Westpex Retrospective

by Will Csaplar and David R. Torre, ARA

A License and Stamp System for Waterfowl Conservation in the 20th Century U.S.

Note by Michael Mahler. Long gone are the days when pioneer exhibitors furnished only a title, then presented their material for judging. Eventually an explanatory title page became de rigeur, later an additional "second title page" giving an outline and highlights. The latter has lately morphed into a multi-page synopsis. All this is consistent with the realization that a key to successful exhibiting is facilitating the judge's' understanding of your material so as to maximize their limited time in front of the frames. The following pages provide an informative "inside look" at the explanatory material one pair of revenue exhibitors furnished to further this process. The results are shown in Figures 1a, b and c.

FIGURE1A. RIBBONS ON THE FRAMES AT WESTPEX!

FIGURE1B. RIBBONS WITH WESTPEX GOLD MEDAL.

FIGURE 1C. THE AMERICAN REVENUE ASSOCIATION GRAND AWARD.

Introduction and Background

Exhibit Goals

We are Will and Abby Csaplar. This exhibit is the synthesis of two lifelong passions, wildlife conservation and philately. It is the culmination of 30-plus years of actively collecting and researching revenue stamps for waterfowl conservation. Our goals are:

1. To tell the entire story by placing individual items of social, historical and philatelic importance into their appropriate context, an in-depth context that has never before been fully achieved;
2. It is hoped that our efforts may lead to a renewed interest in the hobby, which, like so many collectibles, was measurably impacted by the recession;
3. To show collectors of similar material that they can succeed in the philatelic arena;
4. To help secure a measure of respect that is so deserved for the many collectors that have competed on the sidelines of organized philately for decades.

Exhibit Organization and How the items Were Selected for Inclusion

A superficial examination might lead one to conclude this is really five different exhibits under one title. That would not be accurate. We spent three years in the active preparation phase. Over this time, several different forms of organization were considered. We felt that by telling the story in five distinct chapters under one title, we could most accurately portray the nature of the cooperative effort that existed for waterfowl conservation in the U.S. during the 20th Century. The five levels of government discussed in each chapter operated both:

1. Independently of each other to manage waterfowl populations under their jurisdiction; and
2. Together, to achieve the most effective overall conservation policy. They independently gathered species population data. They subsequently shared the data to establish nation-wide season lengths and bag limits. It was this combination that effectively kept waterfowl populations in equilibrium.

More to the crux of this exhibit, the five different levels of government:

1. Adopted a collective method of regulation and law enforcement that developed into the backbone of waterfowl conservation policy in the U.S. in the 20th Century. During this time, the license and stamp system evolved into a powerful and efficient regulatory tool; and
2. They shared a common approach to secure funding. Sales of licenses and stamps served to generate badly needed funds for this massive undertaking.

We believe we have selected the most appropriate organizational approach. Each chapter is organized chronologically. The first jurisdiction to issue stamps is shown altogether, followed by the second, third, and so on.

After acquiring portions of the Rudy and Torre collections, we found that our own collection had grown to over 20,000 items. The criteria for selecting items for this exhibit were straightforward: We wished to showcase the material with the highest difficulty of acquisition that also told the story in a definitive way. If an item was important to the story, but of low difficulty, it was included. On the other hand, items of low difficulty that were unnecessary to tell the story were excluded.

The number of examples recorded in this exhibit is derived from an ongoing census, begun by in the 1950s by E. L. Vanderford and continued by David R. Torre to date. All certificate numbers are printed on the exhibit pages and the certificates themselves are located behind the exhibit pages.

Standing on the Shoulders of Giants

E. L. Vanderford. Federal “duck” stamps have attracted collectors and wildlife enthusiasts since their inception in 1934. Once state and local governments began issuing waterfowl stamps in the late 1930s, there existed a group of stamps that was of sufficient size to stimulate pioneer revenue collectors to research them and organize them into collections. Foremost amongst them was E. L. Vanderford of Sacramento, who took the fledgling hobby to a new level, helping to get hundreds of new collectors started through his articles in various wildlife publications, columns in the The American Revenuer, The State Revenue Newsletter and Linn’s Stamp News, and culminating in his 1973 Handbook of Fish and Game License Stamps. This was an exhaustive compilation of all fish and game stamps issued until that time, which served as the definitive guide for the hobby for nearly two decades. Vanderford amassed the greatest fish and game collection of his time. Shortly before his death in 1994, he allowed his protege, David R. Torre, to purchase the majority of his collection (see Figure 2).

FIGURE 2. AMONG THE MOST IMPORTANT ITEMS IN THE EXHIBIT IS THE 1956 HONEY LAKE STAMP, ONE OF THREE EXAMPLES RECORDED AND ORIGINALLY IN THE VANDERFORD COLLECTION. THIS IS THE STAMP WHICH HAS BEEN USED TO ILLUSTRATE VIRTUALLY ALL PHILATELIC REFERENCES, INCLUDING THE SCOTT SPECIALIZED CATALOG.

Jeannette C. Rudy. Although never very involved in organized philately, Jeannette was an avid hunter and award-winning markswoman with a lifelong interest in waterfowl stamps. In the 1970s she had the good fortune of having Opryland USA built on her ranch in Nashville. She now had the means to acquire anything she wanted —and she wanted the best collection of waterfowl stamps in the world. Although an exhibit of her stamps was never shown at a Champion of Champions (C of C) qualifying show in open competition, it was shown in the Court of Honor at Napex in the late 1990s. Jeannette funded an entire room at the National Postal Museum devoted exclusively to waterfowl stamps. Her contributions to the hobby should not be underestimated. Her philatelic legacy rests in her concentration of a large percentage of the hobby’s rarest and most desirable items into one collection.

Prior to Jeannette donating the majority of her waterfowl collection to the National Postal Museum, she allowed us to purchase many key items needed for this exhibit, including the large die proof of RW1, the RW3 FDC (see Figure 3c), the latest recorded usage of a federal stamp on form 3333 (RW22), and the latest recorded federal large die proof in collector hands (RW23). For this we shall always be grateful.

FIGURE 3A. WITH THE HELP OF JEANNETTE RUDY AND BOB DUMAINE, WE WERE ABLE TO ASSEMBLE THE RW1-3 FDC PROGRESSION. IN ATTEMPTING TO CREATE THE FIRST FEDERAL WATERFOWL STAMP FIRST DAY COVER, ROESSLER MISSED ON RW1 BY THREE DAYS.

FIGURE 3B. ROESSLER CAME CLOSER WITH RW2, MISSING BY A SINGLE DAY.

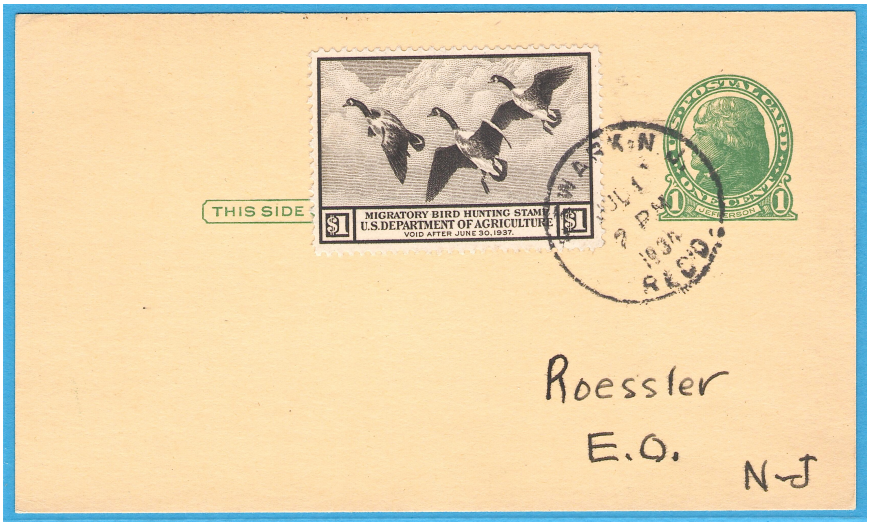


FIGURE 3C. ROESSLER FINALLY SUCCEEDED IN CREATING THE FIRST FEDERAL WATERFOWL STAMP FIRST DAY COVER WITH RW3.

Robert Dumaine. A stamp dealer from Houston, who has specialized in buying and selling duck stamps for over 30 years. His firm, Sam Houston Philatelies, has conducted regular auctions of duck stamps and related material for much of this time. Bob wrote The Duck Stamp Column in Linns Stamp News for 14 years and was the founder of The Duck Stamp Collector's Society. He is co-author of The Duck Stamp Story, and has arguably done more to popularize the collecting of duck stamps than anyone in history. Recently, he was inducted into the American Stamp Dealers Association Hall of Fame. Over the years. Bob has been the source for many of the important items in our exhibit, including the 1910 Canal Zone metal license, the RW1-2 covers in the FDC progression, most of the difficult form 3333 usages, the 1945 Pymatuning Hunting stamp and the 1951 Illinois Daily stamp (see Figures 4 and 5). He has also provided us with research materials and has otherwise been of invaluable assistance.

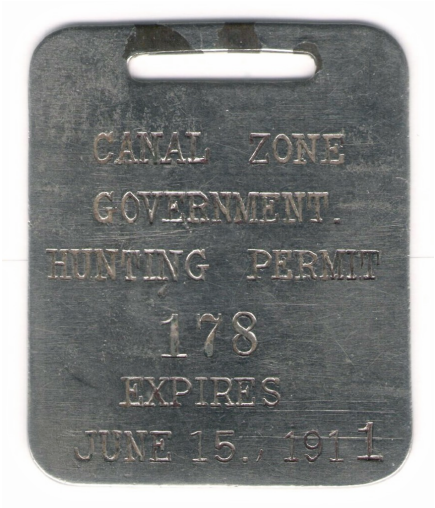


FIGURE 4. THE 1910 CANAL ZONE HUNTING LICENSE IS THE EARLIEST RECORDED FROM A SERIES ISSUED BY THE U.S. GOVERNMENT TO LICENSE WORKERS ON THE CANAL TO HUNT IN THEIR LEISURE TIME. THE METAL LICENSE HAS A SLOT AT THE TOP AND WAS INTENDED AS A WATCH FOB.

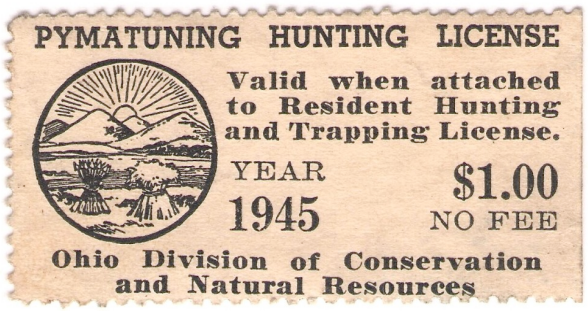


FIGURE 5. THE 1945 PYMATUNING HUNTING STAMP (BELOW) APPEARED ON EBAY, WAS PURCHASED BY DUMAINE AND RESOLD TO THE CSAPLARS. IT IS ONE OF THREE EXAMPLES RECORDED.

David R. Torre. Residing in Santa Rosa, California, David has been a lifelong collector, started at age six by his father, Angelo Torre Jr., one of the pioneer fish and game collectors and one of the first duck stamp dealers. David began apprenticing with other stamp dealers in Northern California by age 11. He also started washing dishes at his family's restaurant and used his earnings to form a collection of high quality U.S. stamps. In 1974 (at age 16) he flew to New York and sold his entire collection at a single INTERPEX show, reinvesting every dollar in duck stamps, thus becoming the youngest major duck stamp dealer in the country. He began keeping the best material as a personal investment in the speculative late 1970s, and these gems later formed the nucleus for what would eventually become the most renowned collection of fish and game stamps.

David would go on to publish over 200 pages of articles in The American Revenuer, edit the Specialized Catalog of U.S. Non Pictorial Waterfowl Stamps, and has edited the waterfowl stamp section of the Scott Specialized Catalog for over 20 years. David has judged at C of C qualifying shows. His own exhibit, Classic State and Local Fish and Game Stamps, won 29 national and international gold medals, was featured at the philatelic exhibits at the Atlanta and Sydney Olympics, numerous courts of honor including Napex, Westpex and World Stamp Expo 2000. In 2000, David's exhibit won a Grand Award and was entered into the C of C. Following this achievement, he retired his pioneering exhibit.

Through David's great kindness, he allowed us to purchase some of the most important waterfowl stamp rarities from his collection needed for our exhibit (see Figure 6). As he knows this area of philately better than anyone, ourselves included, we asked him to prepare a Judge's Guide for our exhibit. It is included in this package of information. David has been tremendously supportive of our efforts to document the waterfowl license and stamp story for posterity and hopefully garner some respect for a niche of philately he shares with us. For all his help we are truly indebted.

FIGURE 6. AMONG THE RARITIES DAVID TORRE ALLOWED US OBTAIN FOR OUR EXHIBIT WERE THE 1946 AND 1947 MARION COUNTY DUCK STAMPS. AMONG THE FIRST RECORDED MARION COUNTY STAMPS, THEY WERE DISCOVERED BY LEGENDARY STAMP DEALER GILSON WILLETS OF FLYING HORSE STAMP COMPANY FAME. WILLETS INSCRIBED THE STAMPS "KANSAS" AND LATER SOLD THE STAMPS TO E.L. VANDERFORD, WHO SOLD THEM TO DAVID SHORTLY BEFORE HIS DEATH.

Finally, we would like to thank you, the judges, for taking the time to understand our exhibit.

A Judge's Guide to the Exhibit

Chapter One: Pre Stamp Licenses

The forerunner chapter is not only an important part of the story, it is essential for putting the stamps themselves into context. Prior to the use of stamps, regulation and enforcement was achieved through issuing separate licenses (with different fees) for different classifications of hunters and kinds of hunting. In general, all pre-stamp hunting licenses are scarce to extremely rare, especially in presentable condition. Size is a factor, with the majority of early licenses extant having tears, stains, animal blood, wallet-wear, etc. In general, the earlier the license, the higher the difficulty of acquisition. Assembling a run of pre-stamp licenses from 1901-1933, from any state and in any in any condition, is a lifetime achievement. Early metal and celluloid-covered licenses have a high degree of difficulty. This chapter helps to make the exhibit one for the ages in terms of the number of different states represented, the variety of formats and materials represented and their overall condition. Frame 1 could not be duplicated. Highlights:

1887 Delaware Game Protective Certificate. A remarkable artifact that documents the establishment of the game warden system in the U.S. A very sizable hobby exists that is devoted to collecting game warden and law enforcement badges and ephemera. This certificate is the Holy Grail for their entire hobby. For us, it serves to represent a fundamental component of the license and stamp system often overlooked by stamp collectors (see Figure 7).

