

# Duck Stamp Dollars Deliver Results

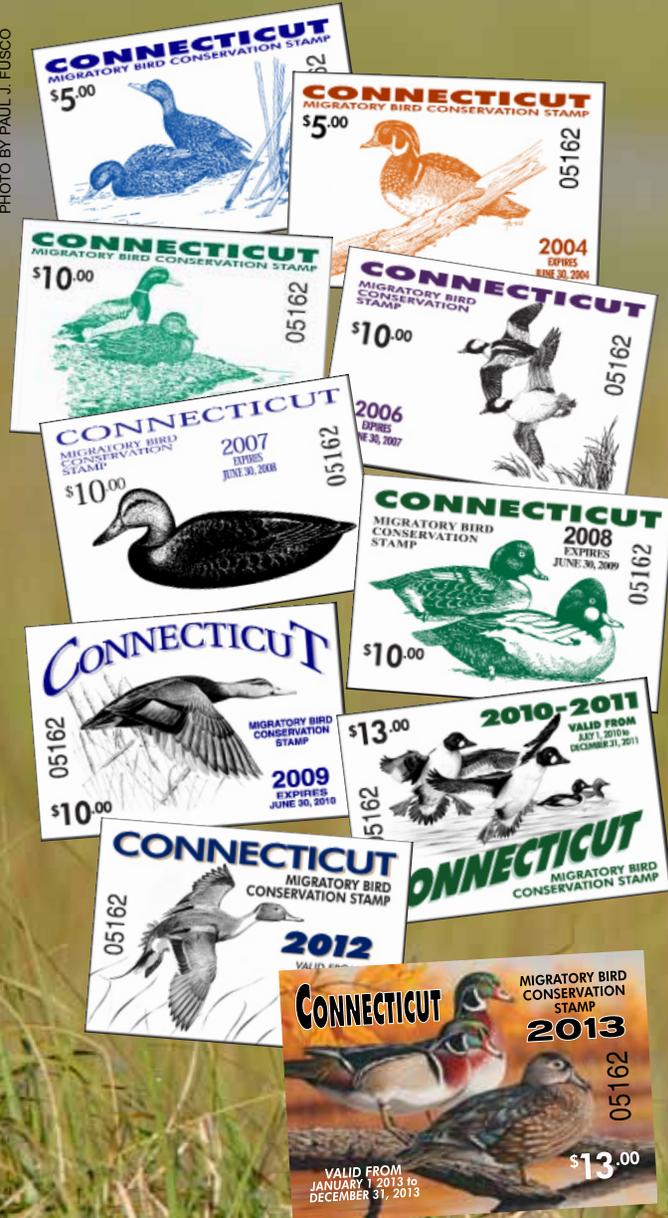
The Connecticut Migratory Bird Conservation Stamp is more than just a “duck” stamp because the conservation work it funds provides habitat for a multitude of other wildlife species like herons, egrets, fish, and amphibians, along with several species of greatest conservation need that are identified in Connecticut’s Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy.

- Funds generated through the Migratory Bird Conservation Stamp Program have been responsible for restoring and enhancing over 3,145 acres of critical wetlands. Projects have encompassed nearly 50 sites, mostly on state-owned wildlife management areas.
- Specialized large equipment was purchased to conduct extensive marsh restoration work, particularly along the coast.
- Connecticut was the first state in the nation to establish a unit dedicated to wetland restoration. The DEEP’s Wetland Restoration Unit receives no state funds and operates solely off of outside monies and Connecticut Duck Stamp funds.
- A 75-acre addition to the Wangunk Meadows Wildlife Management Area in Portland was purchased.
- Duck Stamp funds have generated additional monies for Connecticut through matching grants from federal conservation initiatives. By combining Duck Stamp funds with these additional monies, over \$4 million have been available to complete wildlife conservation projects. Thus, Connecticut has received a 4:1 return on Duck Stamp monies.
- The Duck Stamp Program is a prime example of a user fee program that has greatly benefitted not only wildlife, but also the people of Connecticut by improving the health of our local environments.



