

The Hunt for Ducks is Expanded

by David R. Torre and Michael Jaffe

Introduction

For 1995 Scott has expanded the hunting permit section of this catalogue to include state, local and tribal waterfowl stamps.

One of the main purposes of the state waterfowl stamp programs has been to generate revenue for waterfowl conservation and restoration projects. In addition, waterfowl stamps validate hunting licenses and often serve as a control to limit the harvest within a specific geographical area.

The need for waterfowl stamps can be traced to the early part of the twentieth century, when man and nature combined to reduce once abundant waterfowl populations to critically low levels. With the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918, the federal government accepted responsibility for the protection of waterfowl in the U.S. On March 16, 1934, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed the Migratory Bird Hunting Stamp Act into law (see Figure 1). Sale of federal waterfowl stamps provided funding for the purchase and development of federal waterfowl areas!



FIGURE 1. 1934-35 FEDERAL WATERFOWL STAMP LARGE DIE PROOF.

State and Local Issues

It soon became evident that the federal government could not hope to run an effective waterfowl management program without the cooperation of state and local conservation agencies. State and local 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.

It was not long before some state and local governments began requiring hunters to purchase waterfowl hunting stamps. In this way, additional revenue could be generated for their own water fowl programs. For many years the state and local conservation agencies that used stamps did not have collectors in mind when designing their stamps. The stamps were solely intended to serve in licensing roles. For this reason, the vast majority of early state and local waterfowl stamps featured printed text only.

In 1937, Ohio became the first state government to issue waterfowl stamps. Ohio residents wishing to hunt on Pymatuning Lake, a large reservoir straddling the Ohio-Pennsylvania border, were required to purchase a special Pymatuning hunting stamp in addition to the federal waterfowl stamp and affix both to their state hunting license (see Figure 2). This series was discontinued prior to the start of the 1946 season.

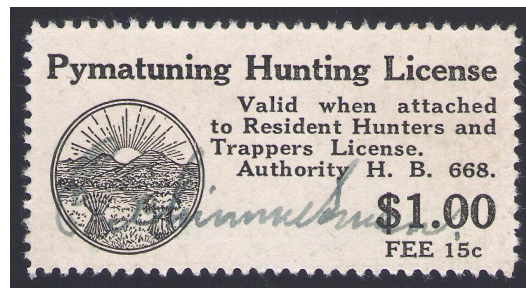


FIGURE 2. THIS UNDATED PYMATUNING WATERFOWL STAMP WAS ISSUED DURING THE 1937 SEASONS.

In 1941, Marion County, Kansas became the first local government to issue waterfowl stamps. County residents were required to purchase a stamp and affix it to their state hunting license before hunting waterfowl on Marion County Lake (see Figure 3).

Resident's Fee, One Dollar N^o 69201

RESIDENT LICENSE TO HUNT

MARION Kan., 6-22-41, 19...

BY VIRTUE OF THIS LICENSE

Mr. J. E. Mullikin

Street Marion City of Marion

County of Marion

is permitted to hunt in Kansas in the open season in conformity with law.

June 30, 1942.

25c 1941 25c

Marion Co. Lake
Resident
Migratory Water
Fowl
Hunting Permit

GUY D. JOSSERAND,
Director.

County Clerk.

of Marion County.

DESCRIPTION AND SIGNATURE OF LICENSEE.

Age 35

Color of hair Br

Height 5-7

J. E. Mullikin

50c KANSAS 50c

Quail Stamp

VOID AFTER JUNE 30, 1942

50c

VOID AFTER JUNE 30, 1942

50c

VOID AFTER JUNE 30, 1942

\$1

MIGRATORY BIRD
HUNTING STAMP

U. S. DEPARTMENT
OF THE INTERIOR

FIGURE 3. IN 1941 MARION COUNTY, KANSAS BECAME THE FIRST LOCAL GOVERNMENT TO REQUIRE THE PURCHASE OF A STAMP TO HUNT WATERFOWL. SHOWN HERE USED ON LICENSE WITH 1941-42 FEDERAL WATERFOWL AND KANSAS QUAIL STAMPS.

