

1991 Canada Duck Stamp: "Late Fall — Black Ducks"

Each spring, the wetlands of Labrador, Quebec and Ontario come alive with the low, husky call of the drake Black Duck as he tries to woo a mate. From one end of a lake to the other, he will chase a female Black Duck during mating season. In a well-concealed nest, the hen will lay as many as a dozen greenish eggs. Once hatched, the young will follow their mother to food, consuming large quantities of insects and plants. At eight weeks of age, however, they are on their own and soon join up with flocks of other youngsters or wandering bachelor Black Ducks. Recently, some biologists have theorized that the Black Duck and the more common Mallard are in fact different variations of the same species of duck, based upon intensive genetic research of both birds. Indeed, the Black Duck is also called the Black Mallard in some regions. Feeding and some nesting habits are strikingly similar and Mallard and Black Duck hybrids are common in the eastern portion of Canada, where the breeding range of the two species overlaps. To help protect the Black Duck's habitat — along with many other habitats vital to the survival of migratory game birds — Wildlife Habitat Canada issued this, its seventh annual Duck Stamp, depicting Chris Bacon's exquisite painting of a pair of handsome Black Ducks.



Don Balke

Don Balke grew up on a backwoods farm in northern Wisconsin where he learned to love the land and its inhabitants. Appropriately, his first painting had a wildlife theme — it was a painting of a black bear he saw in the nearby woods. Ever since, he has been enthusiastically painting the birds, animals and flora of North America. Today, Don Balke is one of the most respected wildlife artists in the United States. He captures the world he loves so much with painstaking attention to detail, and brings total realism and authenticity to his works. This realism makes his works sought after by wildlife enthusiasts, discriminating collectors, and all those who appreciate and enjoy fine wildlife art. His talent is evident with the 1991 Canada Duck Stamp collection.

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"Late Fall — Black Ducks"



Printed in Canada / Printed in Canada / Printed in Canada

Image courtesy of Don Balke



Illustration by John Balte



“Wood Ducks — Spring Mist”



“Back to the Pond — Redheads”

Artist Pierre LeDuc's love of nature led him to pursue a degree in biology, and later a career as a scientific illustrator. Dissatisfied with his work, LeDuc taught himself to paint after being inspired by wildlife artist Jean-Luc Grondin. Marveling at Grondin's ability to "create such beauty with a brush," LeDuc aspired to produce such masterful works himself. The artist's dream of becoming a wildlife painter was realized in 1995 when he was awarded a grant from the Government of Quebec to his artistic talent is revealed in his painting *Back to the Pond – Redheads* – the winning entry in 1995's Wildlife Habitat Canada Stamp and Print Competition. Like many of the world's waterfowl, Redhead Ducks face a loss of wetland habitats due to the advent of encroaching civilization. This, in turn, leads to a reduction in the numbers of creatures that depend on such areas for nesting and survival. Through the sale of stamps such as Canada's 1995 Duck Stamp, much-needed funds are generated to preserve Canadian wetlands and the precious waterfowl that inhabit those regions.



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“Back to the Pond - Redheads”



1994 Canada Duck Stamp: "Morning Light: Ross' Geese"

I have an unforgettable memory of the beautiful contrast between the snow-white plumage of these miniature versions of Snow Geese and the dark-brown colors of tundra and shallow marshland in early fall. The morning light added further dimension to the beauty of these magnificent birds, whose alarmingly small population should be a warning sign to us to save and expand their habitats." Artist Alan Sakavatz's words not only tell of the inspiration for his painting "Morning Light: Ross' Geese," but send a message about a dilemma that many wild creatures face. One of the causes of the world's loss of wetlands has been the advent of encroaching civilization. This, in turn, leads to a reduction in the number of creatures that depend on such environments for their survival. Through the sale of stamps such as Canada's 1994 Duck Stamp, much-needed funds are generated to preserve Canadian wetlands and the precious waterfowl that inhabit those regions.



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©1994 National Duck Stamp Program. Reprinted with permission.



"Morning Light: Ross' Geese"



©1994 National Duck Stamp Program. Reprinted with permission.