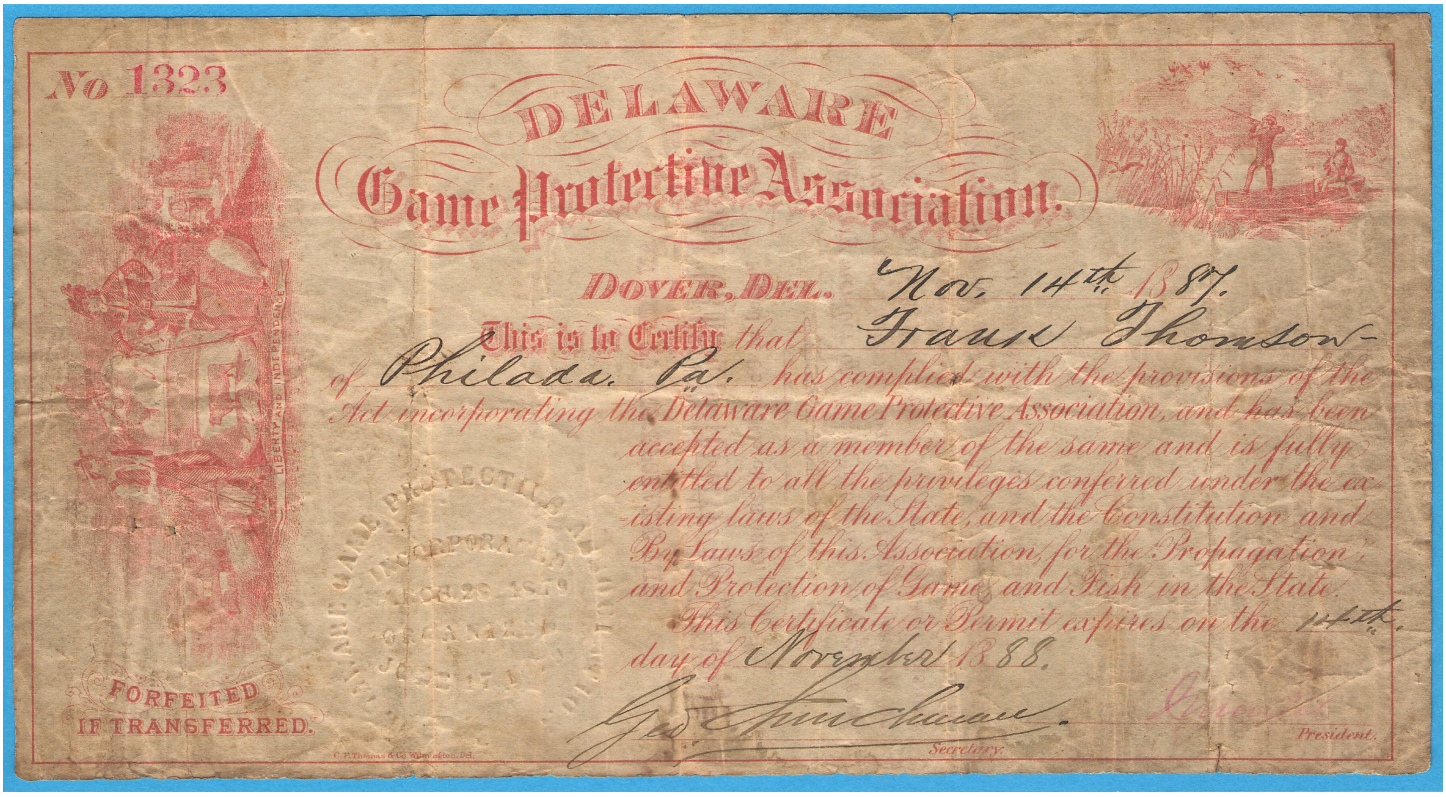
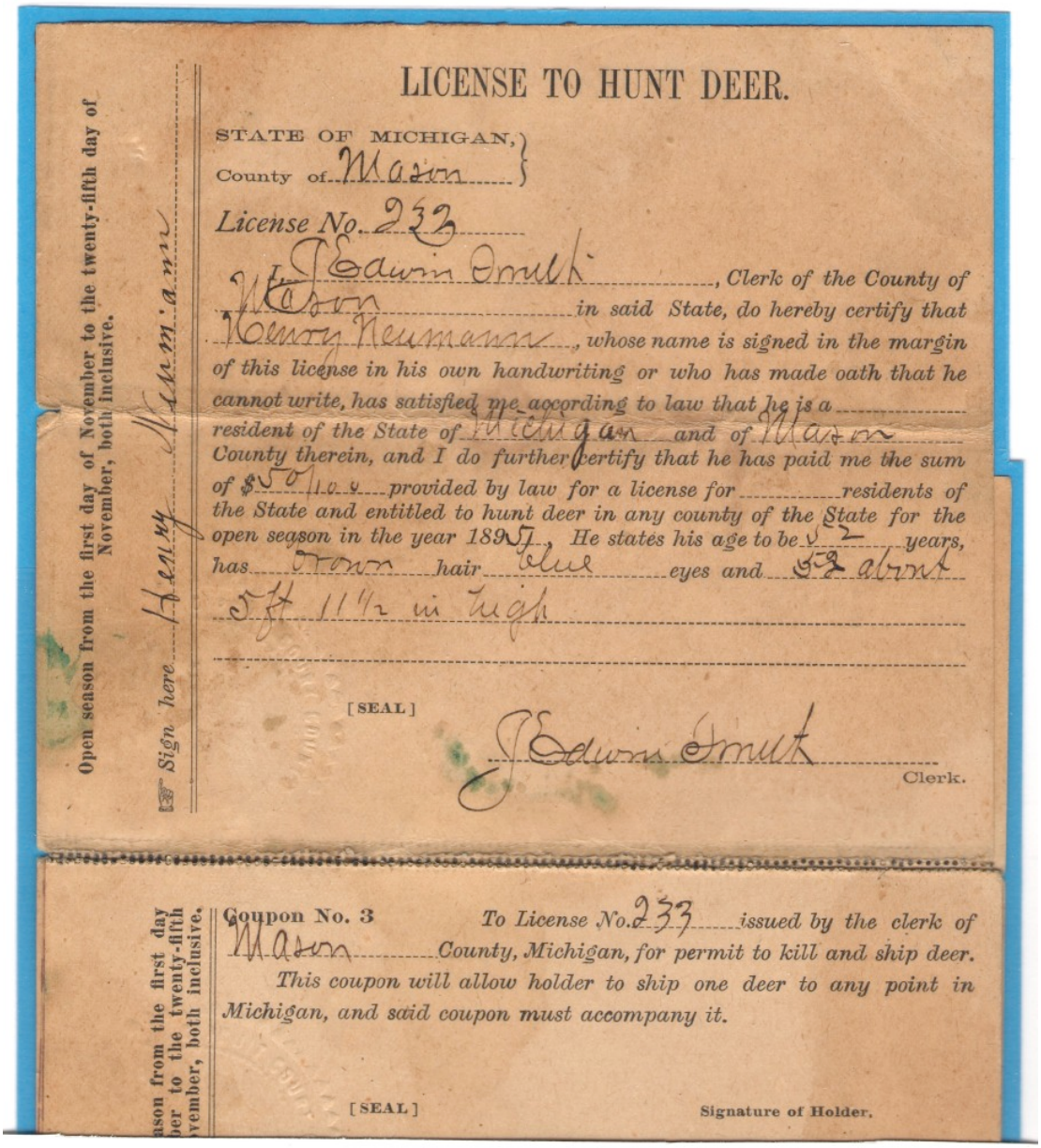


FIGURE 7. THE EXTRAORDINARY 1887 DELAWARE GAME PROTECTIVE CERTIFICATE.

1895 Michigan License to Hunt Deer. Representing the origin of licensing in the U.S., this is the first resident license issued. The most sought after license extant. There are five examples recorded. This is one of only two retaining their original coupons and thus being complete. Further, the license was printed on thin paper and in view of its large size is in exceptional state of preservation (see Figure 8).



LICENSE TO HUNT DEER.

STATE OF MICHIGAN,
County of Mason

License No. 233

I, J Edwin Smith, Clerk of the County of Mason in said State, do hereby certify that Henry Neumann, whose name is signed in the margin of this license in his own handwriting or who has made oath that he cannot write, has satisfied me according to law that he is a resident of the State of Michigan and of Mason County therein, and I do further certify that he has paid me the sum of $50 1.0.4 provided by law for a license for residents of the State and entitled to hunt deer in any county of the State for the open season in the year 1895. He states his age to be 52 years, has brown hair blue eyes and 5-2 about 5 ft 11 1/2 in high

[SEAL]

J Edwin Smith
Clerk.

Open season from the first day of November to the twenty-fifth day of November, both inclusive.

Sign here Henry Neumann

Coupon No. 3 To License No. 233 issued by the clerk of Mason County, Michigan, for permit to kill and ship deer. This coupon will allow holder to ship one deer to any point in Michigan, and said coupon must accompany it.

[SEAL]

Signature of Holder.

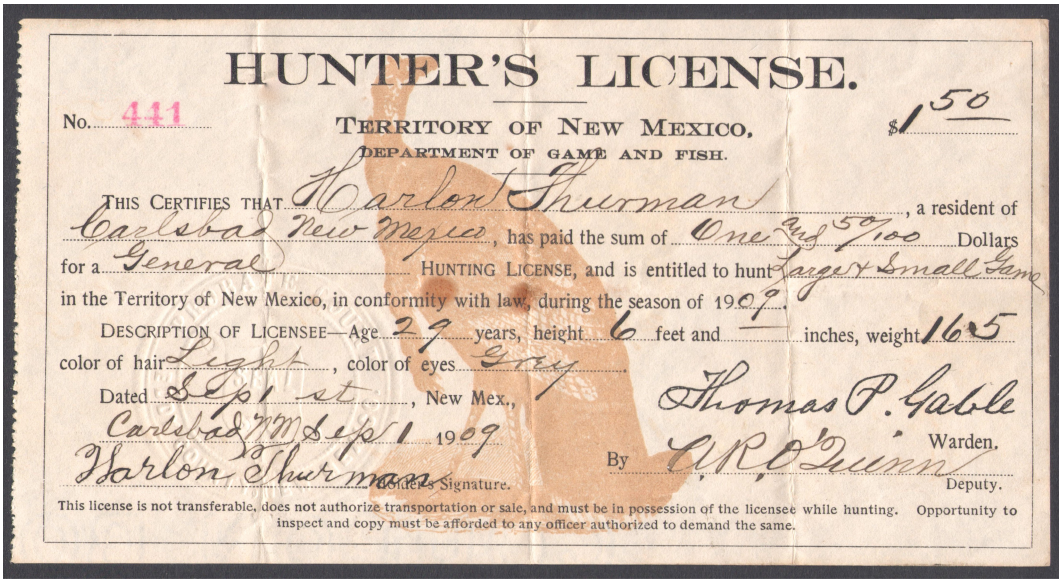
FIGURE 8. THE FIRST RESIDENT HUNTING LICENSE ISSUED IN THE U.S. THE LICENSE WAS PRINTED AND ISSUED WITH A TOTAL OF FIVE SHIPPING COUPONS. THIS PARTICULAR HUNTER WAS UNSUCCESSFUL, THEREFORE, THE LICENSE REMAINS INTACT. THE FIVE COUPONS HAVE BEEN FOLDED TO FIT THE EXHIBIT PAGE.

1908-09 California Non-Resident Hunting License. California hunting licenses are the most highly collected of any state. California issued metal hunting licenses in 1907 and 1908. The copper 1908-09 non-resident license in this exhibit is pitted and likely dug by a bottle collector (see Figure 9). However, only one other has ever surfaced and it has been cut halfway through with a hacksaw. Paper licenses were issued starting in 1909. Those from 1909-1926 featured stunning chromolithography (see Figure 10). Advanced collectors seek uncommon licenses such as non-resident, alien and duplicate.

FIGURE 9. CALIFORNIA ISSUED METAL HUNTING LICENSES IN 1907 AND 1908 BEFORE SHIFTING TO PAPER IN 1909. THE 1908-09 NON-RESIDENT LICENSE SHOWN ABOVE IS THE FINEST OF TWO EXAMPLES RECORDED.

FIGURE 10. THE EARLY CALIFORNIA PAPER LICENSES WERE WORKS OF ART AND ARE HIGHLY COLLECTED TODAY.

1909 Territory of New Mexico Hunter's License. Territorial licenses are very difficult to acquire and are prized by two groups of collectors; those who collect hunting and fishing licenses and those who collect fish and game stamps. New Mexico issued their first hunting license in 1909, three years before statehood. The license is considered to be exceptional for both the large illustration of a turkey and it's extreme difficulty of acquisition. There are three examples recorded (see Figure 11).



HUNTER'S LICENSE.

No. 441

TERRITORY OF NEW MEXICO.
DEPARTMENT OF GAME AND FISH.

$1.50

THIS CERTIFIES THAT Harlon Thurman, a resident of Carlsbad New Mexico, has paid the sum of One and 50/100 Dollars for a General HUNTING LICENSE, and is entitled to hunt Larger & Small Game in the Territory of New Mexico, in conformity with law, during the season of 1909.

DESCRIPTION OF LICENSEE—Age 29 years, height 6 feet and — inches, weight 165 color of hair Light, color of eyes Gray

Dated Sept 1st, New Mex., Carlsbad NM Sept 1 1909

Thomas P. Gable Warden.

Harlon Thurman Holder's Signature.

By A. R. O'Quinn Deputy.

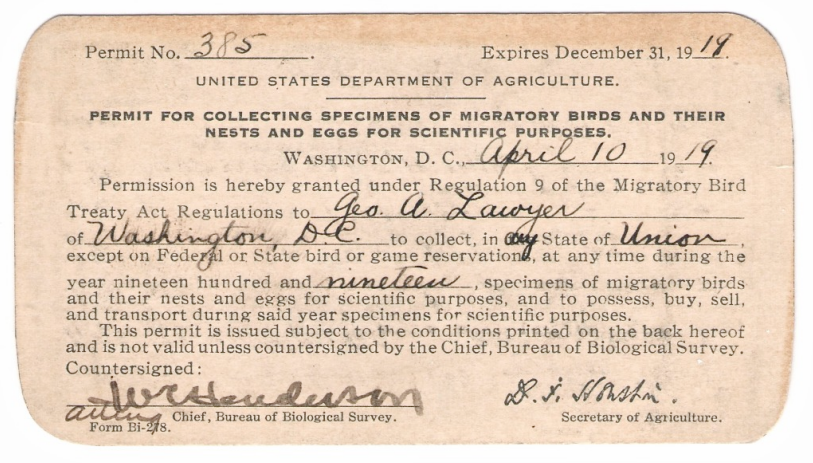
This license is not transferable, does not authorize transportation or sale, and must be in possession of the licensee while hunting. Opportunity to inspect and copy must be afforded to any officer authorized to demand the same.

FIGURE 11. 1909 TERRITORY OF NEW MEXICO HUNTER'S LICENSE. ISSUED THREE YEARS BEFORE NEW MEXICO BECAME A STATE.

1916-17 White Pine County, Nevada Hunting & Fishing License. The use of metal licenses was relatively unusual in the U.S., with the exception of one state. Pre-stamp licenses in the state of Nevada were issued by the individual counties and prior to 1919, at least 17 different counties issued licenses made of metal. Many included a slot at the top so they could be used as a fob. One county, White Pine, issued licenses for a few years in unique shapes. The 1916-17 license was made in the shape of a horseshoe with a rifle laying across it (see Figure 12). Due to the fact the gun component was made of relatively thin metal, many surviving examples have the gun broken off. Less than ten examples have been recorded with the rifle intact.

FIGURE 12. METAL HUNTING AND FISHING LICENSE ISSUED BY WHITE PINE COUNTY, NEVADA IN 1916-17. MANY OF THE SURVIVING EXAMPLES HAVE THE THIN RIFLE COMPONENT BROKEN OFF.

Permit For Collecting Specimens of Migratory Birds and Their Nests and Eggs for Scientific Purposes. Issued to George Lawyer in his capacity of Chief U.S. Game Warden for the Bureau of Biological Survey (the forerunner to the U.S Fish and Wildlife Service) in 1919. Lawyer traveled the country gathering data concerning migratory waterfowl and this unique license is an amazing historical artifact documenting his work (see Figure 13).



Permit No. 385. Expires December 31, 1919.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.

PERMIT FOR COLLECTING SPECIMENS OF MIGRATORY BIRDS AND THEIR NESTS AND EGGS FOR SCIENTIFIC PURPOSES.