The 1943 Marion County hunting stamps were the first issued by any level of government in the U.S. to bear the inscription "Duck Stamp." Although discontinued following the 1973 season, the Marion County stamps rank second only to the federal stamps as the longest consecutively issued series of waterfowl stamps in the U.S. (see Figures 4 and 5).



FIGURE 4. IN 1943 MARION COUNTY ISSUED THE FIRST TRUE DUCK STAMP IN THE WORLD.

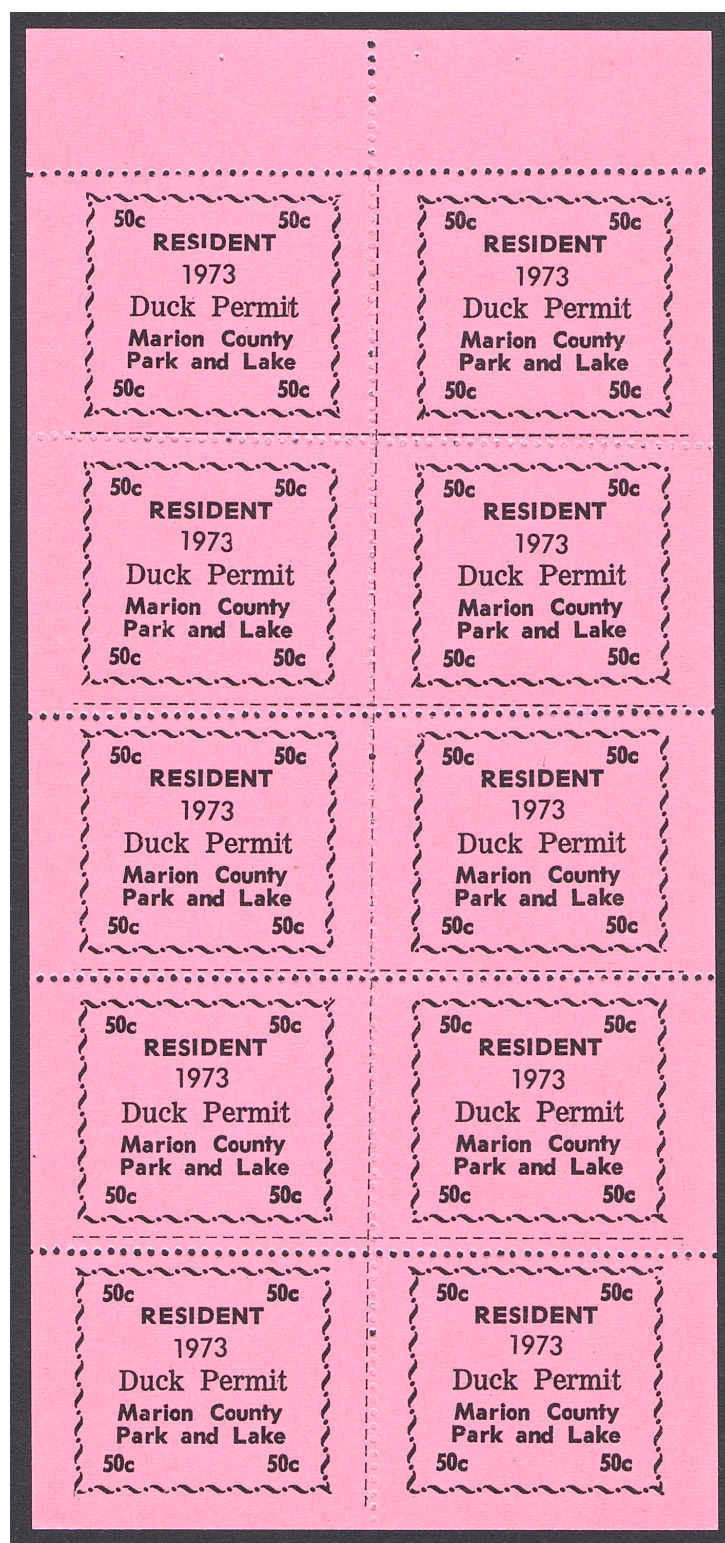


FIGURE 5. ONLY 50 STAMPS WERE PRINTED AND FIVE SOLD IN 1973. THIS BROUGHT TO AN END THE LONGEST RUNNING SERIES OF STATE OR LOCAL STAMPS IN THE 20TH CENTURY – SECOND OVERALL TO THE FEDERALS.

