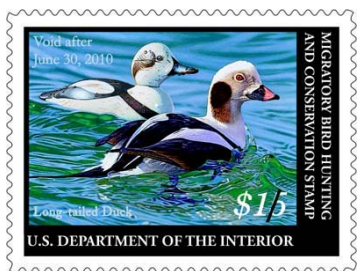


## Top Ten Reasons to Purchase a Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp

1. There are over 550 individual units within the United States. Each refuge is managed as a



protected haven for birds and other wildlife. Since 1934, a huge proportion of the funds used to acquire these critical habitats in the lower-48 states were provided through sales of what is today known as Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamps – commonly called “Duck Stamps.” All outdoor recreationists who enjoy wildlife and natural landscapes can thank those who have already

purchased stamps over the decades, for they have contributed over \$700 million and protected 5.3 million acres of habitat for wildlife and future generations of people.

2. The Stamp costs only \$15 and it's easy for everyone to purchase – nearly all Post Offices carry them. Even better, it is extremely cost-effective: fully 98 cents out of every dollar (\$14.70) goes directly to acquire land for the Refuge System. This \$15-purchase is perhaps the single simplest thing one can do to support a legacy of wetland and grassland conservation for birds.
3. The funds not only go to refuges, but since 1958, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) has used a portion of the Stamp revenues to purchase wetland and grassland habitats within the Prairie Pothole Region of the upper Midwest and northern Great Plains. Through their Small Wetlands Acquisition Program, the FWS has perpetually protected and conserved nearly 3 million acres of wetland and grassland habitat for prairie wildlife. These small wetlands and grassland complexes - commonly referred to as Waterfowl Production Areas or WPAs - include more than 29,000 permanent easements, covering 2.1 million acres, and approximately 7,000 fee tracts, totaling over 677,000 acres of habitat for wetland and grassland wildlife. All WPAs are part of the National Wildlife Refuge System. Every unit in this system provides important benefits to migratory bird species, other wildlife, water quality, aquifer replenishment, and the environment in general.
4. In response to serious downward trends of many species of "prairie" nesting birds, the FWS began purchasing permanent grassland easements to conserve existing habitat for prairie nesting birds. The grassland easement program is integrally related to and compliments the FWS's fee acquisition programs.
5. The purchase of a Stamp is not something that will just benefit ducks. Among scores of other bird species, numerous kinds of shorebirds, long-legged waders, and wetland and grassland songbirds are dependent on habitat derived from Stamp purchases. (Densities of grassland bird species such as Bobolink, Grasshopper Sparrow, Clay-colored Sparrow and Sedge Wren, are remarkably higher on Refuge System grasslands than on the landscape in general.)
6. You can say the same about that status of other wildlife – not only birds – and water quality as benefiting from the use of the Stamp. Reptiles, amphibians, fish, butterflies, all flourish through Stamp investments. Water quality is also strengthened.

7. Some of the most diverse and wildlife-rich refuges in the nation have been acquired with Stamp funds. For example, see the following list of refuges and the percentage paid for by Stamp purchases.

Sacramento in California	99.6%
Parker River in Massachusetts	99.3%
Bosque del Apache in New Mexico	99.2%
Pea Island in North Carolina	99.2%
Quivira in Kansas	99.1%
Horicon in Wisconsin	98.7%
Muskatatum in Indiana	98.9%
Monomoy in Massachusetts	97.8%
Bombay Hook in Delaware	95.1%
Santa Ana in Texas	94.9%
DeSoto in Iowa and Nebraska	90.8%
Okefenokee in Georgia	88.2%
Anahuac in Texas	87.5%
Ottawa in Ohio	86.4%
Laguna Atascosa in Texas	86.0%
Edwin B. Forsythe (Brigantine) in New Jersey	84.3%
Blackwater in Maryland	77.6%

And if that isn't enough incentive, consider that 99.8% of all WPAs in Minnesota, Iowa, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Montana were acquired through Stamp funding.

8. A Stamp is a "free pass" for an entire year – for a vehicle full of people at all refuges that charge for admission – a real bargain if ever there was one!
9. Whether or not you're a hunter of any sort, you can appreciate the wise balance of activities ascribed through Congressional refuge legislation and Stamp application over the years (e.g., 1935, 1958, 1966, 1978). Basically, all refuges established under the authority of the Migratory Bird Conservation Act with an "inviolable sanctuary" purpose for migratory bird conservation, can open up to 40% of the total acreage of said refuges to migratory bird hunting. In practice, and especially since the late 1970s, this 40% standard balance can be exceeded only when such migratory bird hunting activity is determined to be compatible with the purposes for which the refuge was established or if the Secretary of the Interior determines that it would be "beneficial to the species."
10. The Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation [Duck] Stamp is probably the best-kept secret in all of bird conservation. And, by buying and displaying a Stamp you will show that you appreciate what long-term habitat protection for all birds and other wildlife is, and that you care!

List compiled by Paul Baicich and Ric Zarwell, updated 04/2010