



The Blue Goose Flies High!

Join the Junior Duck Stamp Program in Celebrating the 100th Birthday of the National Wildlife Refuge System

1903-2003

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Dear Educator:

Our country's National Wildlife Refuge System (NWRS) is a haven for wildlife that can be used to instill a sense of wonder in young and old alike. On the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the National Wildlife Refuge System, we invite you to experience the wonder of our national wildlife refuges. We extend a special invitation to you to participate in the Federal Junior Duck Stamp Program. By doing so, you could win an all-expense paid trip to the National Junior Duck Stamp Competition which will be held in April 2003 in Washington D.C. We also hope that while taking part, you will take time to become familiar with the national wildlife refuges. Information on participating in this year's program is outlined in the enclosed brochure. Simply send your students' art work to your state receiving site and your state coordinator will forward your name for the drawing. Seven teachers, representing the seven regions of the NWRS, will be selected. The winners will be notified.



HOME, SWEET HOME

last year in the Federal Duck Stamp contest, and won the 2003 Minnesota Wild Turkey Stamp Competition. Adam Grimm, whose mottled duck graces the 2000-2001 Federal Duck Stamp, was a former Junior Duck Stamp winner in the state of Ohio.

A national wildlife refuge can be an outdoor classroom. Many provide on and offsite environmental education programs. Contact your local refuge for information about these programs, to learn about other wildlife recreation or to arrange for a visit. A visit may provide students with an opportunity to observe and photograph waterfowl in its natural habitat. Students can journal their observations and discoveries of the natural world. One of the important ethical lessons we try to instill with this program is the understanding of copyright law. At a national wildlife refuge, students can begin to develop their own references for their art work by sketching or photographing habitat and waterfowl in the wild. To enhance your classroom activities, there are many fact sheets on wildlife species, birds and birdhouses, endangered species as well as many additional publications and electronic files for your use. To obtain information about the National Wildlife Refuge System or to locate your nearest wildlife refuge, call: 1-800-344-WILD or find us on the Internet at <http://refuges.fws.gov>

Terry Bell
National Junior Duck
Stamp Coordinator



Art in Action Conservation for the Next 100 Years

The Junior Duck Stamp Program is a conservation program designed to teach children about waterfowl and the value of wetlands. The dividends for program participation are tremendous. As students increase their knowledge and awareness of waterfowl, they develop an appreciation for wildlife and will become future stewards of the natural resource. Since the inception of the program in 1990, educators and parents have recounted the many ways it has had an immeasurable impact on their students. Students have increased their observation skills, made great improvements in other academic areas, increased their self-esteem, and some have launched a career in art. Ryan Perry, Washington, Best-of-State Junior Duck Stamp winner in 1997, is now a professional wildlife artist with exhibits throughout the country. Becky Latham, Minnesota, second place winner in the 1998 National Junior Duck Stamp Competition, captured seventh place



"I have been involved with the Junior Duck Stamp Program for five years. Creating the design for the stamp provides my students with a method to experience the practical benefits of art beyond the classroom and to gain an appreciation for wildlife through observation. I have seen my students' self esteem soar with the stimulation, encouragement, and recognition this program provides."

Cosette Hobday, Valley Middle School,
Apple Valley, MN

Golden Egg for Educators

Win a trip to the 2003 Junior Duck Stamp Competition.

To be eligible:

- Acquaint yourself with the National Wildlife Refuge System.
- Introduce your students to refuges.
- Participate in the 2003 National Junior Duck Stamp Program.

Youth Involvement in Conservation Pays Big Dividends!



Students learn to identify ducks and learn important concepts regarding wetlands, wildlife, habitat, and water quality.

At left: Learning to paint.



“Conservation is more than a good idea; it is a necessity for the enjoyment of today and tomorrow.”
David Schmitz,
 age 17, Ionia, IA

“This is the best thing that has ever happened to me in my whole life!”
Nick Stone, age 7,
 Kensai, ND



This column, from top:
 Learning about refuges, flyways and the needs of migrating birds.
 The adult Federal Duck Stamp Program and the Junior Duck Stamp Program foster wetland and waterfowl conservation; Bob Hautman and Aremy McCann at the first day of issue ceremony for their respective stamp designs.
 Families celebrate artistic achievements together.



Common ties build friendships: Aremy McCann, MN, 2001-02 National JDS winner and Stephanie Bishop, OR, 2001-02 third place National JDS.



Taking pride in artistic accomplishments.