Original painting by Don Balke

1993 Canada Duck Stamp: Early Spring: Hooded Merganser

As the first hint of daylight sends shadows across the Canadian countryside, a Hooded Merganser drake begins his darting flight among the trees. Ostentatiously adorned in black and white with a touch of tawny-brown at his sides, the Hooded Merganser drake in breeding plumage is one of the world's most beautiful birds. Shy and elusive, this elegant waterfowl prefers the seclusion of wooded lakes, ponds and streams. It is here, deep in the forest, that the Hooded Merganser hen chooses a suitable tree cavity close to water in which to build her nest. The opening to the nest only needs to be four inches in diameter for the hen to enter. After lining the nest hole with down from her breast, she lays an average of 10 creamy-white eggs which require some four or five weeks of incubation. Within 24 hours of hatching, the ducklings flutter to the ground, sometimes from as high as 75 feet, and head for water with their mother. On the water, they form a tight group that from above resembles a swimming muskrat. Many authorities believe this deceives predators such as birds of prey. Despite this survival tactic, a large percentage of the brood perish before reaching flying age some 70 days later. Designed by wildlife artist Kenneth A. Ferris, Canada's 1993 Duck Stamp features an exquisite rendition of a Hooded Merganser drake. Monies generated through the sale of this Stamp are used to preserve Canada's wetlands.



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© 1993 Canvasback®. "Canvasback: Merganser" C.D. & C.D. 1993



"Early Spring: Hooded Merganser"



© 1993 Canvasback®. "Canvasback: Merganser" C.D. & C.D. 1993

Original artwork by Don Balke

1992 Canada Duck Stamp: Common Eider

The largest duck in the Northern Hemisphere, the Common Eider is a chunky, thick-necked waterbird which appears to lack much of the aerial elegance possessed by other species of duck. With head held below its body during flight, it combines alternate wing flaps with soaring glides in a somewhat graceless — but functional — flight rhythm. The distinctly-colored male is a hartsquipped black and white; the female has a cinnamon-brown body with heavily barred sides. Both sexes have large heads with sloping silhouettes. Except for some gaps in its breeding territory around the periphery of the Arctic Ocean, the Common Eider's range is circumpolar. Pacific eiders tend to winter in the Bering Sea, but most northern Common Eiders winter just south of Greenland, where the sea remains ice-free year round. This duck usually breeds at three years of age, and because the coastal breeding range is so widespread, nesting sites can vary quite a bit. Most Common Eiders nest on small islands or islets near the sea, although some nest on ponds in the tundra. The nest is lined with amazingly soft down, highly covered for commercial use, which sheds from the female's breast. This down, having the best thermal properties of any natural material, provides perfect protection for the clutch, which contains an average of four eggs. After an incubation period ranging from 23 to 30 days, the eggs hatch. When dry, the young leave the nest and make for water with their mother. Sometimes they are accompanied by a non-breeding female called an "aunt."



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"Northern Water: Common Eiders"



1996 Canada Duck Stamp: "Georgian Bay Goldeneyes"

One of Canada's finest wildlife artists, Dwayne Harty, was commissioned by Wildlife Habitat Canada to paint the Goldeneye Duck in its natural surroundings. Harty researched the Goldeneye from the serene yet rugged Georgian Bay in Ontario. "I spent several days amidst the labyrinth of islands and shoals where the Bad River empties into the bay south east of Killarney Park near the Biscuit Islands," Harty recalls that, "There, these striking ducks would gather in raft up just offshore among the outer islands. I watched them shuttling in small groups, and when they flew close enough past me I could hear the whistle of their swift, narrowly-pointed wings." Harty's talents have been featured in several wildlife books, including *An Atlas of Endangered Species in Canada and Mammals of North America*. His art is also part of permanent collections in several museums such as the Royal Ontario Museum, the Royal Saskatchewan Museum and the Wye Marsh Conservation Centre.



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©1996 Wildlife Habitat Canada. Reprinted with permission.



Balke

Georgian Bay Goldeneyes



©1996 Wildlife Habitat Canada. Reprinted with permission.

1997 Canada Duck Stamp: *Spring Pond: Gadwall*

One of the world's foremost wildlife artists, Kerri Burnett has forged an impressive international reputation since graduating from the University of Alberta. Selected by Ducks Unlimited of Canada as the 1995 and 1996 Supplemental Artist, she is one of a handful of Canadians elected to membership in the renowned Society of Animal Artists in New York. The inspiration for her painting of Gadwalls came from a small marsh on the outskirts of her current hometown of Edmonton. "When I began this painting," Burnett recalls, "I was thrilled with the challenge of creating a stamp within a larger composition. What interests me the most about wildlife is the complexity of their natural habitat. This fascination permeates my work. Environmental complexity is the vehicle through which I manipulate colour and form into an exciting artistic composition."



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Spring Pond: Gadwalls





Red-breasted Mergansers First Day of Issue Collection

America is blessed with a host of beautiful migratory birds; multicolored ducks, cacophonous geese, vociferous brants and majestic swans. Each year they announce the changing of the seasons, reminding us, with their unfettered flight, of the ultimate freedom cherished by all Americans.