WASHINGTON, D. C., April 10 1919.

Permission is hereby granted under Regulation 9 of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act Regulations to Geo. A. Lawyer of Washington, D.C. to collect, in any State of Union, except on Federal or State bird or game reservations, at any time during the year nineteen hundred and nineteen, specimens of migratory birds and their nests and eggs for scientific purposes, and to possess, buy, sell, and transport during said year specimens for scientific purposes.

This permit is issued subject to the conditions printed on the back hereof and is not valid unless countersigned by the Chief, Bureau of Biological Survey.

Countersigned:

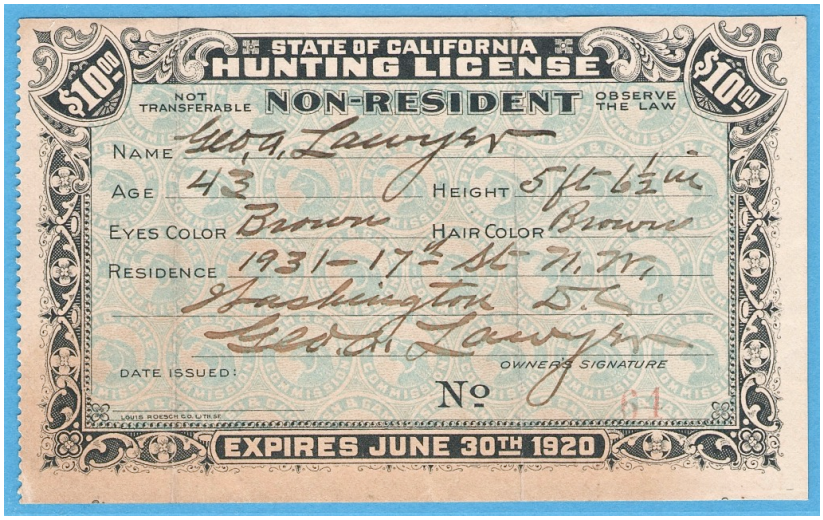
acting Chief, Bureau of Biological Survey.

Secretary of Agriculture.

Form Bi-278.

FIGURE 13. PERMIT ISSUED TO GEORGE LAWYER WHILE ACTING AS CHIEF U.S. GAME WARDEN IN 1919.

1919 California Non-Resident license and Original Drawing. George Lawyer was one of the main architects of the license and stamp system as we know it today. He was the first to propose a national hunting stamp for conservation purposes. His vision eventually became a reality in 1934, with RW1. All items on this exhibit page are original, obtained from his estate subsequent to his death by a Maryland license and stamp collector in the 1960s. They represent some of the most important Items in the hobby and such artifacts are rarely seen in private collections. Featured in many books and articles, including The Duck Stamp Story by Dolin and Dumaine. The drawing and the California non-resident license it was modeled after (see Figures 14 and 15) were cornerstones of my own exhibit, Classic State and Local Fish and Game Stamps.



$10.00 STATE OF CALIFORNIA HUNTING LICENSE $10.00

NOT TRANSFERABLE NON-RESIDENT OBSERVE THE LAW

NAME Geo. A. Lawyer

AGE 43 HEIGHT 5 ft 6½ in

EYES COLOR Brown HAIR COLOR Brown

RESIDENCE 1931-17th St N.W. Washington D.C.

Geo. A. Lawyer

DATE ISSUED: OWNER'S SIGNATURE

No. 61

LOUIS ROESCH CO. LITH. SF.

EXPIRES JUNE 30TH 1920

FIGURE 14. CALIFORNIA NON-RESIDENT HUNTING LICENSE ISSUED TO GEORGE. A LAWYER IN 1919.

Chapter Two: Federal Waterfowl Stamps

The federal waterfowl stamps are the best known and most highly collected of any material in this exhibit. All regularly issued federal “duck” stamps are common in unused and used condition and common to scarce used on most state resident licenses. In general, the earlier the year and the smaller the state or territorial population, the more difficult they are to obtain. For example, the RW1 on Hawaii license in this exhibit is exceptional (see Figure 16).

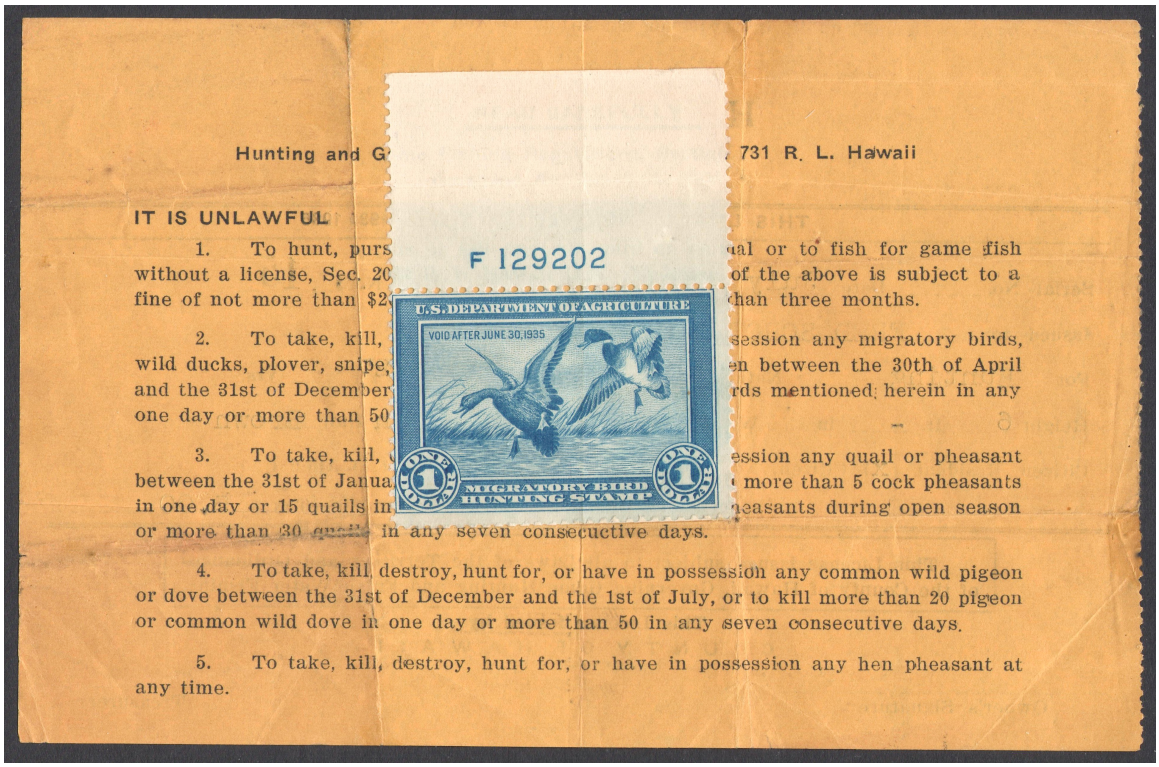


FIGURE 16. ONLY 137 FEDERAL WATERFOWL STAMPS WERE SOLD IN HAWAII FOR 1934-35, BY FAR AND AWAY THE FEWEST IN ANY STATE OR TERRITORY. THIS COUNTY OF HAWAII HUNTING LICENSE WITH RW1 AFFIXED TO THE REVERSE IS THE EPITOMEOF AN EARLY FEDERAL USAGE FROM A STATE OR TERRITORY WITH A SMALL POPULATION.

Advanced collectors look for proofs, essays, errors and unusual usages. Collecting federal waterfowl stamps on form 3333 presents a high degree of difficulty of acquisition. In general, the farther removed from RW1 (the later the usage), the more difficult. All other collections combined could not duplicate the run of form 3333s in this exhibit. Highlights:

1934-35 (RW1) Large Die Proof. Federal waterfowl proofs (both large and small die) are very difficult to acquire, with every example in collector hands being one of one or two recorded. Near the top of my wish list for over 30 years and I haven't even heard a rumor of another RW1 large die proof outside of the Smithsonian (see Figure 17).

FIGURE 17. THE ONLY RECORDED RW1 LARGE DIE PROOF OUTSIDE THE SMITHSONIAN.

RW1 on Washington D.C. form 3333s. The form 3333 at the top of this exhibit page has an RW1 from the first sheet of stamps that was sold to stamp designer “Ding” Darling affixed to the obverse. Darling was allowed to buy the stamps two days before the general public, on August 22, 1934. Darling has signed the reverse. As one might imagine, documented examples from the first sheet of waterfowl stamps sold in history are a very relevant part of the story. The form 3333 at the bottom of the page has an RW1 on form 3333 dated on the first day of issued to the general public, August 24th, 1934 (see Figures 18a, b and c).

FIGURE 18A. WASHINGTON, DC FORM 3333. THIS FORM HAS AN RW1 AFFIXED FROM THE FIRST SHEET OF STAMPS SOLD TO DING DARLING ON AUGUST 22.

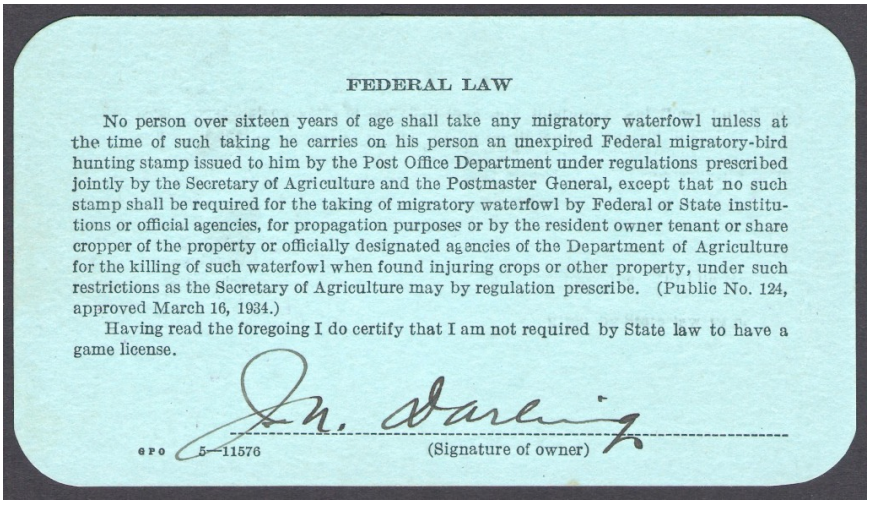


FIGURE 18B. REVERSE OF WASHINGTON, DC FORM 3333 SOLD ON AUGUST 22, SHOWING DARLING’S SIGNATURE.

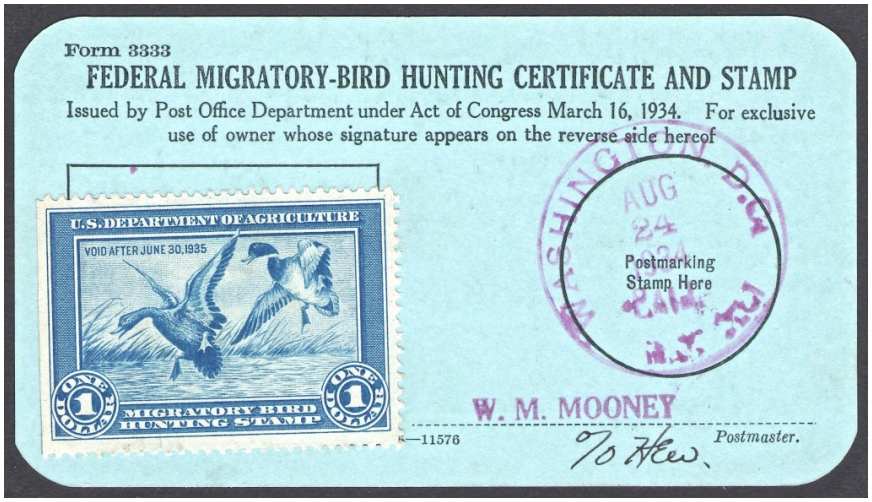
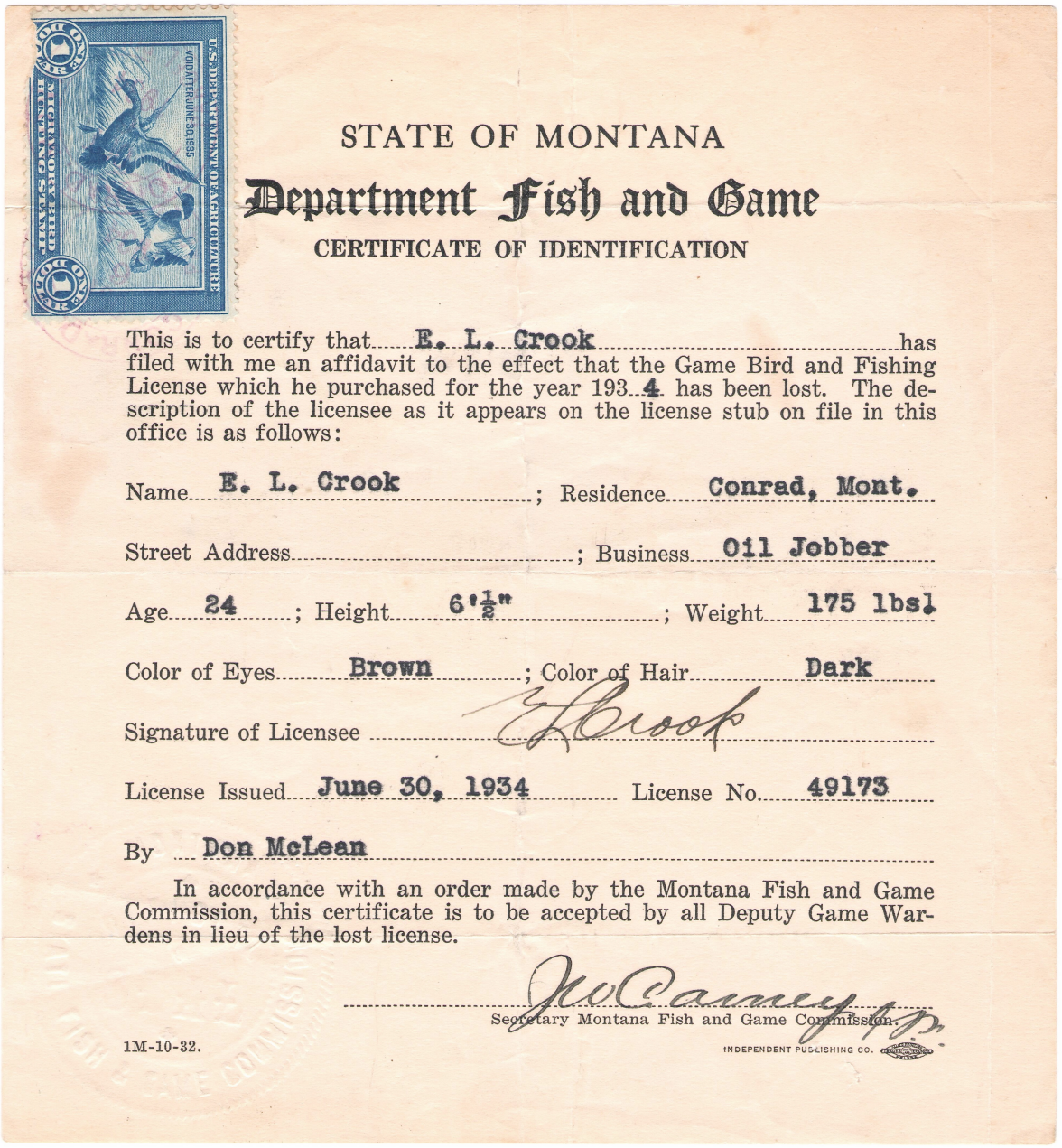


FIGURE 18C. THIS FORM 3333 HAS AN RW1 AFFIXED FROM THE DAY THE STAMPS FIRST WENT ON SALE TO THE PUBLIC, AUGUST 24.

