940

In 1943, Marion County issued the first stamp in the world to actually be inscribed "DUCK STAMP." Only 60 of these stamps were sold and the lone surviving example is one of the aristocrats of fish and game philately.

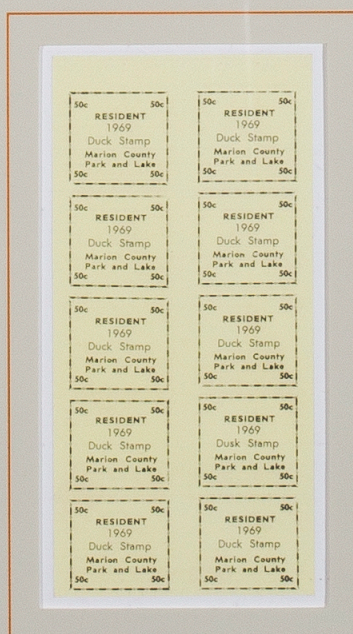


1943 Marion County duck stamp
The only recorded example
Ex Bellinghausen collection



1949 Marion County duck stamp on an original license. The "Waner License," is generally regarded as the most important license in fish and game philately. It bears the only recorded examples of both Marion County stamps from this year.

Marion County produced the most famous waterfowl stamp error in 1969. In position eight of each ten-stamp booklet pane, the word "Duck" was misspelled "Dusk." Issued through 1973, the Marion County stamps were the longest running waterfowl stamp series ever issued by a state or local government in the United States. Records show that less than 175 stamps were sold to hunters each year.



1969 Marion County Duck stamp, complete booklet pane of ten, including "Dusk" error in position eight
Six recorded error stamps - the only complete pane

W A T E R F O W L S T A M P S