To help preserve these wonderful gifts of nature, Congress authorized the Department of the Interior to issue an annual revenue stamp beginning in 1934. This Migratory Bird Hunting Stamp -- which funds the purchase of additional habitat areas -- is now popularly known as the Federal Duck Stamp. The Federal Duck Stamp Program has been a smashing success. The monies it has generated over the past six decades have been used to preserve approximately four million acres of wetland habitat in the National Wildlife Refuge System, providing a host of wild creatures with much-needed sanctuaries.

The 1994 Duck Stamp First Day Cover was issued on June 30, 1994 -- the exact First Day of Issue of the 1994 Federal Duck Stamp. This year the stamp features the stately Red-breasted Merganser, painted by renowned wildlife artist Neal Anderson. To complement the stamp, Don Balke -- another highly-acclaimed artist -- has created a spectacular work of art which authentically captures the natural beauty of these handsome creatures. Together, his exquisite artwork and the Red-breasted Mergansers Duck Stamp itself make the 1994 Collector's Panel an unforgettable tribute to America's waterfowl.

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Balke

Red-breasted Mergansers

227/000





Surf Scoters First Day of Issue Collection

America is blessed with a host of beautiful migratory birds: multicolored ducks, cacophonous geese, vociferous brants and majestic swans. Each year they announce the changing of the seasons, reminding us, with their unfettered flight, of the ultimate freedom cherished by all Americans.

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The 1996 Duck Stamp First Day Cover was issued on June 27, 1996 — the exact First Day of Issue of the 1996 Federal Duck Stamp. This year the stamp features the Surf Scoters, painted by renowned wildlife artist Wilhelm Goebel. To complement the stamp, Don Balke — another highly-acclaimed artist — has created a spectacular work of art which authentically captures the natural beauty of these handsome creatures. Together, his exquisite artwork and the Mallards Duck Stamp itself make the 1996 Collector's Panel an unforgettable tribute to America's waterfowl.

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Balke

Surf Scoter

1/27/2003





Mallard Ducks First Day of Issue Collection

America is blessed with a host of beautiful migratory birds: multicolored ducks, cacophonous geese, vociferous brants and majestic swans. Each year they announce the changing of the seasons, reminding us, with their unfettered flight, of the ultimate freedom cherished by all Americans.

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The 1995 Duck Stamp First Day Cover was issued on June 30, 1995 — the exact First Day of Issue of the 1995 Federal Duck Stamp. This year the stamp features the familiar Mallard, painted by renowned wildlife artist Jim Huftman. To complement the stamp, Don Bulke — another highly-acclaimed artist — has created a spectacular work of art which authentically captures the natural beauty of these handsome creatures. Together, his exquisite artwork and the Mallards Duck Stamp itself make the 1995 Collector's Panel an unforgettable tribute to America's waterfowl.

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Bulke

292/1000

Mallard Ducks





Ross's Goose First Day of Issue Collection

North America is blessed with a host of beautiful migratory birds—colorful ducks, cacophonous geese, vociferous brants and majestic swans. Each year they announce the changing seasons as they make their way toward their breeding grounds and nesting areas. These wonderful and diverse waterfowl are welcome reminders of Nature's breathtaking grandeur.

To help preserve these birds and their habitats, Congress authorized the Department of the Interior to issue an annual revenue stamp beginning in 1934. This Migratory Bird Hunting Stamp—which funds the purchase of additional habitat areas—is now popularly known as the Federal Duck Stamp.

Just as America's postage stamps are offered for sale on one special day, so the Federal Duck Stamp is released on one all-important First Day of Issue. Only the duck stamps postmarked with that date are certified First Editions—and make possible the coveted First Day Covers.

The 2006 Duck Stamp First Day Cover is postmarked June 1, 2006—the exact First Day of Issue of the 2006 Federal Duck Stamp. This year the stamp features a close-up of a Ross's Goose in reeds, painted by renowned wildlife artist Sherrie Russell Meline. To complement the stamp, Don Balke—another highly-acclaimed artist—has created a magnificent work of art that authentically captures the natural beauty of this graceful waterfowl. Together, Balke's spectacular artwork and the Ross's Goose stamp make the 2006 Duck Stamp First Day Cover a memorable tribute to America's waterfowl.

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Today Balke is one of the most respected wildlife artists in the United States. He captures the world he loves with painstaking authenticity, bringing total realism to his paintings. His works are sought after by nature enthusiasts, discriminating collectors, and all who appreciate and enjoy fine wildlife art. Balke's remarkable talent is once again revealed in his beautiful painting of a pair of Ross's Geese, created to complement the 2006 Federal Duck Stamp.