RW1 Plate number block of six. The primary purpose for form 3333 was to ensure that stamps were not shared by hunters. For this reason, 1934-35 federal waterfowl stamps were not allowed to leave a post office unless they were affixed to a hunter's license or, in lieu of a license, the form 3333. For the same reason, no unused stamps were allowed to leave a post office until the law was changed allowing collectors to purchase unused stamps two weeks prior to the stamps being removed from sale in 1935 and destroyed. This was done in anticipation of a new regulation which required all federal duck stamps used for hunting to be signed across the face by the hunter – therefore rendering the possibility of stamp sharing a non starter. All plate number blocks of RW1 extant were purchased by stamp collectors and dealers during this two week period, thus accounting for their relative difficulty of acquisition (see Figure 19).

FIGURE 19. STAMP COLLECTORS AND DEALERS WERE NOT ALLOWED TO PURCHASE PLATE NUMBER BLOCKS OF RW1 UNTIL A TWO WEEK PERIOD JUST PRIOR TO THE STAMPS BEING TAKEN OFF SALE AND DESTROYED IN 1935.

State of Montana Certificate of Identification used as a replacement license. States had different ways to approach the problem of a lost hunting license. Often these led to rare and unusual usages. There are a number of such usages in this exhibit, perhaps highlighted by the elaborate form printed and used by Montana. In this case the stamp was cancelled twice (not in the federal regulations) and the form itself was embossed with the seal of the Fish and Game Commission (see Figure 20).



STATE OF MONTANA

Department Fish and Game

CERTIFICATE OF IDENTIFICATION

This is to certify that E. L. Crook has filed with me an affidavit to the effect that the Game Bird and Fishing License which he purchased for the year 193 4 has been lost. The description of the licensee as it appears on the license stub on file in this office is as follows:

Name E. L. Crook; Residence Conrad, Mont.

Street Address ; Business Oil Jobber

Age 24; Height 6'½"; Weight 175 lbs.

Color of Eyes Brown; Color of Hair Dark

Signature of Licensee E. L. Crook

License Issued June 30, 1934 License No. 49173

By Don McLean

In accordance with an order made by the Montana Fish and Game Commission, this certificate is to be accepted by all Deputy Game Wardens in lieu of the lost license.

J. W. Carney

Secretary Montana Fish and Game Commission.

1M-10-32.

INDEPENDENT PUBLISHING CO.

FIGURE 20. STATE OF MONTANA CERTIFICATE OF IDENTIFICATION USED AS A REPLACEMENT LICENSE.

1935 Federal print and artist signed stamp. In an effort to increase revenue generated for conservation purposes, the federal government began to commission famous artists to design the waterfowl stamps and then prints of their original work were made available to collectors for purchase. The 1935-36 stamp was designed by noted portrait artist Frank Benson and had the fewest number of prints made in the series at only 100. The medium chosen by Benson to reproduce his work was dry-point etching on a copper plate(see Figure 21).

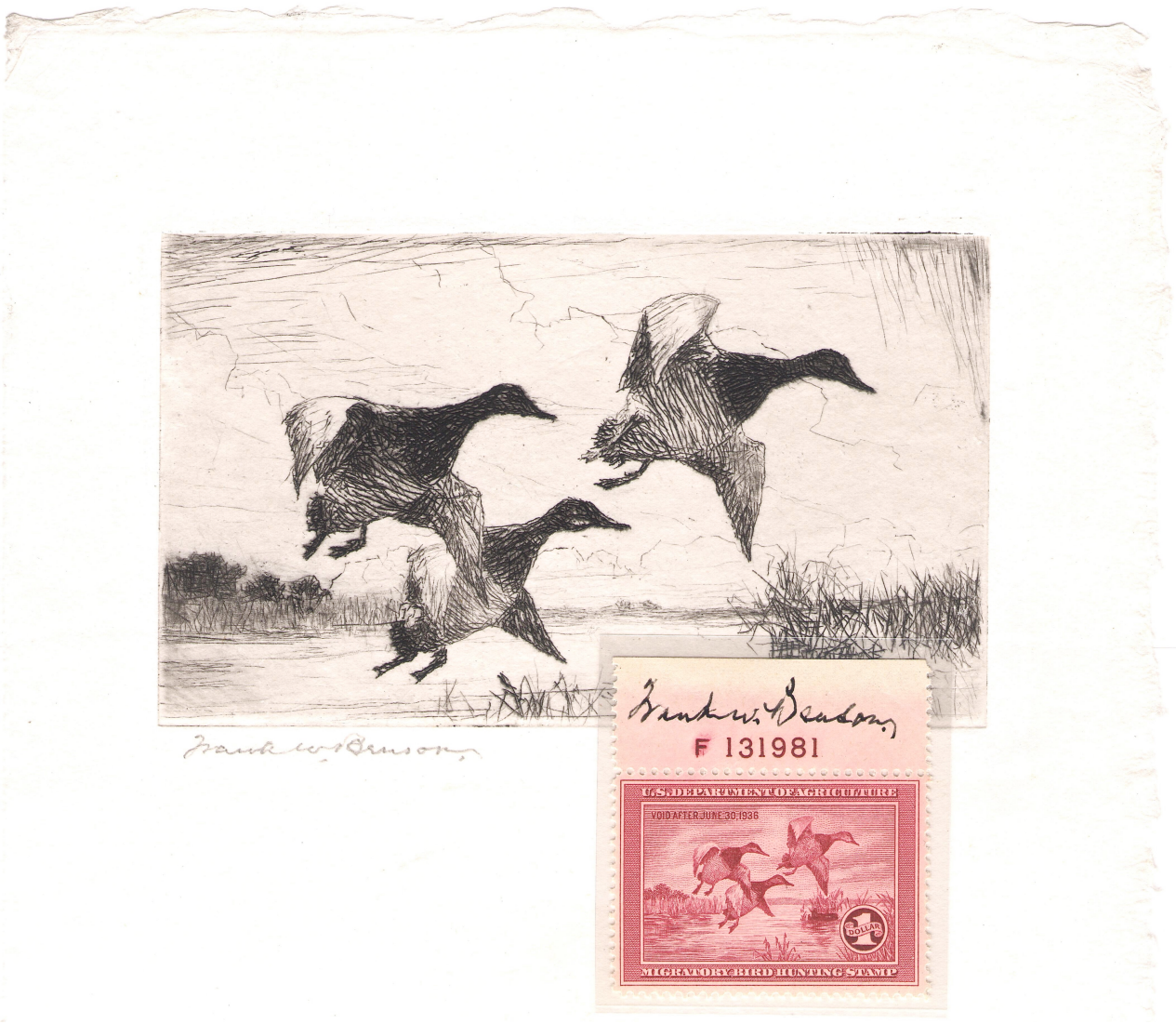


FIGURE 21. PRINT FOR THE 1935-36 FEDERAL WATERFOWL STAMP AND PLATE NUMBER SINGLE SIGNED BY THE ARTIST FRANK BENSON.

RW1 and RW2 used on Form 3333. The use of multiple waterfowl stamps being used on the same license is an infrequent occurrence most often explained by the fact that veterans from the armed forces were not required to purchase a new license each year but were required to purchase a new stamp. Form 3333s with multiple waterfowl stamps affixed have a high difficulty of acquisition (see Figure 22).

FIGURE 22. WHILE OCCASIONALLY ENCOUNTERED ON A STATE HUNTING LICENSE, THE USE OF WATERFOWL STAMPS FROM DIFFERENT YEARS ON A FORM 3333 IS A RARE OCCURRENCE.

RW3 First Day Cover. Although the RW3 FDC is of historic importance on an individual basis and a rarity (I know of three examples), what is more interesting to me is the progression of attempts shown by Roesler: missing RW1 by three days and RW2 by a single day, before finally being successful with RW3. The three pieces together illustrate a fascinating “story within the story” and could not be duplicated (see Figures 3c and 23).

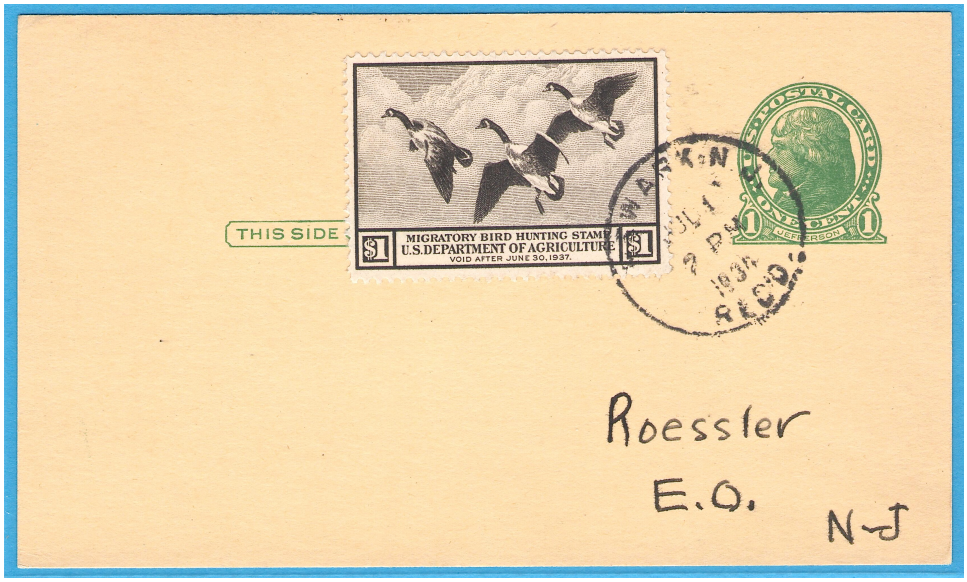


FIGURE 23. THE EARLIEST RECORDED FEDERAL WATERFOWL STAMP FIRST DAY COVER (IN THIS CASE A CARD).

RW1,2 and 3 on Hawaiian Form 3333s. Waterfowl hunting was only legal in Hawaii while the first three federal stamps were valid. The combined sales numbers for all of the islands that comprised the Territory of Hawaii for RW1,2 and 3 were minuscule at 137, 97 and 96, respectively. Therefore, for a collector to acquire any federal stamp on a Hawaiian Form 3333 is a major achievement. To acquire all three is unprecedented (see Figure 24a, b and c).

FIGURE 24A. RW1 ON HAWAIIAN FORM 3333.

FIGURE 24B. RW2 ON HAWAIIAN FORM 3333.

FIGURE 24C. RW3 ON HAWAIIAN FORM 3333.

Federal Waterfowl Stamps, Continued

RW10 North Dakota Provisional. This is very unusual item that adds depth to the exhibit. Apparently the remote town of Lakota, in northern North Dakota had not yet received their supply of hunting licenses or federal waterfowl stamps (RW10) by the end of August, 1943. By order of the State Fish and Game Commissioner, they printed facsimile provisional licenses and stamps and put them into service. While the creation of provisional licenses is not overly unusual, this is the first time I have ever heard of a provisional federal waterfowl stamp (see Figure 25).

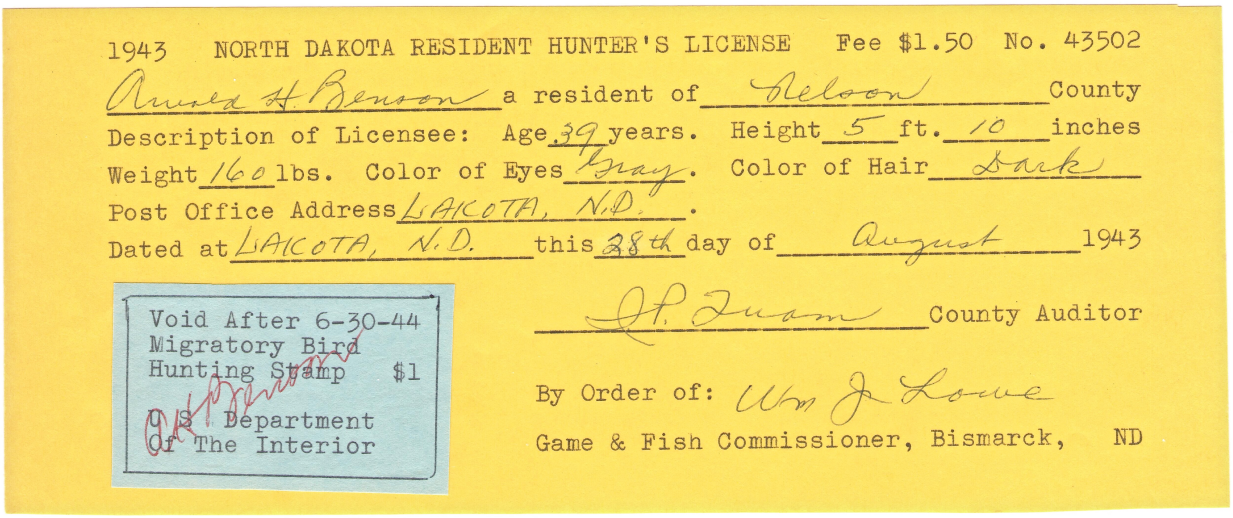


FIGURE 25. PROVISIONAL RW10 AFFIXED TO PROVISIONAL NORTH DAKOTA HUNTERS LICENSE. NOTE THE HUNTER WAS REQUIRED TO SIGN THE FACSIMILE ACROSS THE FACE AS HE WOULD A REAL STAMP.

RW22 on Form 3333. After RW1, usages on form 3333 get difficult to acquire and after RW3 they get very difficult. Usages on form 3333 after RW10 are exceptional, typically one example recorded items. The thing that is significant about this piece is the degree to which it is the latest known usage on form 3333—nine years later than the RW14 which is also included in this exhibit (see Figure 26).

FIGURE 26. RW22 USED ON FORM 3333 FROM HYDER, ALASKA. THIS IS THE LATEST KNOWN USAGE OF A FEDERAL WATERFOWL STAMP ON FORM 3333. FORMERLY IN THE JEANNETTE RUDY COLLECTION.

RW23 Large Die Proof. This is the latest recorded (RW) large die proof not in the National Postal Museum. Once again, the thing to understand here is the degree to which this statement is true. To my knowledge, no other private collection has one later than RW15 (see Figure 27).

FIGURE 27. RW23 LARGE DIE PROOF. THE LATEST RECORDED LARGE DIE PROOF NOT IN THE SMITHSONIAN.

RW52 Color Changeling. A visual feast. One sheet was printed with five stamps across the top row completely missing the blue color. The exhibitor docs a nice job of explaining how errors of this type occur. Somehow it escaped quality control and entered the collector market. Formerly in the Rudy Collection, The Duck Stamp Story states it was to be donated to the NPM. Ms. Rudy graciously allowed it to remain in collector hands (see Figure 28).