Following WWII, another major waterfowl crisis developed in the U.S. The simultaneous return of thousands of American soldiers led to an unprecedented hunting boom across the country. For some regions, the increased hunting pressure caused waterfowl populations to decline dramatically.

During this time, South Dakota received much national attention for its ability to maintain a large net production of ducks. This placed pressure on South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks officials to maximize duck production. Duck production is related to the amount of suitable habitat available for breeding. In the late 1940s an added drought brought about a full blown crisis. Therefore, in 1949 South Dakota became the first state government to issue waterfowl stamps which were required statewide (see Figures 6 and 7). The revenue obtained from the sale of these stamps in 1949 and 1950 was used to purchase and develop additional waterfowl habitat for the "Duck Factory."

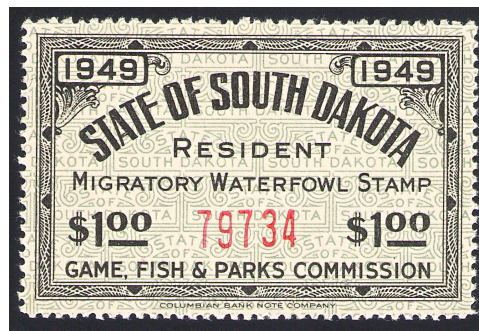


FIGURE 6. IN 1949 SOUTH DAKOTA ISSUED THE FIRST WATERFOWL STAMPS REQUIRED STATEWIDE.



FIGURE 7. AFTER 1950, THE CRISIS SUBSIDED AND THE STAMPS WERE DISCONTINUED.

The waterfowl crisis of the 1940s subsided in the early 1950s. However, the demand for public hunting grounds, which also arose following WWII, continued to increase. In large part to satisfy this demand, many state conservation agencies purchased and developed additional waterfowl management areas at this time. While some portions of these served as refuge and feeding areas, other portions were opened to public hunting at appropriate times of the year. In the 1950s, California and Illinois began issuing stamps which they required hunters to purchase when using such areas. In California, waterfowl stamps were issued for the Honey Lake and Madeline Plains Waterfowl management areas. Illinois issued "daily usage" stamps which were used at various public hunting grounds throughout the state (see Figures 8 and 9). Through the 20th Century, the Honey Lake stamps were the longest consecutively issued series of waterfowl stamps by any state government (1956 to 1986). The daily usage stamps are still being used today and have been issued over an even longer period of time, although not consecutively (1953 to the present).



FIGURE 8. 1956-57 HONEY LAKE WATERFOWL STAMP, FORMALLY IN THE VANDERFORD COLLECTION.



FIGURE 10. THE EARLIEST ILLINOIS DAILY USAGE STAMPS RECORDED ARE FROM 1951 AND IMPERFORATE. STARTING IN 1952, THE STAMPS WERE PERFORATED AND REMAINED SIMILAR THROUGH 1972.

Tribal Issues

In the late 1950s, the Rosebud Sioux Tribe in South Dakota became the first tribal government to require the purchase of stamps before hunting waterfowl on an Indian Reservation. The stamps were intended to be placed on a tribal hunting license (see Figure 11). Occasionally, hunters affixed the stamps to their state hunting license in error (see figure 12).



FIGURE 11. IN 1959 THE ROSEBUD SIOUX BECAME THE FIRST TRIBAL GOVERNMENT TO REQUIRE THE PURCHASE OF STAMPS PRIOR TO HUNTING FOR WATERFOWL ON THEIR RESERVATION.



FIGURE 12. ROSEBUD TRIBAL GAME BIRD STAMP ISSUED IN 1961. THE STAMP HAS BEEN USED ON A SOUTH DAKOTA LICENSE WITH A STATE SMALL GAME STAMP.

Stamps have been issued and required of hunters on the Rosebud Reservation in every decade since the 1950s. In the early 1960s additional Indian tribes began requiring hunters to purchase stamps (see Figures 13 and 14).