Balke

67/1000

Ross's Goose





Hooded Merganser First Day of Issue Collection

North America is blessed with a host of beautiful migratory birds — colorful ducks, cacophonous geese, vociferous brants and majestic swans. Each year they announce the changing seasons as they make their way toward their breeding grounds and nesting areas. These wonderful and diverse waterfowl are welcome reminders of Nature's breathtaking grandeur.

To help preserve these birds and their habitats, Congress authorized the Department of the Interior to issue an annual revenue stamp beginning in 1934. This Migratory Bird Hunting Stamp — which funds the purchase of additional habitat areas — is now popularly known as the Federal Duck Stamp.

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The 2005 Duck Stamp First Day Cover is postmarked June 30, 2005 — the exact First Day of Issue of the 2005 Federal Duck Stamp. This year the stamp features a pair of Hooded Mergansers in breeding plumage on a placid lake painted by renowned wildlife artist Mark Anderson. To complement the stamp, Don Balke — another highly-acclaimed artist — has created a magnificent work of art that authentically captures the natural beauty of this graceful waterfowl. Together, Balke's spectacular artwork and the Hooded Merganser stamp make the 2005 Duck Stamp First Day Cover a memorable tribute to America's waterfowl.

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Balke

76/1000

Hooded Merganser





Northern Pintail First Day of Issue Collection

North America is blessed with a host of beautiful migratory birds — colorful ducks, cacophonous geese, vociferous brants and majestic swans. Each year they announce the changing seasons as they make their way toward their breeding grounds and nesting areas. These wonderful and diverse waterfowl are welcome reminders of Nature's breathtaking grandeur.

To help preserve these birds and their habitats, Congress authorized the Department of the Interior to issue an annual revenue stamp beginning in 1934. This Migratory Bird Hunting Stamp — which funds the purchase of additional habitat areas — is now popularly known as the Federal Duck Stamp.

Just as America's postage stamps are offered for sale on one special day, so the Federal Duck Stamp is released on one all-important First Day of Issue. Only the duck stamps postmarked with that date are certified First Editions — and make possible the coveted First Day Covers.

The 2001 Duck Stamp First Day Cover was issued on June 29, 2001 — the exact First Day of Issue of the 2001 Federal Duck Stamp. This year the stamp features the Northern Pintail painted by renowned wildlife artist Robert Balke. To complement the stamp, Don Balke — another highly-acclaimed artist — has created a magnificent work of art that authentically captures the natural beauty of this graceful waterfowl. Together, Balke's spectacular artwork and the Northern Pintail stamp make the 2001 Duck Stamp First Day Cover a memorable tribute to America's waterfowl.

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Today, Balke is one of the world's most respected wildlife artists in the United States. He captures the world he loves with painstaking authenticity, bringing total realism to his paintings. His works are sought after by nature enthusiasts, discriminating collectors, and all who appreciate and enjoy fine wildlife art. Balke's remarkable talent is once again revealed in his beautiful painting of the graceful Northern Pintail, created to complement the 2001 Federal Duck Stamp.



Balke

Pintail Duck

11/4/2000





Mottled Duck First Day of Issue Collection

America is blessed with a host of beautiful migratory birds — multicolored ducks, cacophonous geese, vociferous brants and majestic swans. Each year they announce the changing of the seasons, reminding us with their unfettered flight of the ultimate freedom cherished by all Americans.

To help preserve these wonderful gifts of nature, Congress authorized the Department of the Interior to issue an annual revenue stamp beginning in 1934. This Migratory Bird Hunting Stamp — which funds the purchase of additional habitat areas — is now popularly known as the Federal Duck Stamp.

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The 2000 Duck Stamp First Day Cover was issued on June 30, 2000 — the exact First Day of Issue of the 2000 Federal Duck Stamp. This year the stamp features the Mottled Duck, painted by renowned wildlife artist Adam Balke. To complement the stamp, Don Balke — another highly-acclaimed artist — has created a spectacular work of art that authentically captures the natural beauty of this creature. Together, Balke's exquisite artwork and the Mottled Duck stamp make the 2000 Duck Stamp First Day Cover an unforgettable tribute to America's waterfowl.

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Balke

104/100

Mottled Duck





Greater Scaup First Day of Issue Collection

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The Federal Duck Stamp Program has been a smashing success. The money it has generated over the past six decades has been used to preserve approximately four million acres of wetland habitat in the National Wildlife Refuge System, providing sanctuary for a host of wild creatures.