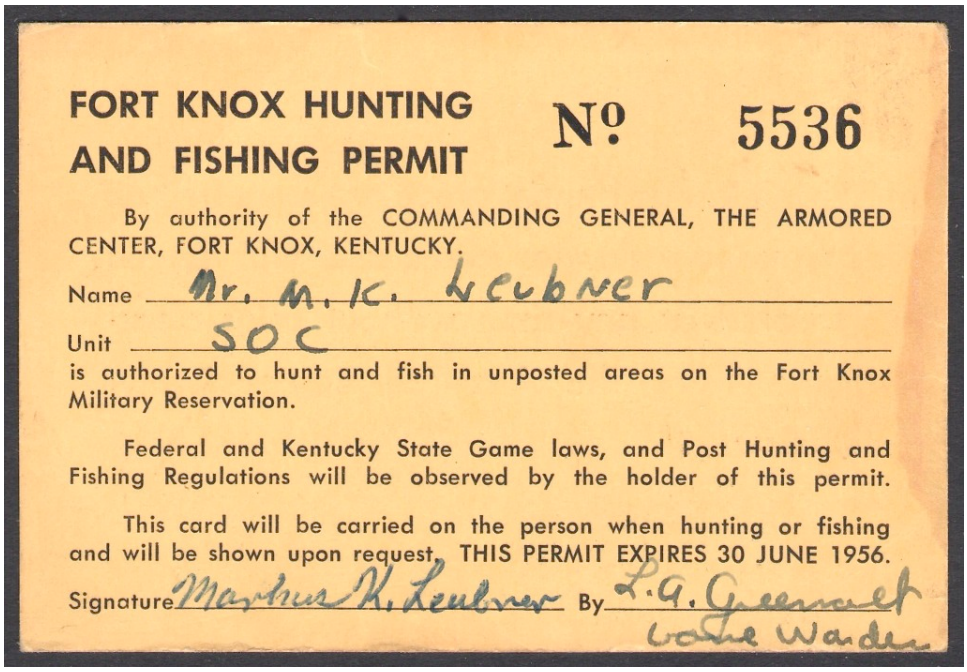
FIGURE 28. RW52 FEDERAL WATERFOWL STAMP BLOCK WITH BLUE COLOR MISSING FROM THE TOP ROW AND A PORTION OF THE SECOND (ABOVE); COLOR PHOTOCOPY OF THE UNBROKEN SHEET (BELOW). A SPECTACULAR SHOWPIECE!

RW65 Self-Adhesive Essays. Auctioned by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife service in 1998, they document one of the most fundamental format changes in federal waterfowl stamp history and mark the end of an era. Two sets recorded, one outside the NPM. An excellent choice to end the federal chapter of the story (see Figure 29).

FIGURE 29. ESSAYS MADE IN 1996 FOR THE 1998-99 FEDERAL WATERFOWL ADHESIVE STAMP (RW65).

Chapter Three: Military Licenses, Stamps and Usages

Groundbreaking, much of this material has never before been shown in a philatelic exhibit. This chapter is essential to telling the entire story and again helps to achieve the exhibitor's goal of creating a comprehensive context for waterfowl licenses and stamps. The U.S. military trains former civilians in the use of various kinds of guns and weapons. They spend a lot of time getting conditioned to shooting guns. When they leave the service, a natural outlet for this conditioning is hunting. Recognizing this tendency, the U.S. government has made a purposeful effort to condition active military to being licensed and regulated when hunting. That effort is the subject of this chapter. In the upper half of this frame are many interesting licenses and federal usages prior to the first military adhesive stamps being issued, such as that from Fort Knox (see Figure 30). The fort is best known as the site which houses a large portion of the U.S. gold bullion reserves.



FORT KNOX HUNTING AND FISHING PERMIT No. 5536

By authority of the COMMANDING GENERAL, THE ARMORED CENTER, FORT KNOX, KENTUCKY.

Name Mr. M. K. Leubner

Unit SOC

is authorized to hunt and fish in unposted areas on the Fort Knox Military Reservation.

Federal and Kentucky State Game laws, and Post Hunting and Fishing Regulations will be observed by the holder of this permit.

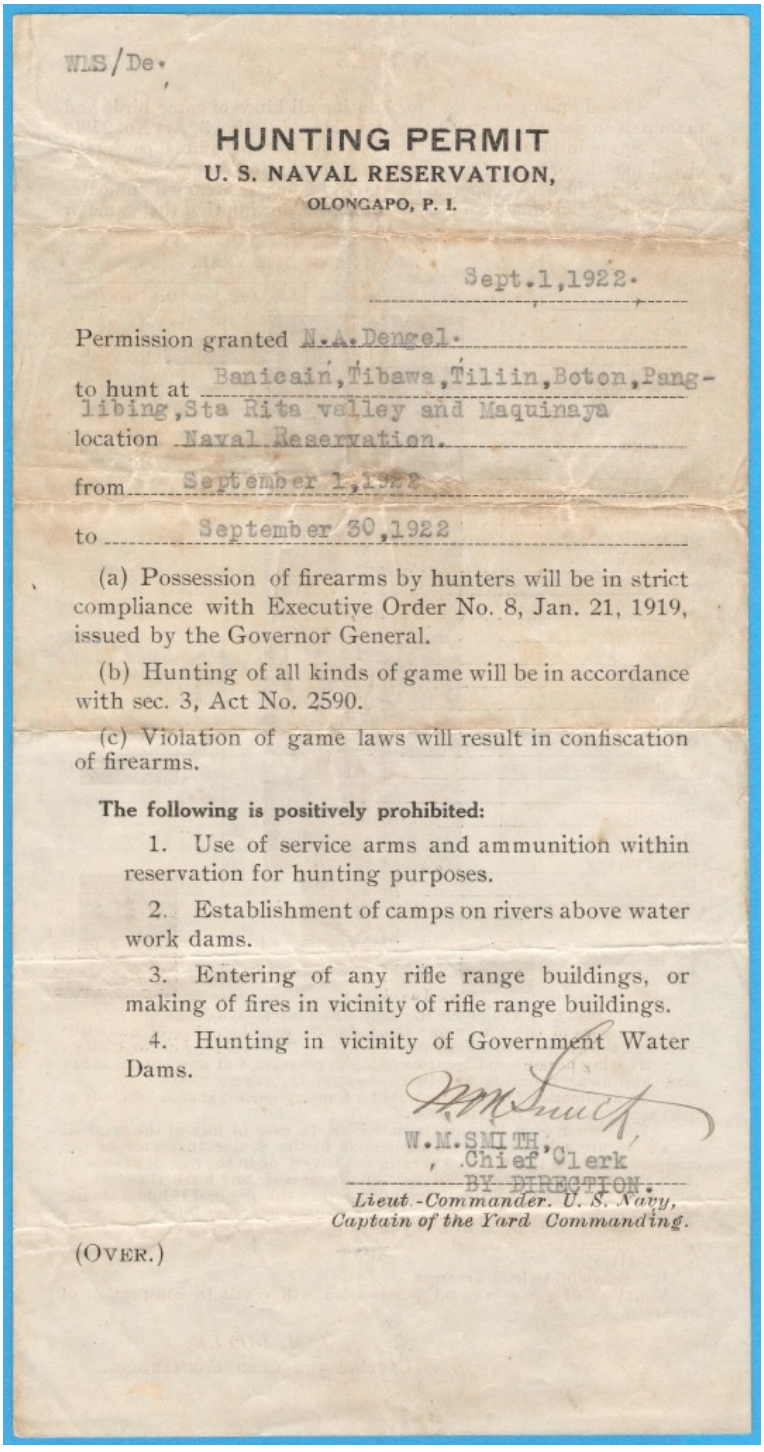
This card will be carried on the person when hunting or fishing and will be shown upon request. THIS PERMIT EXPIRES 30 JUNE 1956.

Signature Marthus K. Leubner By L.G. Greenwell Game Warden

FIGURE 30. HUNTING AND FISHING PERMIT FOR THE GROUNDS OF FORT KNOX, KENTUCKY.

It has always been extremely difficult for collectors to acquire military licenses and stamps. Some of the unused adhesives extant were obtained via the Freedom of Information Act, in combination with a sympathetic license agent. Highlights:

1922 Hunting Permit, U.S. Naval Reservation Olongapo, Philippine Islands. Of historical interest as noted in the exhibit, the significance of this item is once again a matter of degree. Not only is it the earliest military hunting license recorded, but by over a dozen years (see Figure 31).



WLS/De.

HUNTING PERMIT
U. S. NAVAL RESERVATION,
OLONGAPO, P. I.

Sept.1,1922.

Permission granted N.A.Dengel.

to hunt at Banicain,Tibawa,Tiliin,Boton,Pang-
libing,Sta Rita valley and Maquinaya

location Naval Reservation.

from September 1,1922

to September 30,1922

(a) Possession of firearms by hunters will be in strict compliance with Executive Order No. 8, Jan. 21, 1919, issued by the Governor General.

(b) Hunting of all kinds of game will be in accordance with sec. 3, Act No. 2590.

(c) Violation of game laws will result in confiscation of firearms.

The following is positively prohibited:

1. Use of service arms and ammunition within reservation for hunting purposes.
2. Establishment of camps on rivers above water work dams.
3. Entering of any rifle range buildings, or making of fires in vicinity of rifle range buildings.
4. Hunting in vicinity of Government Water Dams.

W.M.SMITH,
Chief Clerk
BY DIRECTION.
Lieut.-Commander. U. S. Navy,
Captain of the Yard Commanding.

(OVER.)

FIGURE 31. U.S. NAVAL RESERVATION HUNTING PERMIT, OLONGAPO, PHILIPPINE ISLANDS. ISSUED ON SEPTEMBER 1, 1922.

934 Washington Hunting License, Issued at Fort Lewis, with an RW1 Affixed. Nice item tying in the military usage with the introduction of the first federal waterfowl stamp (see Figure 32).

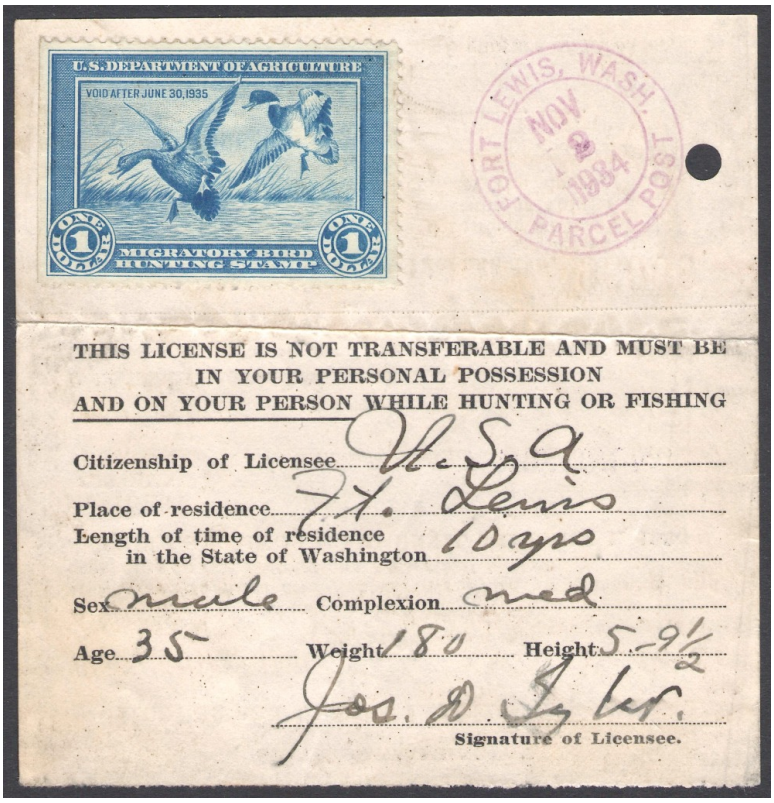
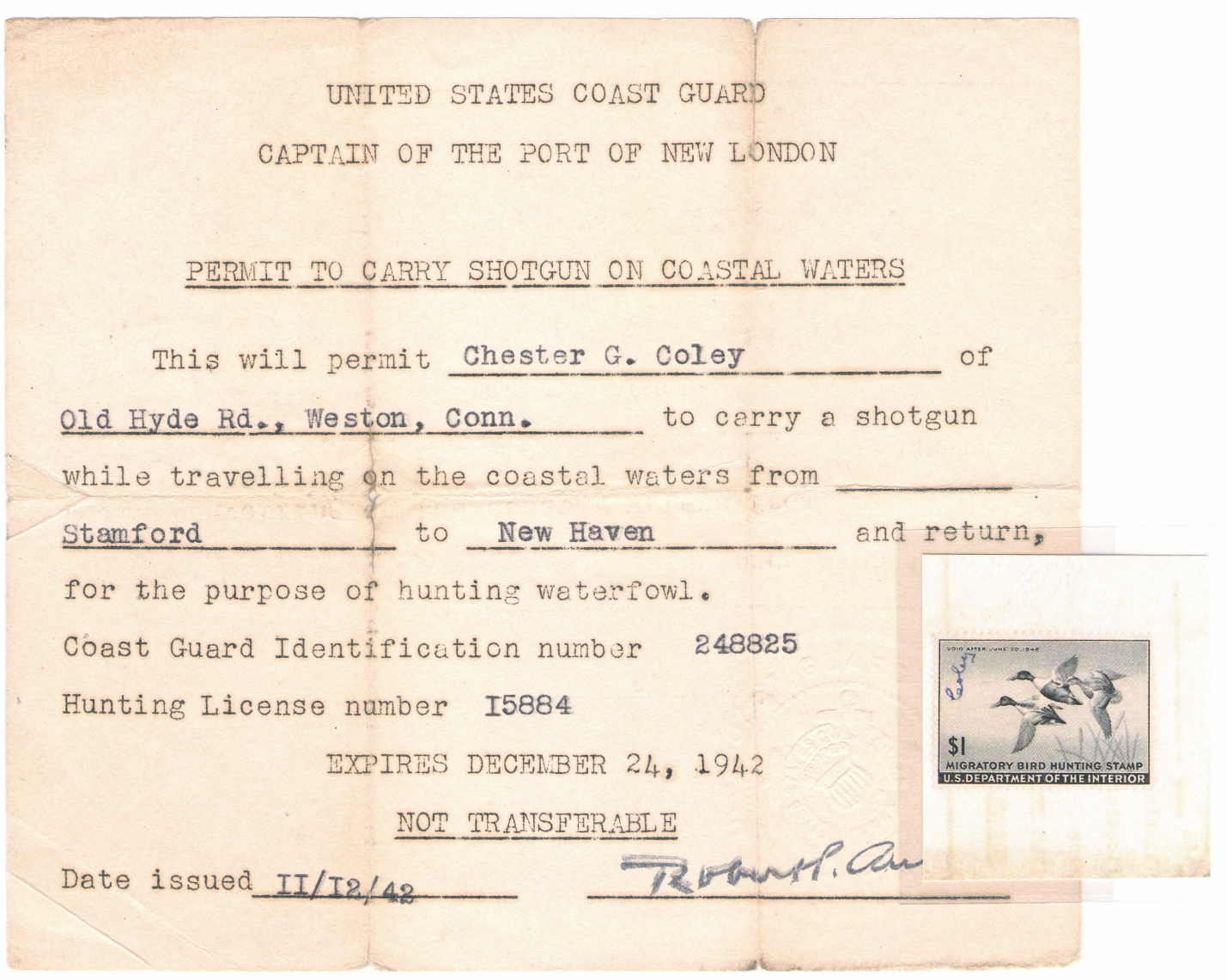


FIGURE 32. RW1 AFFIXED TO REVERSE OF A WASHINGTON STATE HUNTING LICENSE. ISSUED AT FORT LEWIS, WASHINGTON.

1945 West Point Fishing license with an RW12 affixed. Aside from the obvious interest generated by a West Point usage, this license is the perfect fit in a forerunner section leading up to military adhesives – of which West Point issues are a primary component (see Figure 33).

FIGURE 33. RW12 USAGE ON A WEST POINT MILITARY ACADEMY FISHING LICENSE.