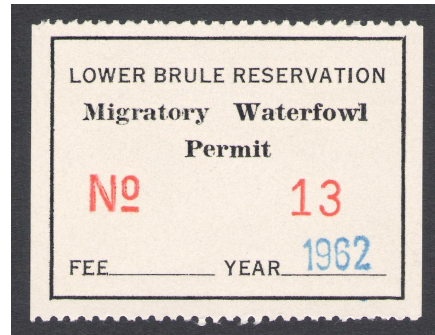


FIGURE 13. THE LOWER BRULE SIOUX TRIBE ISSUED THEIR FIRST WATERFOWL STAMPS IN 1962.

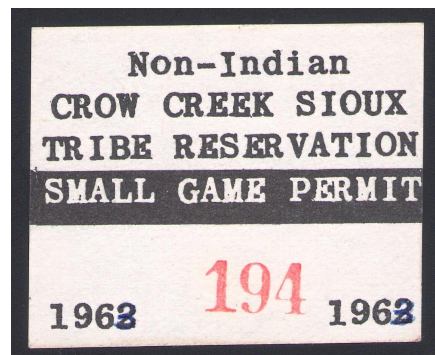


FIGURE 14. THE CROW CREEK SIOUX TRIBE STARTED ISSUING STAMPS REQUIRED TO HUNT WATERFOWL IN 1961. FOR 1963, REMAINDERS FROM 1962 WERE REUSED BY CHANGING THE DATE WITH A BALL POINT PEN.

Pictorial State and Indian Issues

Starting in 1967 North Dakota began requiring waterfowl hunters to purchase a small game stamp. For fifteen years all of the stamps were non-pictorial. Then, in 1982, the resident stamps began to feature pictorial designs, while the youth and non-resident stamps remained non-pictorial (see Figures 15 and 16).

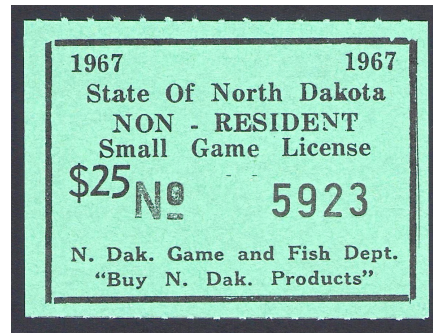


FIGURE 15. STARTING IN 1967, NORTH DAKOTA ISSUED RESIDENT AND NON RESIDENT SMALL GAME STAMPS REQUIRED TO HUNT WATERFOWL.



FIGURE 16. STARTING IN 1982, NORTH DAKOTA MADE THEIR RESIDENT STAMP PICTORIAL.

Pictorial state waterfowl stamps saw their beginning in 1971, when California commissioned Paul Johnson to design the state's first duck stamp, a relatively simple rendition of a pair of pintails in flight. California's decision to issue pictorial stamps was prompted by the growing number of collectors interested in fish and game stamps. State officials estimated that any added production costs could be more than made up through the increased sale of stamps to collectors. In 1972 Iowa became the second state to initiate a pictorial waterfowl stamp program and the first to use full color (see Figures 17 and 18).



FIGURE 17. CALIFORNIA ISSUED THE FIRST PICTORIAL STATE WATERFOWL STAMP IN 1971.



FIGURE 18. IN 1972 IOWA BECAME THE FIRST STATE TO ISSUE WATERFOWL STAMPS IN MULTICOLOR. THE STAMP WAS DESIGNED BY MAYNARD REECE, WINNER OF FIVE FEDERAL CONTESTS.

The appearance of new pictorial issues, combined with the publication of E.L. Vanderford's Handbook of Fish and Game Stamps in 1973, led to a surge in waterfowl stamp collecting.

Maryland and Massachusetts began to issue their stamps in 1974. All Massachusetts stamps depict waterfowl decoys by famous carvers (see Figure 19). Illinois started a pictorial stamp program in 1975. The face value of this stamp was \$5, and half of the revenue obtained through its sale went to Ducks Unlimited, a private conservation organization which has done much to aid in waterfowl restoration throughout North America (see Figure 20).