The 1999 Duck Stamp Collector's Panel was issued July 1, 1999 — the exact date the 1999 Federal Duck Stamp was issued. This year the stamp features the Greater Scaup, painted by renowned wildlife artist Jim Hautman. To complement the stamp, Don Balke — another highly-acclaimed artist — has created a spectacular work of art that authentically captures the natural beauty of these creatures. Together, Balke's exquisite artwork and the Greater Scaup stamp make the 1999 Duck Stamp Collector's Panel an unforgettable tribute to America's precious waterfowl.

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Greater Scaup





Barrow's Goldeneye First Day of Issue Collection

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The 1998 Duck Stamp First Day Cover was issued July 1, 1998 — the exact date the 1998 Federal Duck Stamp was issued. This year the stamp features Barrow's Goldeneye, painted by renowned wildlife artist Robert Steiner. To complement the stamp, Don Balke — another highly acclaimed artist — has created a spectacular work of art that authentically captures the natural beauty of these handsome creatures. Together, Balke's exquisite artwork and the Barrow's Goldeneye Duck Stamp make the 1998 Duck Stamp Collector's Panel an unforgettable tribute to America's precious waterfowl.

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Barrow's Goldeneye





Canada Goose First Day of Issue Collection

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Just as America's postage stamps are offered for sale on one special day, so the Federal Duck Stamp is released on one all-important First Day of Issue. Only the duck stamps postmarked with that date are certified First Editions — and make possible the coveted First Day Cover.

The 1997 Duck Stamp First Day Cover was issued on June 21, 1997 — the exact First Day of Issue of the 1997 Federal Duck Stamp. This year the stamp features the Canada Goose, painted by renowned wildlife artist Bob Balke. To complete the stamp, Don Balke — another highly-acclaimed artist — has created a spectacular work of art that authentically captures the natural beauty of this handsome creature. Together, Balke's exquisite artwork and the Canada Goose Duck Stamp make the 1997 Duck Stamp First Day Cover an unforgettable tribute to America's waterfowl.

Don Balke grew up on a backwoods farm in northern Wisconsin where he came to love the land and its inhabitants. Appropriately, his first painting had a wildlife theme . . . depicting a black bear he saw in a nearby woods. Ever since, Balke has enthusiastically and realistically painted the birds, animals and flora of North America.

Today, Balke is one of the most respected wildlife artists in the United States. He captures the world he loves so much with painstaking attention to detail, endowing his works with total realism and authenticity. His penchant for detail makes his art sought after by nature enthusiasts, discriminating collectors, and all who appreciate and enjoy fine wildlife art. His unsurpassed talent is once again revealed in the breathtaking painting of the Canada Goose, created to complement the 1997 Federal Duck Stamp.



Balke

99/1000

Canada Goose





Black-bellied Whistling Duck First Day of Issue Collection

America's beautiful Migratory Birds ... the multi-colored Ducks ... the cacophonous Geese, and their smaller cousin, the Brants ... the majestic Swans ... each year they announce the changing of the seasons while reminding us, with their unfettered flight, of the ultimate freedom cherished by each American.

To help preserve these wonderful gifts of nature — by purchasing additional habitat areas — Congress, in 1934, authorized the Department of the Interior to issue an annual revenue stamp, the Migratory Bird Hunting Stamp, now popularly known as the *Federal Duck Stamp*.

The 1990 Duck Stamp, the *Black-bellied Whistling Duck*, was issued on June 30, 1990. To complement the Stamp, wildlife artist Don Balke created a magnificent work of art which captures the natural beauty of the *Black-bellied Whistling Duck*. Together, this remarkable art and the *Black-bellied Whistling Duck* Stamp make the 1990 Duck Stamp Mint Stamp Collector's Panel a memorable tribute to America's untamed native birds.

Don Balke

Don Balke grew up on a backwoods farm in northern Wisconsin where he learned to love the land and its inhabitants. Appropriately, his first painting had a wildlife theme ... it was a painting of a black bear he saw in the nearby woods. Ever since, he has been enthusiastically painting the birds, animals and flora of North America.

Today, Don Balke is one of the most respected wildlife artists in the United States. He captures the world he loves so much with painstaking attention to detail, and brings total realism and authenticity to his works. This realism makes his works sought after by wildlife enthusiasts, discriminating collectors, and all those who appreciate and enjoy fine wildlife art. He demonstrates his unsurpassed talent as he portrays the subtle color and splendor of the *Black-bellied Whistling Duck* in the 1990 Duck Stamp First Day of Issue collection.