1941 U.S. Coast Guard Permit to Carry [A] Shotgun on Coastal Waters with an RW12 affixed to the reverse. This is a fascinating license for several reasons, some of which the exhibitors discuss on the exhibit page. In addition, the permit conveyed the rights to carry a shotgun along a specific stretch of coastline for the purpose of hunting waterfowl. While the license expired in 1942, the first and only time a waterfowl stamp was affixed was in 1945. Therefore, the holder of the license carried it for four years (as evidenced by notable wear) before validating it with a federal stamp and using it for the purpose it intended (see Figure 34).



UNITED STATES COAST GUARD

CAPTAIN OF THE PORT OF NEW LONDON

PERMIT TO CARRY SHOTGUN ON COASTAL WATERS

This will permit Chester G. Coley of Old Hyde Rd., Weston, Conn. to carry a shotgun while travelling on the coastal waters from Stamford to New Haven and return, for the purpose of hunting waterfowl.

Coast Guard Identification number 248825

Hunting License number I5884

EXPIRES DECEMBER 24, 1942

NOT TRANSFERABLE

Date issued II/12/42

Robert P. Ar

FIGURE 34. U.S. COAST GUARD PERMIT TO CARRY A SHOTGUN FOR THE PURPOSE OF HUNTING WATERFOWL, WITH AN RW12 AFFIXED TO THE REVERSE (INSET).

1953 Fort Meade and 1956 Fort Lewis Hunting and Fishing license buttons. In general, the use of celluloid-covered pin-back license buttons came to an abrupt halt with the metal shortages caused by WW2. Following the war, many states did not resume issuing licenses in a button format. The Military did. Military licenses and stamps are difficult for collectors to acquire as they were primarily issued to military personnel and were highly controlled. Military license buttons are even harder to acquire as they were used less frequently than cloth or paper licenses (see Figure 35).

FIGURE 35. MILITARY HUNTING AND FISHING LICENSE BUTTONS ISSUED AFTER WW2.

1956 Aberdeen Proving Ground hunting license with RW23 affixed. This is a very interesting usage. At the time this license was issued, the U.S. Army Chemical Corps was conducting classified medical studies on 7,000 soldiers on the base. The soldiers were administered low doses of 250 different types of chemical agents to study the effects of chemical warfare (see Figure 36).

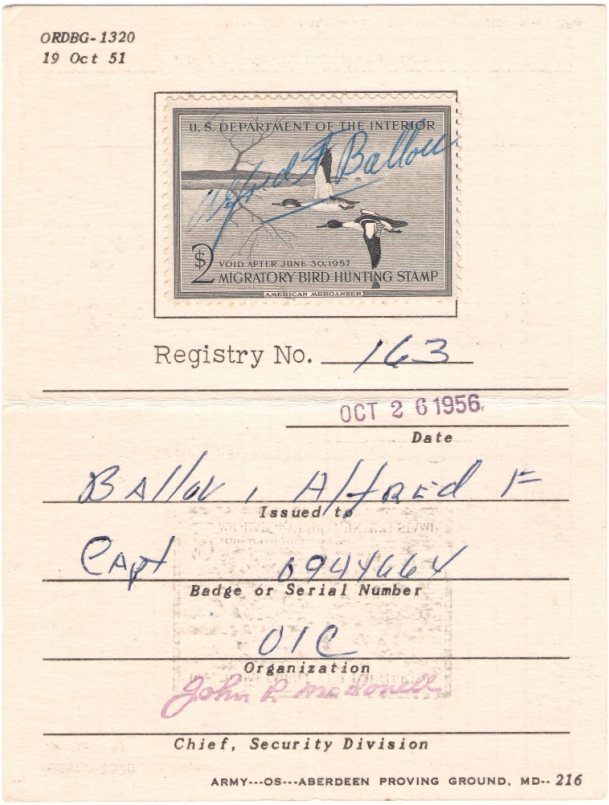


FIGURE 36. 1956 ABERDEEN PROVING GROUND HUNTING LICENSE WITH RW56 AFFIXED.

1967-8 Vandenberg Air Force Base Hunting Stamp. This is one of the most important and most difficult to acquire of all U.S. waterfowl stamps, the first military adhesive. Two used examples recorded. Civilians could not hunt on the base, thus relatively few stamps were printed and issued. The stamps are very tightly controlled, with only a handful of sources for collectors over the years (see Figure 37).

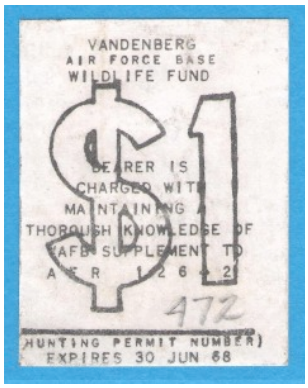


FIGURE 37. 1967 VAFB HUNTING STAMP, THE FIRST MILITARY ADHESIVE.

1994 California Hunting License with six different stamps affixed. A remarkable combination usage featuring every type of VAFB stamp that was current, along with California duck and upland stamps and a federal waterfowl stamp (RW60). The most complex VAFB usage recorded (see Figure 38).

FIGURE 38. 1994 CALIFORNIA HUNTING LICENSE FEATURING EVERY TYPE OF VAFB STAMP IN USE AT THE TIME.

1983-84 West Point Hunting Stamp. The West Point Military Academy became the second military facility to issue stamps. It is not known when they first started, but the 1983-84 stamp shown (see Figure 39) is the earliest recorded and is from the famed Vanderford collection (an ex-military officer).

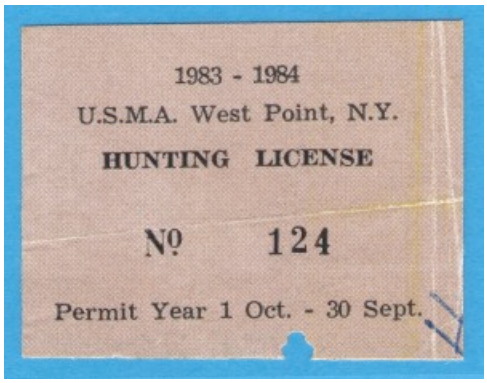


FIGURE 39. THE EARLIEST RECODED HUNTING STAMP FROM THE WEST POINT MILITARY ACADEMY.

Chapter Four: State and Local Waterfowl Stamps

The state and local chapter is the heart of the story. It is at the state level that the vast majority of licensing and regulation takes place. From a waterfowl management perspective, it is the state and local level where most species population data is gathered. This data is funneled to federal agencies in Washington and forms the basis for nation-wide hunting season lengths and bag limits. As a whole, this chapter also has the highest degree of difficulty of acquisition in the exhibit. There are many different individual stamps and even entire series of stamps used in relatively small areas that had minuscule numbers printed and issued. It can take a lifetime to acquire a first-rate collection of state and local waterfowl stamps. Chapter four of this exhibit includes nearly every major waterfowl rarity recorded and compares favorably to the waterfowl stamp representation in my Classic State and Local Fish and Game Stamps exhibit. Highlights:

Undated Pymatuning Lake Hunting Stamp on 1937 Ohio License. Arguably the single most important stamp usage in the entire hobby. The Pymatuning Hunting stamps were required solely to hunt waterfowl on Pymatuning Lake (actually a reservoir). This series has the greatest overall difficulty of acquisition in the hobby, with the least difficult stamp, 1945 (see Figure 5) having three confirmed examples recorded.

For over 50 years, the 1938 Pymatuning Hunting stamp was thought to be the first state-issued waterfowl stamp, and combined with the fact that it was unique, earned it the title of the “British Guiana” of the waterfowl stamp hobby. Starting in the 1990s, collectors became aware of the first of two recorded Pymatuning hunting stamps without a printed year date (both off-license). My research showed Ohio did in fact authorize the Pymatuning stamps just prior to the waterfowl seasons of 1937. However, there was no evidence to confirm the undated stamps were from that year. The 1937 Ohio license in this exhibit, bearing both the undated Pymatuning and 1937-38 federal waterfowl stamps, provides confirmation that the stamps were indeed issued in 1937 and are, therefore, the first state waterfowl stamps. In an exhibit featuring several Holy Grails, this is the biggest (see Figure 40).

FIGURE 40. UNDATED PYMATUNING LAKE HUNTING STAMP USED ON A 1937 OHIO LICENSE WITH A 1937-38 FEDERAL WATERFOWL STAMP (RW4). ARGUABLY THE MOST IMPORTANT STAMP USAGE IN THE ENTIRE HOBBY.

1941 and 1942 Pymatuning waterfowl stamps used on license. Of the nine different Pymatuning waterfowl stamps that have been recorded, six are included in this exhibit. This represents incontrovertible difficulty of acquisition and is the second largest grouping of these stamps ever assembled (see Figures 41a and b).

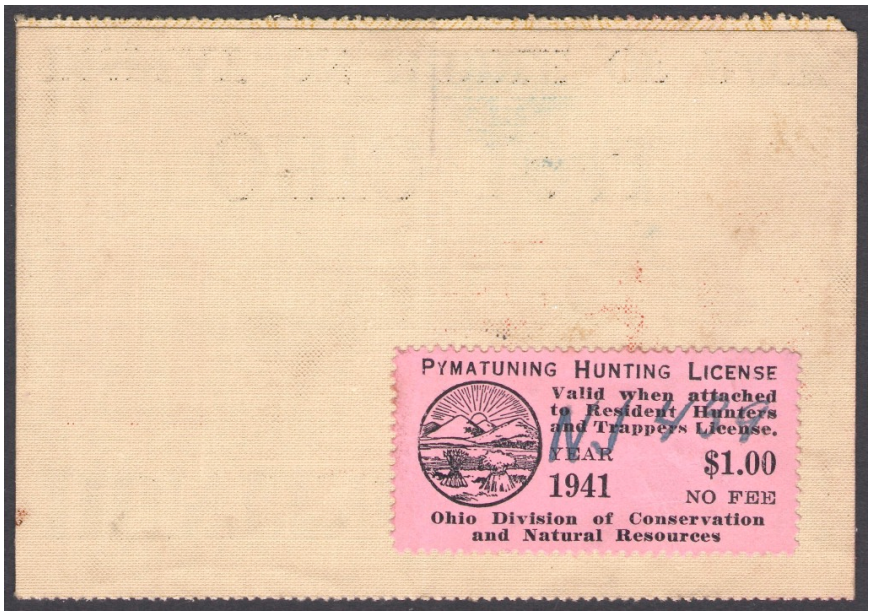
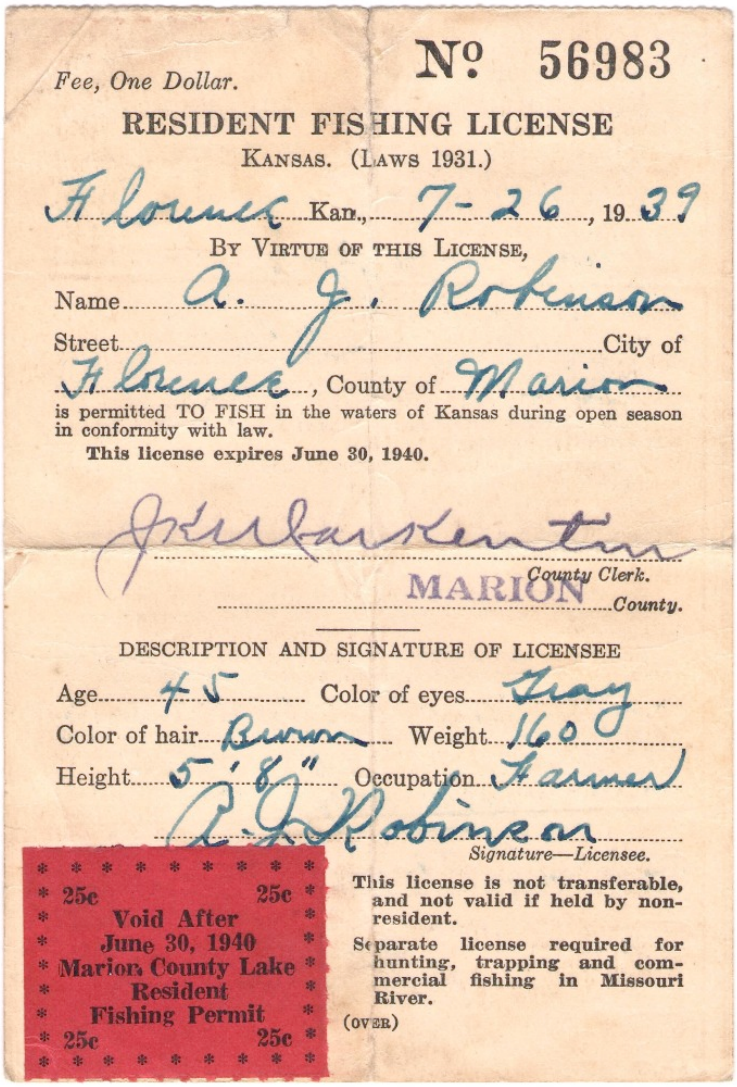


FIGURE 41A. 1941 PYMATUNING (OHIO) WATERFOWL STAMP USED ON THE REVERSE OF A CLOTH LICENSE.

FIGURE 41B. 1942 PYMATUNING (OHIO) WATERFOWL STAMP USED ON A BACK TAG WITH 1942-43 FEDERAL.

1940 Marion County Fishing stamp on license. Although not issued for waterfowl hunting, this stamp is an integral part of the waterfowl license and stamp story in the U.S. When Marion County Park and Lake was originally conceived, waterfowl hunting was not in the plans. The lake was built and stocked for fishing, hence the red fishing stamp issued on opening day in May of 1940 (see Figure 42). The following winter migrating ducks spotted the lake and descended upon it in large numbers. Only then was it decided to allow waterfowl hunting.



Fee, One Dollar. **No 56983**

RESIDENT FISHING LICENSE

KANSAS. (LAWS 1931.)

Florence Kan., 7-26, 1939

BY VIRTUE OF THIS LICENSE,

Name A. J. Robinson

Street ..... City of Florence, County of Marion

is permitted TO FISH in the waters of Kansas during open season in conformity with law.

This license expires June 30, 1940.

J. Clarkenton

County Clerk.

MARION *County.*

DESCRIPTION AND SIGNATURE OF LICENSEE

Age 45 Color of eyes Gray

Color of hair Brown Weight 160

Height 5' 8" Occupation Farmer

A. J. Robinson

Signature—Licensee.

25c Void After June 30, 1940 Marion County Lake Resident Fishing Permit 25c 25c

This license is not transferable, and not valid if held by non-resident.

Separate license required for hunting, trapping and commercial fishing in Missouri River.

(OVER)

FIGURE 42. THE FIRST MARION COUNTY FISHING STAMP. THE FIRST LOCALLY ISSUED FISH AND GAME STAMP IN THE U.S. AND ONE OF TWO EXAMPLES RECORDED ON LICENSE.

1941 Marion County Water Fowl Stamp. The Marion County stamps are fascinating and have long intrigued collectors. The stamps were issued only to residents of Marion County, and were part of a discriminatory policy whereby non-county residents were charged more that ten times the resident fee to hunt on the lake. Since they were intended for a relatively small population of hunters, few were printed and even fewer issued. Combine that with a major flood in the early 1950s that destroyed virtually all paper items in the town of Marion, and the Marion County stamp series has the second highest difficulty of acquisition in the hobby. There are three recorded used examples of the 1941 stamp (the only stamp in the hobby to split “waterfowl” into two words); one on license and two off license. This is the finest of the latter, with the other example being badly creased and partially separated. The first local waterfowl stamp and the second-biggest Holy Grail in the exhibit (see Figure 43).