FIGURE 19. ALL MASSACHUSETTS STAMPS PICTURE DECOYS BY FAMOUS CARVERS.



FIGURE 20. THE BEAUTIFUL 1975 ILLINOIS WATERFOWL STAMP.

These pictorial stamp programs were so successful in raising funds for waterfowl conservation projects that many additional states adopted similar stamp programs. Between 1976 and 1980, 13 additional states began issuing pictorial waterfowl stamps. South Dakota discontinued its pictorial waterfowl stamp program following the 1978 season, but continued to issue semi-pictorial stamps for an annual special goose hunt. These were originally issued on a drawing basis for Bennett County only, starting in 1974 (see Figure 21).

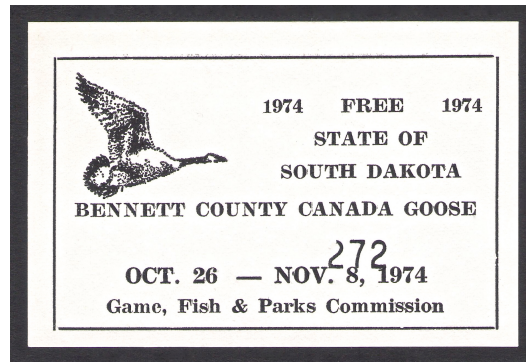


FIGURE 21. BENNETT COUNTY GOOSE STAMP ISSUED BY SOUTH DAKOTA IN 1974. THE GOOSE HUNTS WERE AWARDED IN A LOTTERY.

In subsequent years the special goose stamps were issued for an increasing number of areas. In 1986 South Dakota would resume issuing pictorial waterfowl stamps. With their 1979 issues, Tennessee became the first state to issue separate pictorial waterfowl stamps for non-residents. These non-resident stamps were discontinued after only two years (see Figure 22).



FIGURE 22. TENNESSEE BECAME THE FIRST STATE TO ISSUE A PICTORIAL STAMP FOR NON RESIDENT HUNTERS IN 1979. THIS WAS THE 3RD STAMP SOLD.

In response to an increasing demand for waterfowl stamps on the part of stamp collectors, many states started to print their stamps in two different formats in the 1980s. There was one type, usually printed in booklet panes, for license agents to issue to hunters, and a second type, usually printed in sheets, that was sold to collectors (see Figures 23 and 24).



FIGURE 23. FULLY PERFORATED 1983 NEW HAMPSHIRE WATERFOWL STAMP PRINTED IN SHEETS FOR COLLECTORS.



FIGURE 24. BOOKLET FORMAT STAMP WITH STRAIGHT EDGES ISSUED TO HUNTERS.

The 1981 Arkansas stamp was printed in booklet panes of thirty and issued with protective booklet covers to license agents. Sheets of thirty, without protective covers, were kept in Little Rock for sale to collectors. South Carolina issued their first stamp in 1981. They were printed in sheets of thirty. Starting with their second issue in 1982, a portion of the stamps were serially numbered on the reverse and distributed to license agents. Collectors who bought stamps directly from the state were sold stamps from sheets lacking the serial numbers. The agent, or “hunter type” stamps as they are often called, were only sold to those collectors who specifically requested them see Figures 25 and 26).



FIGURE 25. 1982 SOUTH CAROLINA WATERFOWL STAMP PRINTED TO SELL TO COLLECTORS. THE STAMP HAS NO SERIAL NUMBER ON THE REVERSE.



FIGURE 26. REVERSE OF 1982 SOUTH CAROLINA WATERFOWL STAMP ISSUED TO HUNTERS. THIS UNUSED BLOCK OF SIX MAY BE THE LARGEST MULTIPLE RECORDED.

When North Dakota introduced their first pictorial stamps in 1982, the first 20,000 stamps were set aside to be sold with prints or to be signed by the artist. These were printed in sheets of ten. Stamps numbered 20,001-150,000 were printed in booklet panes of five and distributed to license agents (see Figure 16). Stamps with serial numbers higher than 150,000 were printed in sheets of thirty and reserved for sale to collectors. The stamps that were distributed to license agents were available to collectors for a brief period of time following the end of the hunting season and then destroyed. The collector-type stamps, on the other hand, were kept on sale for three years. This accounts for the relative difficulty in obtaining unused examples of early North Dakota booklet-type (hunter) stamps.