Black-bellied Whistling Ducks





Lesser Scaup First Day of Issue Collection

America's beautiful Migratory Birds ... the multi-colored Ducks ... the cacophonous Geese, and their smaller cousin, the Brants ... the majestic Swans ... each year they announce the changing of the seasons — while reminding us, with their unfettered flight, of the ultimate freedom cherished by each American.

To help preserve these wonderful gifts of nature — by purchasing additional habitat areas — Congress, in 1934, authorized the Department of the Interior to issue an annual revenue stamp, the Migratory Bird Hunting Stamp, now popularly known as the Federal Duck Stamp.

The 1989 Duck Stamp, the *Lesser Scaup*, was issued on June 30, 1989. To complement the Stamp, wildlife artist Don Balke created a magnificent work of art which captures the natural beauty of the *Lesser Scaup*. Together, this remarkable art and the *Lesser Scaup* Stamp make the 1989 Duck Stamp-Mint Stamp Collector's Panel a memorable tribute to America's untamed native birds.

Don Balke

Don Balke grew up on a backwoods farm in northern Wisconsin where he learned to love the land and its inhabitants. Appropriately, his first painting had a wildlife theme ... it was a painting of a black bear he saw in the nearby woods. Ever since, he has been enthusiastically painting the birds, animals and flora of North America.

Today, Don Balke is one of the most respected wildlife artists in the United States. He captures the world he loves so much with painstaking attention to detail, and brings total realism and authenticity to his works.

This realism makes his works sought after by wildlife enthusiasts, discriminating collectors, and all those who appreciate and enjoy fine wildlife art. He demonstrates his unsurpassed talent as he portrays the exquisite color and splendor of the *Lesser Scaup* in the 1989 Duck Stamp First Day of Issue collection.



Lesser Scaup





Redhead First Day of Issue Collection

North America is blessed with a host of beautiful migratory birds — colorful ducks, cacophonous geese, vociferous brants and majestic swans. Each year they announce the changing seasons as they make their way toward their breeding grounds and nesting areas. These wonderful and diverse waterfowl are welcome reminders of Nature's breathtaking grandeur.

To help preserve these birds and their habitats, Congress authorized the Department of the Interior to issue an annual revenue stamp beginning in 1934. This Migratory Bird Hunting Stamp — which funds the purchase of additional habitat areas — is now popularly known as the Federal Duck Stamp.

Just as America's postage stamps are offered for sale on one special day, so the Federal Duck Stamp is released on one all-important First Day of Issue. Only the duck stamps postmarked with that date are certified First Editions — and make possible the coveted First Day Covers.

The 2004 Duck Stamp First Day Cover is postmarked July 1, 2004 — the exact First Day of Issue of the 2004 Federal Duck Stamp. This year the stamp features a pair of Redheads in flight painted by renowned wildlife artist Scot Storm. To complement the stamp, Don Bulke — another highly-acclaimed artist — has created a magnificent work of art that authentically captures the natural beauty of this graceful waterfowl. Together, Bulke's spectacular artwork and the Redhead stamp make the 2004 Duck Stamp First Day Cover a memorable tribute to America's waterfowl.

Don Bulke grew up on a backwoods farm in northern Wisconsin where he came to love the land and its inhabitants. From an early age he was drawn to wildlife themes and his first painting depicted a black bear he saw in a nearby woods. Ever since, Bulke has enthusiastically and realistically painted birds, animals and flora of North America.

Today, Bulke is one of the most respected wildlife artists in the United States. He captures the world he loves with painstaking authenticity, bringing total realism to his paintings. His works are sought after by nature enthusiasts, discriminating collectors, and all who appreciate and enjoy fine wildlife art. Bulke's remarkable talent is once again revealed in his beautiful painting of a pair of Redheads, created to complement the 2004 Federal Duck Stamp.



Bulke

Redhead

12/1000





Snow Goose First Day of Issue Collection

North America is blessed with a host of beautiful migratory birds — colorful ducks, cacophonous geese, vociferous brants and majestic swans. Each year they announce the changing seasons as they make their way toward their breeding grounds and nesting areas. These wonderful and diverse waterfowl are welcome reminders of Nature's breathtaking grandeur.

To help preserve these birds and their habitats, Congress authorized the Department of the Interior to issue an annual revenue stamp beginning in 1934. This Migratory Bird Hunting Stamp — which funds the purchase of additional habitat areas — is now popularly known as the Federal Duck Stamp.

