

1981-1982 DUCK STAMP

by Theodore H. Atkinson, Actor

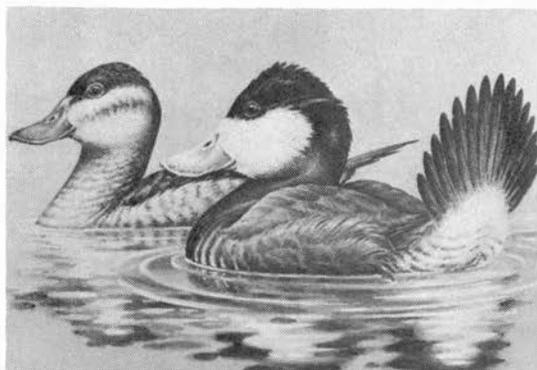
A tempera painting of male and female Ruddy Ducks sitting on the water won the 1981-1982 federal Duck Stamp competition. John S. Wilson's entry topped a record 1,507 paintings in the federal government's only regularly sponsored art contest. The 51-year-old self-taught artist, sign painter, and designer from Watertown, South Dakota, had competed unsuccessfully in the last two federal contests.

The colorful Duck Stamps constitute the longest running, annually issued series of stamps in stamp history. The Duck Stamp, first issued for \$1.00, is required by the Migratory Bird Hunting Stamp Act of 1934. Anyone 16 years of age and older is required to purchase the current issue before hunting migratory waterfowl. Prior to 1949, wildlife artists were commissioned to provide a design for the annual stamp. Since then, the design has been chosen by a contest open to all artists who are residents or citizens of the United States. Contestants are allowed only one entry per year.

Though the winner will receive no prize other than a sheet of the following year's Duck Stamp, the financial reward is significant. In the past commercial wildlife art dealers have been eager to market limited edition reprints of the design. The prestige of winning the contest has enhanced the reputation of established artists and has elevated otherwise unknown artists to public acclaim.

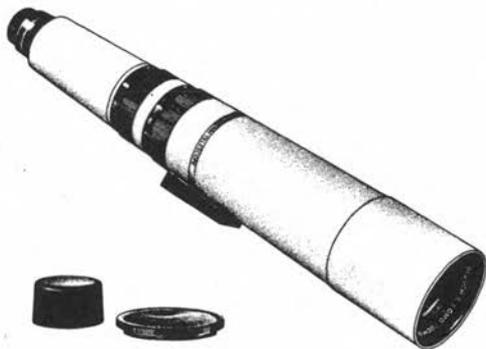
Since Duck Stamps first went on sale in 1934 nearly 2.5 million acres of prime waterfowl habitat have been acquired with \$225 million in Duck Stamp receipts and \$142 million from accelerated wetlands acquisition loan funds. This year more than 2.2 million conservationists have contributed over \$16.5 million by their purchase of Duck Stamps. Birders can help acquire and protect more prime waterfowl habitat by purchasing Duck Stamps themselves.

This year's \$7.50 issue went on sale at post offices on July 1, 1981.



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ENTRY PROCESS:

1. Obtain entry form from Worcester Science Center, 222 Harrington Way, Worcester, MA 01604. Phone: 617-791-9211
2. Entry fee is \$3.00 per entry.
3. Prints should be mounted or matted, not framed. Composite pictures, multiple prints and collages are not eligible.
4. Entries must be no smaller than 8 x 10 or no larger than 16 x 20, including mat. The prints should be no smaller than 35 sq. in.
5. Deadline is Monday, February 1, 1982.
6. Participants may be asked to submit proof of originality.
7. Photos not dealing with the subject of birds will not be accepted.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION - Worcester Science Center

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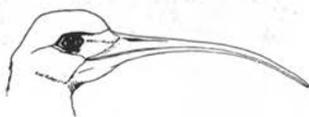
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