New Hampshire's first stamp was printed in two different formats. When collectors placed their orders, they were asked whether they wanted stamps with straight edges on three sides (booklet type) or fully perforated (from sheets printed for collectors). Not understanding the difference between the two types, the majority of collectors requested fully perforated stamps (see Figures 23 and 24).

Collector interest in state duck stamps exploded in the mid-1980s. This can be attributed to the large number of states issuing stamps by this time and the fact that an album containing spaces for federal and state waterfowl stamps was published by Scot in 1987. In the years since, every state has initiated a waterfowl stamp or waterfowl conservation stamp program. Hawaii became the last state in 1996.

At one point in the mid 1990s, nearly half of the states printed their stamps in two formats. Hunter-type stamps from Connecticut, Montana and Virginia were printed in booklet panes of ten (2×5) with selvage on both sides. These are most often collected in horizontal pairs. The selvage on each side of the pair makes it easy to differentiate them from the collector-type stamps, which were printed in sheets of thirty.

When the 1986 Montana stamps were issued, some representatives at the state agency did not recognize a difference between the booklet and sheet type stamps. Therefore, only a small number of booklet-type stamps were obtained by collectors (see Figure 27).



FIGURE 27. THE 1986 MONTANA WATERFOWL STAMPS THAT WERE SOLD TO HUNTERS WERE PRINTED IN BOOKLET PANES OF TEN WITH TABS AT THE TOP.

There have been some occasions when the waterfowl season was ready to begin and the state license section sections had not yet received their stamps from the printer. This occurred in 1989 for Oregon and in 1991 for Idaho. In these instances “temporary” non-pictorial stamps were printed and distributed to license agents for issue to hunters until the regular pictorial stamps were received see figures 28 and 29).

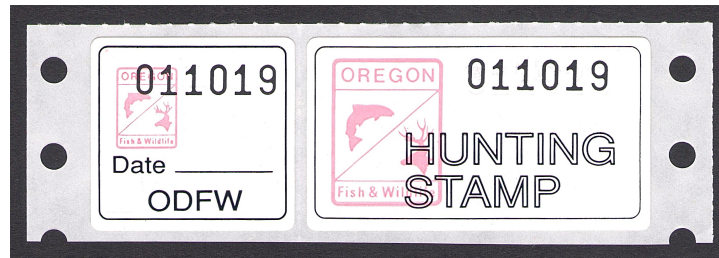


FIGURE 28. 1989 OREGON TEMPORARY WATERFOWL STAMP.

1991-92 IDAHO WATERFOWL PERMIT		1991-92	\$6.00
FEE — \$6.00 (Includes \$1.00 Vendor Fee)			
654-1-027080			
1. Hunt License Number		4. Vendor No.	
5. Date Issued		6. Time Issued	
A.M.		P.M.	
REMITTANCE PORTION			
		654-1-027080	

FIGURE 29. 1991-92 IDAHO TEMPORARY WATERFOWL STAMP.

In the late 1980s the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service encouraged many tribal governments to formally organize their fish and wildlife programs. Many of these programs were made to include stamp and license requirements in their general provisions. In 1989 the Crow Creek Sioux of South Dakota became the first tribal government to issue pictorial waterfowl stamps (see Figure 30). These stamps were not printed with collectors in mind. Rather, tribal Department of Natural Resources officials were simply attempting to conform to standards set by South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Commission with their pictorial stamps. Separate stamps were printed for reservation residents. South Dakota residents who did not live on the reservation and non-residents of the state. For each classification only 200 stamps were printed.



FIGURE 30. IN 1989 THE CROW CREEK SIOUX BECAME THE FIRST TRIBAL GOVERNMENT TO PRINT PICTORIAL WATERFOWL STAMPS.

The number of tribal governments that have issued stamps required to hunt waterfowl now numbers over twenty. While some of the tribal stamps were printed and issued in relatively small quantities due their small land area, others are more readily available.