Just as America's postage stamps are offered for sale on one special day, so the Federal Duck Stamp is released on one all-important First Day of Issue. Only the duck stamps postmarked with that date are certified First Editions — and make possible the coveted First Day Covers.

The 2003 Duck Stamp First Day Cover was issued on July 1, 2003 — the exact First Day of Issue of the 2003 Federal Duck Stamp. This year the stamp features the Snow Goose painted by renowned wildlife artist Ron Louaque. To complement the stamp, Don Balke — another highly-acclaimed artist — has created a magnificent work of art that authentically captures the natural beauty of this graceful waterfowl. Together, Balke's spectacular artwork and the Snow Goose stamp make the 2003 Duck Stamp First Day Cover a memorable tribute to America's waterfowl.

Don Balke grew up on a backwoods farm in northern Wisconsin where he came to love the land and its inhabitants. From an early age he was drawn to wildlife themes and his first painting depicted a black bear he saw in a nearby woods. Ever since, Balke has enthusiastically and realistically painted birds, animals and flora of North America.

Today, Balke is one of the most respected wildlife artists in the United States. He captures the world he lives with painstaking authenticity, bringing total realism to his paintings. His works are sought after by nature enthusiasts, discriminating collectors, and all who appreciate and enjoy fine wildlife art. Balke's remarkable talent is once again revealed in his beautiful painting of the Snow Goose, created to complement the 2003 Federal Duck Stamp.



Balke

Snow Goose

26/1000





Black Scoter First Day of Issue Collection

North America is blessed with a host of beautiful migratory birds — colorful ducks, cacophonous geese, scissortailed kites and magpie swans. Each year they announce the changing seasons as they make their way home and their breeding grounds and nesting areas. These wonderful and diverse waterfowl are welcome reminders of Nature's breathtaking grandeur.

To help preserve these birds and their habitats, Congress authorized the Department of the Interior to issue an annual revenue stamp beginning in 1934. This Migratory Bird Hunting Stamp — which funds the purchase of additional habitat areas — is now popularly known as the Federal Duck Stamp.

Just as America's postage stamps are offered for sale on one special day, so the Federal Duck Stamp is released on one all-important First Day of Issue. Only the duck stamps postmarked with that date are certified First Editions — and make possible the coveted First Day Covers.

The 2002 Duck Stamp First Day Cover was issued on July 1, 2002 — the exact First Day of Issue of the 2002 Federal Duck Stamp. This year the stamp features the Black Scoter painted by renowned wildlife artist Joseph Baile. To complement the stamp, Don Balke — another highly-acclaimed artist — has created a magnificent work of art that authentically captures the natural beauty of this graceful waterfowl. Together, Baile's spectacular artwork and the Black Scoter stamp make the 2002 Duck Stamp First Day Cover a memorable tribute to America's waterfowl.

Don Balke grew up on a backwoods farm in northern Wisconsin where he came to love the land and its inhabitants. From an early age he was drawn to wildlife themes and his first painting depicted a black bear he saw in a nearby woods. Ever since, Balke has enthusiastically and realistically painted birds, animals and flora of North America.

Today, Balke is one of the world's most respected wildlife artists in the United States. He captures the world he loves with painstaking authenticity, bringing total realism to his paintings. His works are sought after by nature enthusiasts, discriminating collectors, and all who appreciate and enjoy fine wildlife art. Balke's remarkable talent is once again revealed in his beautiful painting of the Black Scoter, created to complement the 2002 Federal Duck Stamp.



Baile

Black Scoter

9/1/00





Canvasbacks First Day of Issue Collection

America is blessed with a host of beautiful migratory birds: multi-colored ducks, cacophonous geese, vociferous brants, majestic swans. Each year they announce the changing of the seasons, reminding us, with their unfettered flight, of the ultimate freedom cherished by all Americans.

To help preserve these wonderful gifts of nature, Congress authorized the Department of the Interior to issue an annual revenue stamp beginning in 1934. This Migratory Bird Hunting Stamp — which funds the purchase of additional habitat areas — is now popularly known as the Federal Duck Stamp.

The Federal Duck Stamp Program has been a smashing success. The monies it has generated over the past six decades have been used to preserve approximately four million acres of wetland habitat in the National Wildlife Refuge System, providing a host of wild creatures with much-needed sanctuary.

This 1993 Collector's Panel was issued on June 30, 1993 — the exact date the 1993 Federal Duck Stamp was issued. This year's Stamp features a detailed depiction of Canvasbacks by Bruce Miller. To complement the Stamp, wildlife artist Don Balke created a magnificent work of art which captures the natural beauty of Canvasbacks. Together, this remarkable art and the beautiful Duck Stamp itself make the 1993 Collector's Panel a memorable tribute to America's waterfowl.