*The Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer that is committed to requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act. Any person with a disability who may need information in an alternative format may contact the agency's ADA Coordinator at 860-424-3194, or at [deep.hrmed@ct.gov](mailto:deep.hrmed@ct.gov). Any person with limited proficiency in English, who may need information in another language, may contact the agency's Title VI Coordinator at (860) 423-43035, or at [deep.aoffice@ct.gov](mailto:deep.aoffice@ct.gov). Any person with a hearing impairment may call the State of Connecticut relay number - 711. Discrimination complaints may be filed with DEEP's Title VI Coordinator. Requests for accommodations must be made at least two weeks prior to any agency hearing, program or event.*

PHOTO BY PAUL J. FUSCO



# Connecticut Migratory Bird Conservation Stamp Art Contest

*Duck stamp dollars deliver for all wildlife*



*The Connecticut Waterfowl Association is a cooperator with the Connecticut Duck Stamp Art Contest.*

*For more information on the Connecticut Duck Stamp Art Contest, contact: DEEP Wildlife Division, Franklin Wildlife Management Area, 391 Route 32, North Franklin, CT 06254; [deep.ctwildlife@ct.gov](mailto:deep.ctwildlife@ct.gov) 860-642-7239, [www.ct.gov/deep/ctduckstamp](http://www.ct.gov/deep/ctduckstamp)*





**T**o promote wetland conservation, the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) holds an annual contest where artists can enter an original piece of artwork that depicts a waterfowl species (duck, goose, or brant) that occurs in Connecticut. The winning entry each year will be featured on the following year's Connecticut Migratory Bird Conservation Stamp.

## Contest Details

The contest is open to all artists (including Junior Duck Stamp artists), regardless of residence, age, or experience. Artwork may be in any full-color medium, including acrylic, oil, colored pencil, and watercolor. Images that include a Connecticut scene or landmark are preferred. Entries will be judged on originality, artistic composition, anatomical accuracy, general rendering, and suitability for reproduction.

Entries must be received in person or postmarked on or before March 15 of each year to be eligible. Full contest rules and information on where entries should be submitted are available on the DEEP Web site at [www.ct.gov/deep/ctduckstamp](http://www.ct.gov/deep/ctduckstamp) or by calling the DEEP Wildlife Division's Franklin office at 860-642-7239.

## History of CT's Duck Stamp Program

The Connecticut Migratory Bird Conservation Stamp Program is a great example of how conservation works – concerned citizens paying into a program that was formed to protect and enhance vital habitat. The Duck Stamp Program was initiated in the early 1990s when concerned sportsmen worked with the DEEP to develop legislation that would generate revenue for wetland conservation. Modeled after the federal Duck Stamp Program, the Connecticut program requires the purchase of a state Duck Stamp, along with a hunting license, to legally hunt waterfowl in the state. By state law, funds generated from the sale of Duck Stamps can only be used for the development, management, preservation, conservation, acquisition, purchase, and maintenance of waterfowl habitat and wetlands, as well as the purchase and acquisition of recreational rights or interests relating to migratory birds.

Early state Duck Stamps featured waterfowl art from artists across North America. However, since 2003, the stamp has featured designs from local artists. The first Connecticut Duck Stamp debuted in 1993 with a fee of \$5.00. From 1993-2002, the sale of Duck Stamps and prints generated over \$1.2 million in revenue. Print sales gradually declined over time and the print program was discontinued with the 2002 Duck Stamp. Hunters and conservationists have consistently expressed strong support for the Duck Stamp Program and associated conservation projects. The sale of stamps alone currently generates approximately \$50,000 per year.

With the return of full-color artistic Duck Stamps in 2013, art enthusiasts, stamp collectors, and conservationists are encouraged to purchase as many stamps as they wish to provide funds for wetland conservation projects. Full-color prints may also be available at the discretion of the winning artist.