**FIGURE 43. 1941 MARION COUNTY WATER FOWL STAMP.
THE FIRST LOCAL WATERFOWL STAMP
AND ONE OF THREE RECORDED EXAMPLES.**

1945 Marion County duck stamp on license. Perhaps the greatest Ebay find in the history of the hobby, this license bears one of three examples recorded of this early Marion County stamp. One of the few flood survivors not to originate from the Jerry Mullikin find (see Figure 44).

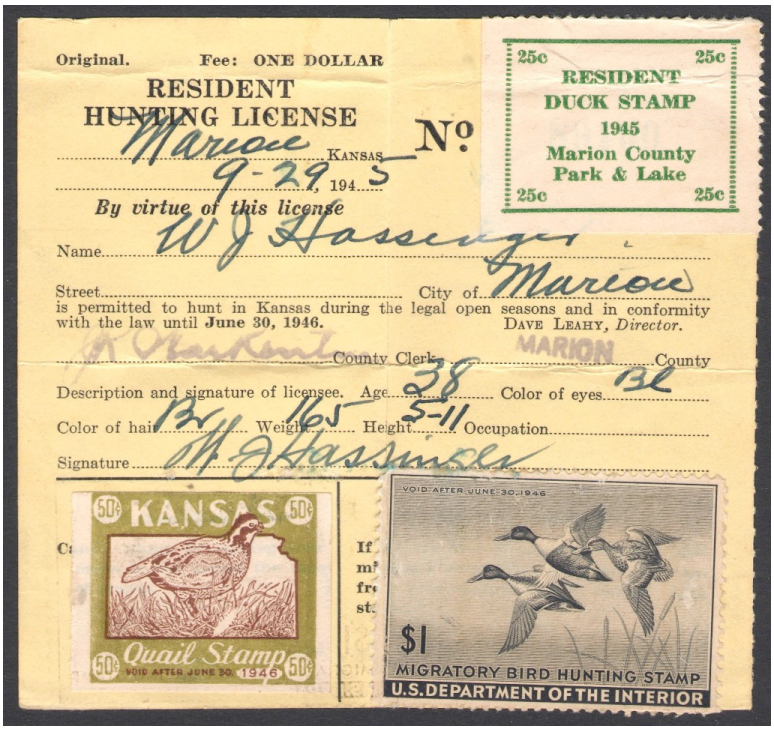


**FIGURE 44. 1945 MARION COUNTY DUCK STAMP USED ON LICENSE WITH KANSAS QUAIL
(WHITE FEATHER VARIETY) AND FEDERAL WATERFOWL STAMP.**

Starting in 1954, remainders entered the collector market; however, the number of stamps printed remained low. Crude typesetting at the local newspaper office led to several notable errors, the most famous with “Duck” misspelled “Dusk” (Figure 46). In 1968, a new federal reservoir was constructed nearby which attracted the waterfowl flying through Marion County and offered the birds protection from hunting. By 1973, stamp sales had dropped 92%. Only 50 stamps were printed and five sold to hunters in 1973, the last year of issue.

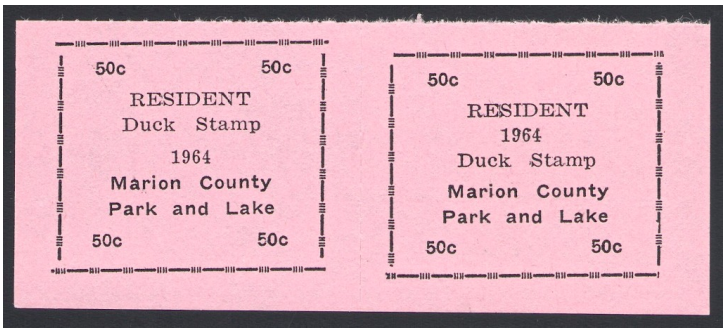


FIGURE 45. CRUDE TYPESETTING AT THE LOCAL NEWSPAPER OFFICE LED TO SEVERAL NOTABLE ERRORS. IN 1964, ONE STAMP PER SHEET OF TEN WAS PRINTED WITH THE SECOND AND THIRD LINES OF TEXT REVERSED (LEFT SIDE OF PAIR).

FIGURE 46. IN 1969, ONE STAMP PER SHEET WAS PRINTED WITH “DUCK” MISSPELLED “DUSK”.

1951 Illinois Daily Usage Stamp. When those in the military returned home from World War II (WW2), they needed a place to hunt that was affordable. At this time, many of the prime waterfowl hunting areas in the country were dominated by expensive private duck or goose clubs. Recognizing the need, states began to establish and operate public hunting grounds. The State of Illinois was the first to employ stamps at their sites. The exhibitor explains how the stamps were used. The key thing to note is that all stamps were required to be returned to the site supervisor at the end of the hunt. For this reason (although site compliance was not 100% and some persistent collectors had stamps given to them), the stamps have a fairly high degree of difficulty of acquisition. The highest number of examples recorded for any pre-1973 stamp is 36. For over 50 years the 1953 Illinois Daily Usage stamp was the earliest recorded, although records showed that the stamps were used in 1951. In the last ten years, two examples of the 1951 stamp have been recorded (see Figure 47).

FIGURE 47. 1951 ILLINOIS DAILY USAGE STAMP, ONE OF TWO EXAMPLES RECORDED.

1953 Illinois Daily Usage pair. For decades the 1953 stamp was the earliest recorded. It is still a fairly difficult stamp to acquire although the number of recorded examples has grown over time. My census now stands at 14 on this stamp. The interesting thing about the pair in this exhibit is that it has two diamond shaped hole punches. This is evidence the hunter's blind was checked by a game warden for compliance. If two hunters were sharing the blind, their permit or stand by card needed two daily usage stamps to be affixed (see Figure 48).

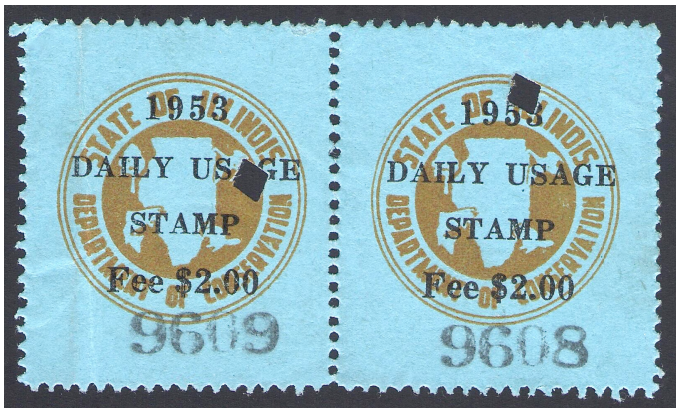


FIGURE 48. 1953 ILLINOIS DALY USAGE STAMP PAIR WITH GAME WARDEN'S PUNCHES.

1954 and 1955 Illinois Daily Usage stamps. The early Illinois Daily Usage section of this exhibit is one of its most powerful components and represents the the most complete assemblage extant. The daily usage stamps from 1954 and 1955 are the only recorded examples (see Figure 49).

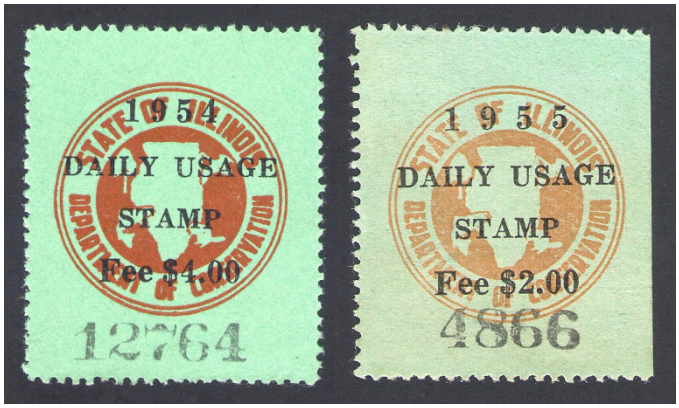


FIGURE 49. THE ONLY RECORDED EXAMPLES OF ILLINOIS DAILY USAGE STAMPS FROM 1954 AND 1955.

1972 Illinois Daily Usage block of four. Fish and game collectors were given erroneous information in 1972. They were told that no daily usage stamps were printed for that year and that tickets, similar to theater tickets, were issued in their place (this actually started in 1973). The block of four of the $3.00 stamp in this exhibit includes four of the eight examples recoded (see Figure 50).

FIGURE 50. 1972 $3.00 ILLINOIS DAILY USAGE STAMP BLOCK OF FOUR.

1975 Illinois migratory Waterfowl stamp pane of ten. While the first Illinois mgiratory waterfowl stamp is not especially difficult to acquire as an unused single, full panes are a different story. A beautiful and impressive showpiece (see Figure 51).

FIGURE 51. FULL PANE OF 1975 ILLINOIS MIGRATORY WATERFOWL STAMPS.

1956 Honey Lake Stamp. In 1956, California became the second state to employ adhesive stamps at their public hunting grounds. Stamps were issued for two areas in Northern California, Honey Lake and Madeline Plains. Only 18 stamps were issued for Madeline Plains" and no surviving examples have been recorded to date. At Honey Lake, 236 stamps were sold and three used examples have been recorded, one on license and two off. The stamp in this exhibit is the finest of the latter, the other copy having a sealed tear (see Figures 2 and 52).

FIGURE 52. THE FIRST HONEY LAKE STAMP, ISSUED FOR THE 1956-57 SEASON.

1958 Honey Lake stamp on license. The first three Honey Lake stamps are very difficult to acquire. Of the total number of examples recorded for the three stamps combined, only two are on license; one from 1956 and the one in this exhibit from 1958 (see Figure 53).

FIGURE 53. 1958-59 HONEY LAKE STAMP USED ON THE REVERSE OF A CALIFORNIA HUNTING LICENSE WITH A 1958-59 FEDERAL.

1981 Honey Lake stamp on license. Following the 1974-75 waterfowl seasons, the California Department of Fish and Game decided to allow collectors to purchase unused remainders of the Honey Lake stamps at a

discount. This practice continued until the stamps were discontinued in 1986. Following the 1981-82 season, a clerk made an egregious mistake and destroyed all the remainders immediately after auditing and before any collector could purchase one. For this reason, no unused examples of the 1981-82 stamp have been recorded. Further, less stamps were sold to hunters (251) than at any time since the 1950s and less than ten used examples have been recorded. Only one has been recorded on license and is featured in this exhibit (see Figure 54).

FIGURE 54. 1981-82 HONEY LAKE STAMP USED ON LICENSE WITH CALIFORNIA DUCK AND FEDERAL WATERFOWL STAMPS. THE ONLY EXAMPLE RECORDED ON LICENSE.

Territory of Puerto Rico Hunting licenses with different revenue stamps used for validation. In 1916, Puerto Rico enacted a game law requiring hunters to purchase a license and affix a revenue stamp. The earliest recorded usages are from the 1950s and they utilized a $10.00 internal revenue stamp affixed to permits to carry a gun and hunt. These have long intrigued collectors for two reasons. First, the usage required the stamp to be torn in half with a portion affixed to the license and a portion affixed to record keeping copy. Second, these have historically been very difficult for collectors to acquire. For over thirty years only one example was recorded, until a second surfaced in the 1990s and was acquired by Jeannette Rudy. This exhibit includes the Rudy example and two more recent discoveries with stamp/permit combinations that were previously unrecorded (see Figure 55).

FIGURE 55. PUERTO RICO HUNTING LICENSES AND INTERNAL REVENUE STAMPS USED FOR VALIDATION FROM THREE DIFFERENT YEARS. NOTE THAT IN EACH CASE A DIFFERENT PUERTO RICO INTERNAL REVENUE STAMP WAS USED.

1973 Colorado North Central Goose. The Colorado North Central goose stamps were used for only one year, in a very small area of Colorado near Fort Collins. The stamp is quite long and although seven or eight examples have been recorded on license, most are badly creased or otherwise damaged. This has created a tremendous demand among advanced collectors for unused examples. Only two have been recorded. The stamp in this exhibit is the discovery copy, from the collection of pioneer revenue collector Ken Pruess (see Figure 56).

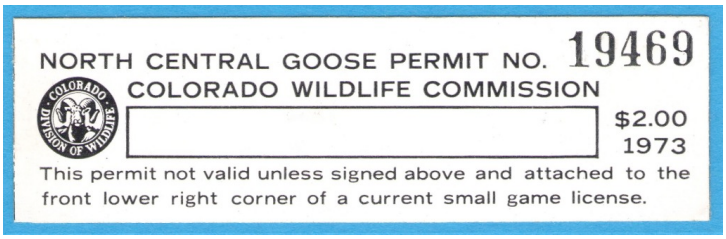


FIGURE 56. UNUSED 1973 NORTH CENTRAL COLORADO GOOSE STAMP.

1974 Maryland Migratory Waterfowl original proof sheet. Within the sub category of pictorial state waterfowl stamps, there exists numerous imperforate items that are ostensibly proofs when, in fact, they are nothing more than printer's waste. Legitimate proofs are tightly controlled and very difficult for collectors to acquire. This proof sheet was given to myself by the License Section Supervisor of the Maryland Department of Natural Resources in the early 1990s. I later traded it to the exhibitors so that it could be seen and enjoyed (see Figure 57).

FIGURE 57. THE ORIGINAL 1974-75 MARYLAND MIGRATORY WATERFOWL STAMP PROOF SHEET.

1980 Delaware and 1981 Florida errors. Unfortunately, there are also many pictorial state waterfowl stamp ”errors” floating around the collector market that are nothing more than printer’s waste. Combined with a few states that sold non-required pictorial stamps to collectors in the 1980s and 1990s that were originally advertised as “required to hunt,” and the hobby took a serious blow to its credibility. There is no printer’s waste in this exhibit. Further, the exhibitor has carefully researched each pictorial issue and states on the exhibit pages when the stamps were not required to hunt. This is to his credit. The stamps that were not required are still a part of the story, in that they raised funds for waterfowl conservation purposes, and the decision was made to include some representative examples. Often their purpose in the exhibit is to help with context, as several states made their stamps required to hunt subsequent to those that were not. In these cases, the details are noted by the exhibitor.

Surprisingly, there are relatively few legitimate pictorial state errors. One sheet of ten of the 1980 Delaware waterfowl stamp has been recorded imperforate vertically. The plate number block from this sheet is included in this exhibit (see Figure 58). In this case, photocopies of the preceding and following serial numbered sheets (normal) are included behind the exhibit page.

FIGURE 58. THE UNIQUE 1980-81 DELAWARE PLATE NUMBER BLOCK, IMPERFORATE VERTICALLY.

One sheet of 1981 Florida waterfowl stamps was printed with the red color missing, creating an outlandish greenish stamp (see Figure 59). The error sheet was in the middle of a quantity of 50 sheets ordered by a major U.S. stamp dealer. All sheets before and after were normal. I have personally seen the serial numbered sheets preceding and following the error sheet for verification purposes.

FIGURE 59. NORMAL (LEFT) AND ERROR (RIGHT) ON THE 1981-82 FLORIDA WATERFOWL STAMP.

1940 South Carolina Hunting License Button An entire hobby is devoted to collecting celluloid covered pin back buttons (sometimes referred to as badges). A subcategory of this hobby shares its collector base with a subcategory of revenue stamp collectors (and a fair number of coin collectors who seem to have some predisposed oval fixation). They are all avid collectors of fish and game license buttons. Licenses in the form of buttons are an important part of the license and stamp story. They were required to be worn on the hunter's outer garment. Their immediate visibility made law enforcement more efficient. Once in widespread use, their use became uncommon after WW2. In fact, the majority of existing buttons at the time became a casualty of WW2 metal drives, thus explaining a relatively high difficulty of acquisition. Advanced collectors seek non-resident, alien and duplicate buttons. A picture of an animal or bird (referred to by longtime collectors as "Critter" buttons) increases the desirability and difficulty of acquisition.