Don Balke

Don Balke grew up on a backwoods farm in northern Wisconsin where he came to love the land and its inhabitants. Appropriately, his first painting had a wildlife theme — depicting a black bear he saw in a nearby woods. Ever since, Balke has enthusiastically and realistically painted the birds, animals and flora of North America.

Today, Balke is one of the most respected wildlife artists in the United States. He captures the world he loves so much with painstaking attention to detail, and brings total realism and authenticity to his works. His penchant for detail makes his works sought after by wildlife enthusiasts, discriminating collectors and all who appreciate and enjoy fine wildlife art. He demonstrates his unsurpassed talent as he portrays the grace and beauty of Canvasbacks in this outstanding work of art.



Canvasbacks





Spectacled Eider First Day of Issue Collection

America is blessed with a host of beautiful migratory birds: multi-colored ducks, cacophonous geese, vociferous brants, majestic swans; each year they announce the changing of the seasons. They remind us, with their unfettered flight, of the ultimate freedom cherished by each American.

To help preserve these wonderful gifts of nature — by purchasing additional habitat areas — Congress, in 1934, authorized the Department of the Interior to issue an annual revenue stamp, the Migratory Bird Hunting Stamp, now popularly known as the *Federal Duck Stamp*.

Just as America's postage stamps are first offered for sale on one special day, so the Federal Duck Stamps are annually released on one all-important First Day of Issue. Only the duck stamps postmarked with that date are certified as First Editions — and make possible the coveted First Day Covers.

The 1992 Duck Stamp Presentation First Day Cover was issued on June 30, 1992 — the precise First Day of Issue of the 1992 Federal Duck Stamp, *Spectacled Eider* by Joseph Hautman. To complement the stamp, wildlife artist Don Balke created a magnificent work of art which captures the natural beauty of the *Spectacled Eider*. Together, this remarkable art and the *Spectacled Eider* Duck Stamp make the 1992 Duck Stamp Mint Stamp Collector's Panel a memorable tribute to America's wild native birds.

Don Balke

Don Balke grew up on a backwoods farm in northern Wisconsin where he learned to love the land and its inhabitants. Appropriately, his first painting had a wildlife theme... it was a painting of a black bear he saw in the nearby woods. Ever since, he has been enthusiastically painting the birds, animals and flora of North America.

Today, Don Balke is one of the most respected wildlife artists in the United States. He captures the world he loves so much with painstaking attention to detail, and brings total realism and authenticity to his works. This realism makes his works sought after by wildlife enthusiasts, discriminating collectors and all those who appreciate and enjoy fine wildlife art. He demonstrates his unsurpassed talent as he portrays the striking color and splendor of the *Spectacled Eider* in the 1992 Duck Stamp First Day of Issue collection.



Balke)

5/3/2003

Spectacled Eider





King Eider First Day of Issue Collection

America's beautiful Migratory Birds ... the multi-colored Ducks ... the cacophonous Geese, and their smaller cousin, the Brants ... the majestic Swans ... each year they announce the changing of the seasons — while reminding us, with their unfettered flight, of the ultimate freedom cherished by each American.

To help preserve these wonderful gifts of nature — by purchasing additional habitat areas — Congress, in 1934, authorized the Department of the Interior to issue an annual revenue stamp, the Migratory Bird Hunting Stamp, now popularly known as the *Federal Duck Stamp*.

The 1991 Duck Stamp, *King Eiders*, was issued on June 30, 1991. To complement the Stamp, wildlife artist Don Balke created a magnificent work of art which captures the natural beauty of the *King Eider*. Together, this remarkable art and the *King Eiders* Duck Stamp make the 1991 Duck Stamp Mint Stamp Collector's Panel a memorable tribute to America's untamed native birds.

Don Balke

Don Balke grew up on a backwoods farm in northern Wisconsin where he learned to love the land and its inhabitants. Appropriately, his first painting had a wildlife theme ... it was a painting of a black bear he saw in the nearby woods. Ever since, he has been enthusiastically painting the birds, animals and flora of North America.

Today, Don Balke is one of the most respected wildlife artists in the United States. He captures the world he loves so much with painstaking attention to detail, and brings total realism and authenticity to his works. This realism makes his works sought after by wildlife enthusiasts, discriminating collectors, and all those who appreciate and enjoy fine wildlife art. He demonstrates his unsurpassed talent as he portrays the striking color and splendor of the *King Eider* in the 1991 Duck Stamp *First Day of Issue* collection.



King Eiders