The National Wildlife Refuge System

*“Wild things
need wild
places to live.”*

Robin Byron, age, 8,
Hardin, MT



President Theodore Roosevelt

A very important date for wildlife conservation is fast approaching. On March 14, 2003, America will celebrate the Centennial Anniversary of the National Wildlife Refuge System (NWRS). Teddy Roosevelt would be proud to know that America shared and expanded upon his conservation vision. President Roosevelt's conservation message is already reaching our youth through the National Junior Duck Stamp Program and your participation will ensure that this continues. However, Teddy Roosevelt's work is incomplete. Your understanding and appreciation of the National Wildlife Refuge System will enhance the work you are already doing in the classroom to make students aware of the necessity of protecting the environment for future generations.

We challenge you with an enormous task which will pay you and your students dividends beyond your imagination. We want you, the educator, to know the interrelatedness of the following information regarding environmental protection. Teddy Roosevelt was one of our first conservationists and was instrumental in paving the way; the establishment and maintenance of the NWRS is critical to the overall health of the environment; national wildlife refuges are established along four major flyways; the Federal Duck Stamp is one of the major contributors in the protection of lands and waters, the Junior Duck Stamp Program is modeled after the adult program and both stamp programs foster conservation.

We encourage you to visit a national wildlife refuge to give your students an opportunity to engage and experience wetlands, waterfowl, and wildlife. The famous conservationist, Aldo Leopold said that, “There are some who can live without wild things, and some who cannot.” Aldo Leopold could not. We hope a visit to a national wildlife refuge will instill in your students a similar feeling.

Wetland ecosystems are essential for the maintenance of healthy populations of migratory birds, as well as habitat for fish, shellfish, and other wildlife. Thirty-five percent of all rare, threatened, and endangered species are dependent on wetland ecosystems. Wetland ecosystems provide critical flood and storm control values, water availability and water quality. Despite their significance, more than 50% of the original wetlands in the U.S. alone have been lost. While these facts are important for your students to know, it is more important for them to develop an appreciation of wetlands and waterfowl and to feel the “loss” and the “harm” if we did not have them.

President Roosevelt understood the need to maintain healthy populations of migratory birds. His action in 1903 to protect the small three-acre Pelican Island in Florida as a refuge for herons, egrets, and pelicans, set in motion a legacy for future generations. Back then, there was a growing desire for plumed hats and milliners were seeking more and more feathers. Thus a market was created and Roosevelt was aware of its dire impact on bird populations. Roosevelt responded by establishing more than 50 wildlife areas for herons, egrets, pelicans, and other wading birds and waterfowl. Some of the lands provided protection for large mammals including bison, elk, and antelope. Roosevelt's legacy now spans 93 million acres across the United States and its territories.

This network of federal lands, dedicated to wildlife conservation, is known as the National Wildlife Refuge System. The system includes more than 535 wildlife refuges with at least one refuge in every state and U.S. Territory. The system also includes more than 3,000 Waterfowl Production Areas (WPA's). WPA's, ranging in size from less than one acre to more than 3,500 acres, are scattered across ten states in the Northern Great

W H I T E H O U S E

March 14th, 1903.

It is hereby ordered that Pelican Island in Indian

River in section nine, township thirty-one south, range thirty-

nine east, State of Florida, be, and it is hereby, reserved

and set apart for the use of the Department of Agriculture as

a preserve and breeding ground for native birds.

Theodore Roosevelt

Plains region. These wetlands and grasslands provide critical habitat to ducks, geese, shorebirds, songbirds, native plants and other wildlife.

In the beginning, refuges were established with one or more species in mind. For example, in 1908 the first refuge to specifically protect migratory waterfowl was established at Lower Klamath Lake Basin in California and Oregon. The establishment of additional refuges for migratory waterfowl increased around 1930. This increase resulted from an awareness that waterfowl numbers throughout the 1920's were declining due to market hunting and over-harvest. The impact of market hunting was compounded by the drainage of wetlands and successive drought years, all of which placed enormous pressures on waterfowl. The need to protect waterfowl became apparent. Bird banding, started in the 1920's, began to revolutionize the overall understanding of waterfowl. Bird banding is an important research tool in which wild birds are captured and marked with a numbered metal band placed on the leg. In these early years, banding enabled researchers to map the location of the breeding and wintering grounds, as well as the routes followed by migrants. Today, bird banding continues to provide other biological data which increases our knowledge of birds and their habits and helps in conservation efforts. In the U.S., the center for banding is the Bird Banding Laboratory in Laurel, MD.