The 1939 South Carolina button shown in this exhibit (see Figure 60), is the embodiment of a desirable license button. It is one of the Holy Grails of the button collector's hobby and one of the very best waterfowl hunting licenses, of any kind, extant. It depicts ducks in flight, is overprinted "DUPLICATE" and has #1 printed over all of that. This means the holder of the first hunting license button issued in 1940 lost his button and applied for and received a replacement (at a reduced fee). That the button survived the WW2 metal drives and is in collector's hands today, makes it all the more remarkable.

FIGURE 60. 1939-40 SOUTH CAROLINA STATE "DUPLICATE" BUTTON ISSUED WHEN LICENSE #1 WAS LOST. ALL THE HUNTING LICENSE BUTTONS ISSUED FOR THE 1939-40 SEASON ARE PRIZED BY COLLECTORS DUE TO THE CANVASBACK DUCK MOTIF.

1996 Hawaii Error. In 1996, Hawaii became the 50th state to issue a stamp that was either required to hunt waterfowl or raised funds for waterfowl conservation. For the conservation minded and philatelists who collect waterfowl stamps, this was a historic occasion. For the purposes of this exhibit, the issue brings to an end the fourth chapter and would otherwise be marked by an ordinary pictorial state duck stamp. By an incredible stroke of good fortune (for the exhibitor), one of the 1996 Hawaiian stamps was misaligned during the printing process and a legitimate major error resulted. The only example recorded and believed to be unique. In this case, both the preceding and following booklet type stamps (normal) are shown on the exhibit page (see Figure 61).

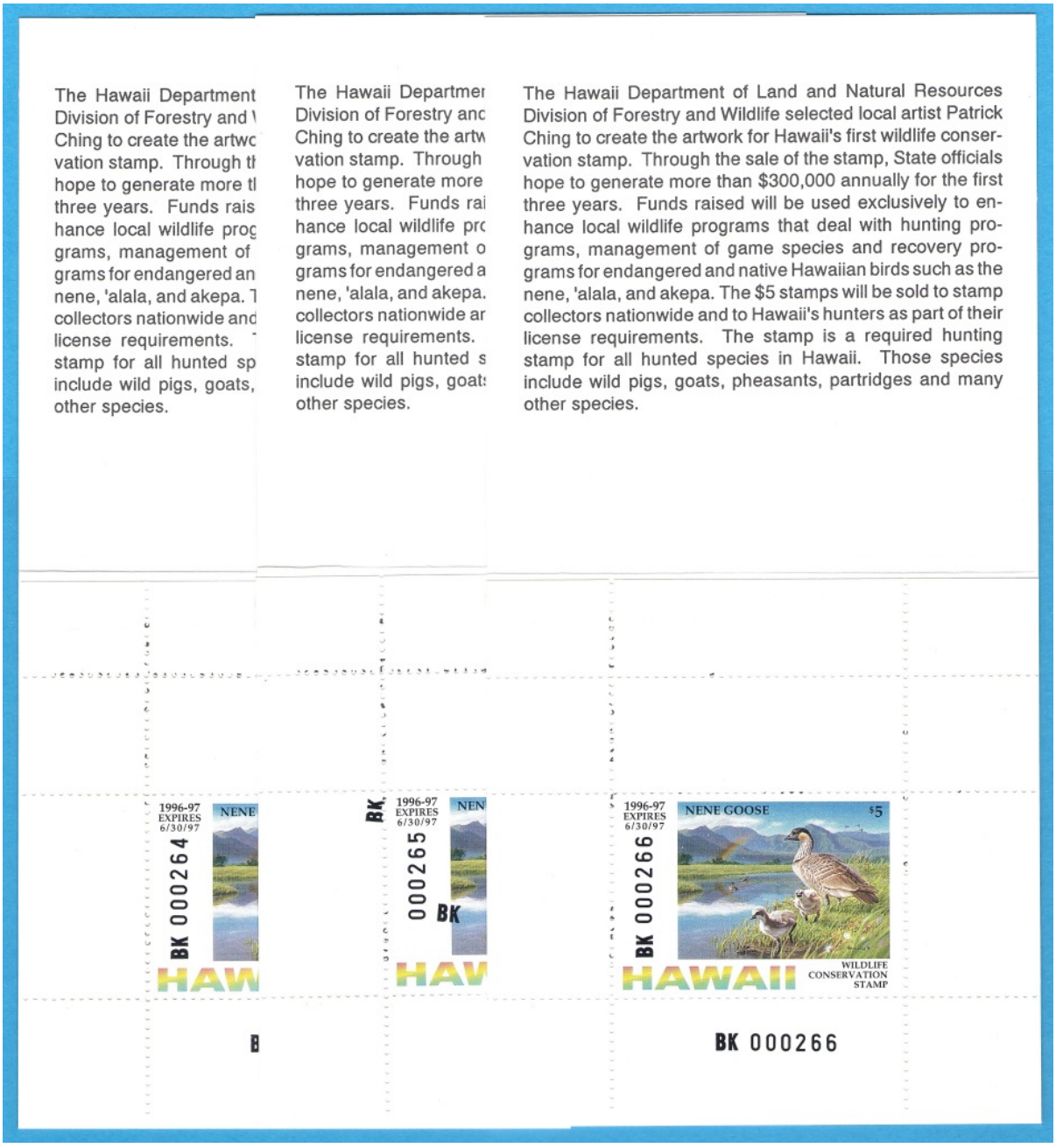


FIGURE 61. 1996-97 HAWAII WILDLIFE CONSERVATION STAMP. THE CENTER PANE SHOWS THE ERROR, WHILE THE PRECEDING AND FOLLOWING PANES WERE PRINTED NORMALLY.

Chapter Five: Indian Reservation Waterfowl Stamps and Usages

Licenses and stamps that were issued by tribal governments are a part of the story whose importance grew rapidly at the end of the 20th Century. Most are familiar with how the Native Americans were treated in the late 1800s. They had their land taken from them and were confined to reservations. What many don't know is that non-Indians' predilection for gambling is making it possible for the Native Americans to buy their land back, at an accelerating rate. In most states gambling is illegal. However, since tribal governments are recognized as sovereign nations, they are not subject to such laws and it has become a tremendous source of revenue in certain parts of the county.

For example, in South Dakota, where the most grievous land grabs took place, there is a time-honored tradition of auctioning land (specifically farms and ranches) to the highest bidder. Revenue from Indian casinos in South Dakota has made it possible for tribal governments to be the successful bidder in a high percentage of such instances over the last 30 years. At the end of the day, Native Americans will have bought much of their land back. Accompanying land stewardship is a responsibility to manage wildlife resources. Tribal governments take this obligation very seriously. After the number of tribal governments that required waterfowl stamps decreased to zero during the turbulent 1970s (see 1979 Rosebud small game stamp below), the last two decades of the 20th Century saw that number increase from one to 21. In general, licenses and stamps issued by tribal governments prior to 1980 have a high difficulty of acquisition. Highlights:

1919 Yakima County (Washington) Game License. This is an interesting license. Although issued by the state of Washington, the county of Yakima was predominantly an Indian Reservation in 1919. Therefore, it is considered the earliest recorded hunting license for Native Americans in the U.S. (see Figure 62).

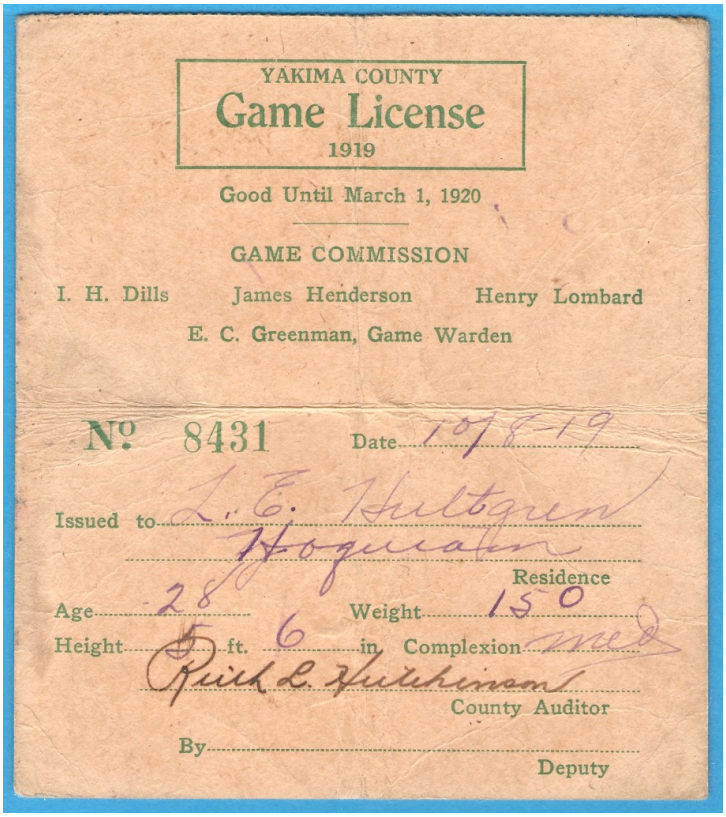

YAKIMA COUNTY
Game License
1919
Good Until March 1, 1920
GAME COMMISSION
I. H. Dills James Henderson Henry Lombard
E. C. Greenman, Game Warden
No. 8431 Date 10/8-19
Issued to L. E. Hultgren
Hoquiam
Residence
Age 28 Weight 150
Height 5 ft. 6 in. Complexion med
Ruth L. Hutchinson
County Auditor
By
Deputy

FIGURE 62. 1919 STATE OF WASHINGTON GAME LICENSE FOR YAKIMA COUNTY. DURING THIS TIME THE MAJORITY OF THE COUNTY WAS AN INDIAN RESERVATION.

1959 Rosebud Tribal Game Bird Stamp. In 1959, the Rosebud Sioux Tribe made philatelic history by becoming the first tribal government to issue fish and game stamps, including a Tribal Bird stamp that was required to hunt waterfowl. The same stamp was used through the 1960s. After 1959, the year date was manually filled in with a pen or typewriter. Three of the undated (first year of issue) stamps have been recorded (see Figure 63). All of the stamps are unused and I have traced the original purchasers back to three pioneer revenue stamp collectors, Mrs. Robert Powell, David Strock and E. L. Vanderford. This is the Powell example. Arguably the third most important stamp in the exhibit, following the 1937 Pymatuning and the 1941 Marion County.

FIGURE 63. 1959 ROSEBUD TRIBAL GAME BIRD LICENSE STAMP, THE FIRST TRIBAL FISH AND GAME STAMP ISSUED IN THE U.S.

1961 Rosebud Tribal Game bird stamp on license. This is an exceptional license that combines social history portent. After the Rosebud Sioux began licensing hunters there was a great deal of confusion among hunters and even tribal and state game wardens as to who had jurisdiction and where (for decades South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks had regulated hunting on the reservations). This hunter should have purchased a separate tribal license and affixed his Rosebud stamp to it. Instead he got away with affixing it to his state hunting license (see Figure 64). At least he bought the tribal stamp. For years non-Indian hunters attempted to continue hunting on the reservations with only their state license and stamp(s). This led to a huge backlog of court cases that continued into the 1980s.

FIGURE 64. 1961 ROSEBUD TRIBAL GAME BIRD STAMP USED ON A SOUTH DAKOTA STATE HUNTING LICENSE.

1962 Crow Creek and Lower Brule stamps. Following the lead of the Rosebud tribal government, the nearby Crow Creek and Lower Brule Sioux Tribes started requiring hunters to purchase stamps to hunt waterfowl on their lands in the early 1960s (see Figure 65). The three tribes issued stamps yearly until Native American unrest culminated in the incident at Wounded Knee in 1973. The bloodshed curtailed non-Indian hunting on reservations in South Dakota and the tribes stopped issuing stamps.

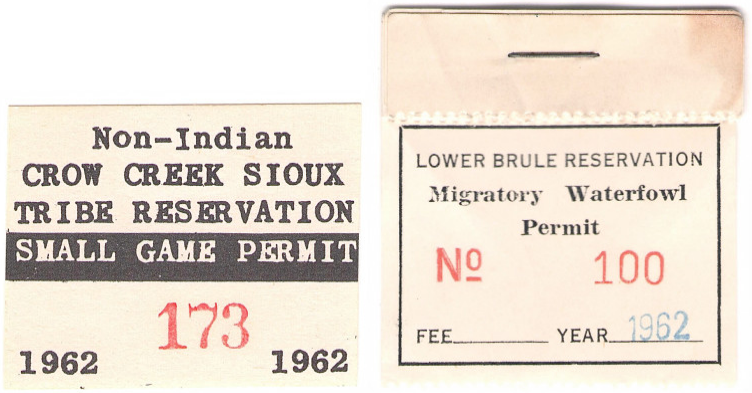


FIGURE 65. THE EARLIEST RECORDED STAMP FROM THE CROW CREEK SIOUX TRIBE (LEFT) AND THE FIRST LOWER BRULE WATERFOWL STAMP (RIGHT). NOTE THE LOWER BRULE STAMP, SIMILAR TO ROSEBUD, HAD A PLACE FOR THE YEAR TO BE FILLED IN. IN THIS WAY, THE SAME STAMPS WERE USED THROUGHOUT THE 1960S.

1979 Rosebud Small Game Stamp. In 1979, The Rosebud Sioux Tribe once again made history, becoming the first tribal government to welcome non-Indian hunters back to their reservation. New stamps were printed and this exhibit includes the only example recorded to mark this important development (see Figure 66).

FIGURE 66. 1979 ROSEBUD SMALL GAME STAMP. FORMERLY IN THE CHARLES HERMANN COLLECTION, IT IS THE ONLY EXAMPLE RECORDED.

1990 Crow Creek Non-Resident Waterfowl with Serial Number Missing. In 1989, the Crow Creek Sioux Tribe became the first tribal government to start printing and issuing pictorial license stamps. To look at them, it would seem the tribe had philatelists in mind. Rather, the tribe contracted the stamps out to the State Publishing Company in Pierre, South Dakota, and the printers simply made the stamps conform to the state stamps they had been printing for years. It is well known among collectors of fish and game stamps that the State Publishing Company had a long running problem with the machine used to number the stamps they printed. If the print run was sizable enough, the machine would occasionally malfunction, resulting in a pane of stamps (invariably a single pane of five) missing the serial numbers. Such an instance happened in 1990, when a single pane of Crow Creek non-resident waterfowl stamps was printed with the serial numbers missing (see Figure 67).

FIGURE 67. 1990 CROW CREEK NON-RESIDENT WATERFOWL STAMP WITH THE SERIAL NUMBER MISSING.

1977 Fort Peck Tribal Bird, Block of Four. The Fort Peck Indian Reservation is one of the most remote in the continental U.S. It is located in north central Montana, just below the Canadian border. In the 1970s, it was difficult for collectors to obtain their stamps. To put it simply, they had no interest in dealing with stamp collectors. For this reason, it is not known when fish and game stamps were first issued on the reservation. Pioneer revenue collector Burt Hubbard was able to obtain carbon copies for two different stamps from 1973, however, not the stamps themselves. The earliest stamps recorded are from 1975. With the exception of normal stamps from 1976, early stamps from Fort Peck (1970s) have a high difficulty of acquisition. The block of 1977 Tribal Bird stamps shown in this exhibit contains four of the ten examples recorded. These stamps were required to hunt waterfowl (see Figure 68).

FIGURE 68. 1977 FORT PECK TRIBAL GAME BIRD LICENSE STAMP BLOCK OF FOUR.

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