Research established that many species of waterfowl, songbirds, shorebirds, and raptors nest in one area and travel to another for food, water, and shelter during the winter months. These breeding and wintering grounds are often thousands of miles apart. Finding adequate food and resting spots in between is critical. Based on this knowledge national wildlife refuges were established along the four migratory corridors or flyways specifically to provide wintering, staging, and breeding grounds necessary for the birds. The four flyways are the Pacific Flyway, Central Flyway, Mississippi Flyway, and Atlantic Flyway.

National wildlife refuges once set aside for a particular species, such as waterfowl, eventually evolved into general refuges for all kinds of wildlife.

Today, national wildlife refuges protect a diversity of habitats. These habitats support more than 700 bird species, 220 mammal species, 250 reptile and amphibian species and 200 species of fish. Each refuge is unique, contributing to a healthy ecosystem which supports this diversity of species. Refuges provide wildlife-dependent recreation opportunities including wildlife photography, hunting, fishing, wildlife observation, interpretation, and education.

One of the major contributors to the NWRs has been the Federal Duck Stamp Program which began in 1934. Since then, the Federal Duck Stamp Program has become one of the most successful conservation programs ever initiated. Today more than 1.5 million stamps are sold each year. Waterfowl hunters are required to purchase the stamps to hunt waterfowl. Over the years, sales have generated more than \$600 million and have purchased over five million acres of wildlife habitat for the NWRs.

Wetlands, waterfowl, numerous other birds, mammals, fish, reptiles, and amphibians have prospered because of habitat protection made possible by the duck stamps. People, too, have benefitted, from Federal Duck Stamps. The refuges offer areas in which to hike, bird watch, or to simply enjoy a sunset. A visit to a national wildlife refuge can be a valuable part of your students' participation in the Junior Duck Stamp Program as it offers students a place to observe and gain knowledge of waterfowl.

The Junior Duck Stamp Program is modeled after the adult Federal Duck Stamp Program. Both programs create a design for a stamp with the intent of raising an awareness and appreciation of wildlife. While the adult Federal Duck Stamps help fund land acquisition for the NWRs, the Junior Duck Stamps fund scholarships. Both programs foster conservation. Both programs help carry out Teddy Roosevelt's mission to protect the environment for future generations. *"Wild beasts and birds are by right not the property merely of the people who are alive today, but the property of unknown generations, whose belongings we have no right to squander."* – Teddy Roosevelt

"If you harm the environment, you harm yourself."

Roxie Tenhoff, age 11,
Cokato, MN



- Pacific Flyway
- Central Flyway
- Mississippi Flyway
- Atlantic Flyway



The Blue Goose: It Tells You Where You Are!

Each national wildlife refuge is identified by a posted sign with the emblem of a “blue” goose. “Whenever you meet this sign, respect it. It means that the land behind the sign has been

dedicated by the American people to preserving, for themselves and their children, as much of our native wildlife as can be retained along with modern civilization.” –Rachel Carson



This blue goose, designed by J.N. “Ding” Darling, has become the symbol of the National Wildlife Refuge System.

Duck Stamps: A True Sign of Art in Action

Who would have thought that the issuance of a single Stamp in 1934 would launch a wildlife conservation effort unsurpassed by any other? The National Wildlife Refuge System (NWRS), the world’s most comprehensive system of lands dedicated to wildlife conservation, was the benefactor. Since 1934, more than one hundred million Federal Duck Stamps have been sold, generating more than 600 million dollars used to purchase more than five million acres of wetland and upland habitat for migratory birds and other wildlife.

hunted. Through Ding Darling’s work, the Federal Duck Stamp Act of 1934 was passed, requiring hunters to purchase a duck stamp and affix it to his or her hunting license. It was Ding Darling’s brush and ink drawing of a pair of mallards which served as the design for the very first duck stamp. This stamp went on sale for the first time on August 22, 1934. It sold for \$1.00 and was purchased by some 635,000 hunters. Today these first duck stamps are valued at thousands of dollars. Since then, the price of a Federal Duck Stamp has gradually risen to the current price of \$15.00.



1934, First Federal Duck Stamp, Jay Norwood “Ding” Darling, Mallards

The new slogan for the Junior Duck Stamp Program is “Art is Action, Conservation for the next 100 Years.” Certainly, Jay Norwood Darling, known as “Ding” Darling, was the artist of the last 100 years. Ding Darling’s life was completely dedicated to wildlife conservation. Through his editorial cartoons and his etchings, he raised awareness of the need for conservation. It was Ding Darling who wisely devised the program whereby hunters became the stewards of the very waterfowl they

In an unprecedented event, the United States Postal Service in 1984 issued a commemorative reprint of Ding Darling’s stamp. It created a twenty-cent first class stamp to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Federal Duck Stamp. More than 100 million of these stamps were sold, making it the most widely published and recognized example of wildlife art.

“Duck stamps help save ducks.”

**Ariel Gillespie,
age 8, Altoona, WI**

Why the National Wildlife Refuge System?

The mission of the NWRS is to administer a national network of lands and waters for the conservation, management and where appropriate, restoration of the fish, wildlife and plant resources and their habitats within the U.S.A. for the benefit of present and future generations of Americans.

Find the location of the refuge nearest you: <http://refuges.fws.gov>



Making Tracks to Draw a Duck, Swan, or Goose

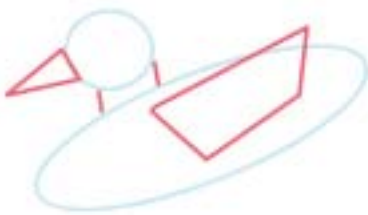
We encourage you to visit a national wildlife refuge or a pond near you to observe waterfowl. Use a journal or sketch pad to record your observations. After you have completed your research, use the following sketches to assist you in drawing your picture. The sketches are

from the California Waterfowl Association's *Waterfowl ID and Drawing Guide* and are reprinted below with the organization's permission. The complete Drawing Guide, with additional drawing approaches and tips, can be downloaded from www.calwaterfowl.org.

1. Start with basic body and head shape



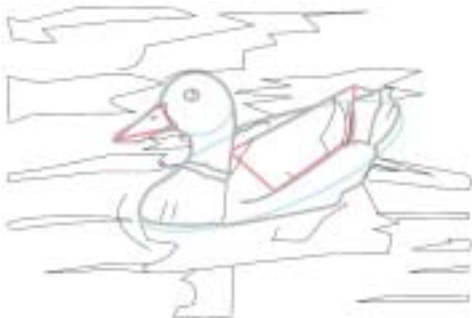
2. Add the major features, the bill, wing, and neck



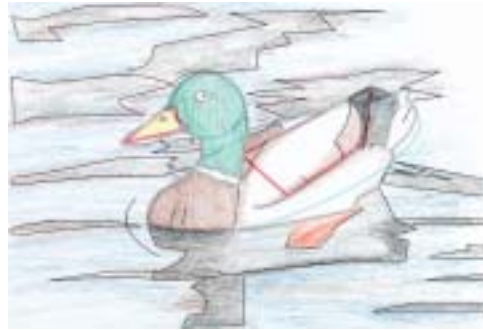
3. Shape up the main parts of the body and draw the eye.



4. Add the detailed lines and background



5. Color the body and background lightly



6. Shade in shadows going from light to dark



7. Do the final drawing, color lightly and add more detail



Your Purchase of the Federal Duck Stamp Helps to Buy Land for National Wildlife Refuges!



2002-2003 Federal Duck Stamp
Joe Hautman, MN, Black Scoters

Your Purchase of the Junior Duck Stamp Helps to Provide Awards and Scholarships to Participating Students.



2002-2003 Junior Duck Stamp
Nathan Closson, MT, Mallards

To purchase these stamps call 1 800/STAMP 24

WATERFOWL PUZZLERS

- A. Who designed the first Federal Duck Stamp?
- B. Which waterfowl appears on the National Wildlife Sign?
- C. Approximately, how many National Wildlife Refuges are there?
- D. Where was the very first National Wildlife Refuge established?
- E. What is the date of the centennial of the NWRs?
- F. In the U.S.A., what are the migratory routes of birds usually called?
- G. Who established the first National Wildlife Refuges?
- H. What was the first National Wildlife Refuge created specifically for waterfowl?
- I. What percentage of the original wetlands in the USA have been lost?
- J. Which research tool helped revolutionize information about waterfowl migration?

- Answers**
- A. Jay Norwood Darling
 - B. The Blue Goose
 - C. 535
 - D. Pelican Island, FLA
 - E. March 14, 2003

- F. Flyways
- G. Teddy Roosevelt
- H. Klamath Basin NWR
- I. 50%
- J. Bird Banding