



Art Image: 2025 WHC Art Competition winner -
"Northern Bound - Greater Scaup" by Ken Ferris

ART COMPETITION INFORMATION

Canadian Wildlife Habitat Conservation Stamp and Print Art Competition

Wildlife Habitat Canada proudly announces the species selected for the
2027 Canadian Wildlife Habitat Conservation Stamp:
the Black Scoter (*Melanitta americana*)

How to Participate:

New wildlife artists: Submit samples of your work to
jcollard@whc.org for consideration

Invited Wildlife Artists: Submit your Intent to Participate at
<https://whc.org/the-stamp/art-competition/>

Dates to Remember:

Intent to Participate due **August 1, 2025**

Original pieces of art due to WHC by **October 24, 2025**

Prize:

\$5,000 first place cash prize

\$2,000 second place cash prize

\$1,000 third place cash prize



*The inaugural painting in 1985 by Robert Bateman
"Mallard Pair - Early Winter"*

PROGRAM BACKGROUND

Each year, it begins with a national wildlife art competition - Canadian wildlife artists submit their painting to WHC in hopes that it will be selected to appear on the Canadian Wildlife Habitat Conservation Stamp and Print.

A panel of experts is brought together to view and judge the entries submitted. The judges are a mix of subject matter experts in areas of the selected species, habitat, art, stamp production, and a representative from Environment and Climate Change Canada.

Paintings are judged anonymously (meaning the judges don't know who painted which entry).

The winning painting is reproduced into art prints and miniaturized into stamp form! This Stamp is available for purchase as a collector's item, and is also affixed to validate the Canadian Migratory Game Bird Hunting Permit (which is purchased primarily by waterfowl hunters).

Every year, we select the eligible waterfowl or migratory game bird species. This year it is the *Black Scoter* (*Melanitta americana*).

This Stamp has generated over \$64 million in funds that WHC has been able to invest to support more than 1,600 conservation projects! Who knew art could support conservation!?



Art Image: 2022 WHC Art Competition winner -
"Nordic Light - White-fronted Geese" by Pierre Girard

WHAT WE DO

Wildlife Habitat Canada is a national, not-for-profit, non-governmental, charitable conservation organization that was established in 1984. We provide grant funding to like-minded conservation organizations across Canada. One of our grant programs is funded by the sale of the Conservation Stamp, which starts annually with Wildlife Habitat Canada's national wildlife art competition.

The Grant Programs we currently offer:

- **The Habitat Conservation Stamp Initiative:** This program supports habitat conservation, restoration and/or enhancement or stewardship projects (funding requests up to \$150,000) with a focus on wetlands, waterfowl and migratory game birds. This program is funded from the sale of the Conservation Stamp!
- **Land Trusts Conservation Fund** (*under the Natural Heritage Conservation Plan*): This program supports Canadian charity land trusts in securing land that contributes to the achievement of the terrestrial and inland water elements of Target 1 of Canada's Biodiversity Goals and Targets and the protection of habitat for the recovery of Species at Risk.
- **Community Conservation Action Program:** This program supports small(er) organizations (funding requests up to \$10,000) in making conservation achievements within their community, through projects that connect Canadians with nature, engage youth in conservation, or provide educational conservation programming.





Art Image: 2011 WHC Art Competition winner -
"Along the Edgewater - American Wigeon"
by W. Allan Hancock

ELIGIBILITY

Eligible Recipients of the Art Competition are:



- Canadian Residents;
- Landed immigrants;
- If the participant is under the age of 18, a letter of consent by the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) is required with the Intent to Participate submission.

Ineligible Recipients of the Art Competition include but are not limited to:



- International organizations or individuals;
- Persons who have previously won the Competition or those who were commissioned to produce a Conservation Stamp painting during the past 3 years;
- Members of the Competition judging panel, employees and members of the Board of Directors of WHC, employees of the Federal Department of the Environment or Members of Parliament and their immediate families and relatives.





COMMUNICATIONS

*Art Image: 2019 WHC Art Competition winner -
"Blue - Canvasback" by Claude Thivierge*

Artist Permissions

- All artists are permitted to share their creation processes publicly leading up to the competition through social media and otherwise.
- First, second and third place artists are not permitted to share the artwork entered into the competition until after the official stamp launch on April 1, 2027.
- Non-winning artists are permitted to share their entries after they have been informed of competition results as long as there is no mention of competition results whatsoever.
- Non-winning artists shall not sell, reproduce or publicly display their entry until after the official stamp launch on April 1, 2027

WHC is always happy to engage with artists online and appreciate any recognition of the organization or the Canadian Wildlife Habitat Conservation Stamp and Print Program. For logo use please contact WHC's Communications and Marketing Coordinator, Kim Cranfield, at kcranfield@whc.org.

For more information on artist permissions regarding communications and WHC's copyright agreement, please see the Artist Agreement available on the [WHC website](#).





WINNING PRIZE

Art Image: 2008 WHC Art Competition winner -
"Lilly Pond - Ruddy Ducks" by Patricia Pepin

Prizes/Perks to the winning artist include:

- A \$5,000 cash prize from WHC
- Commission of WHC sales of select products (received in quarterly cheques)
- Painting in stamp form affixed to the Migratory Game Bird Hunting Permit
- Artwork inclusion on international and nationally distributed reports such as Habitat Matters and the Wildlife Habitat Canada Annual Report



The winning artist can proudly say that they are directly supporting the efforts of Canadian conservation! With our art competition, every year, Wildlife Habitat Canada brings art and conservation together. The sale of the winning artist's work will provide valuable funds for Wildlife Habitat Canada to support like-minded conservation organizations across Canada.





OTHER PRIZES & MORE

Runner-Up and Third Place Prizes

In 2022, WHC introduced prize amounts for the runner-up and 3rd place submissions to better celebrate the artists contributions to the competition. In addition to the \$5,000 first place prize, a 2nd place prize of \$2,000 and a 3rd place prize of \$1,000 have also been implemented.

Shipping Coverage

WHC is committed to supporting Canadian wildlife artists to the fullest extent possible. Shipping fees to and from the WHC office will continue to be covered for each participating artist. WHC has reinstated the artist entry fee to offset the costs of shipping nationally, as well as the costs associated with competition delivery. The artist fee, valued at \$35, is payable through the Intent to Participate form via the WHC website before requesting a shipping.

When artists are ready to ship their painting, please contact Jennifer Collard, Acting Project Manager for Stamp and CCAP, at jcollard@whc.org. We will arrange a shipping label that will be sent to you to be attached to your package and will schedule a pick up by Purolator.





Art Image: 2016 WHC Art Competition winner - "Offshore Wind - Surf Scoters" by Pierre Leduc

THE SPECIES

Black Scoter (*Melanitta americana*)

The Northern Shoveler is a medium-sized stocky sea duck that can be found on the Atlantic and Pacific Coasts of North America. They breed in the Northern Boreal forest on the shores of shallow lakes with rocky bottoms.

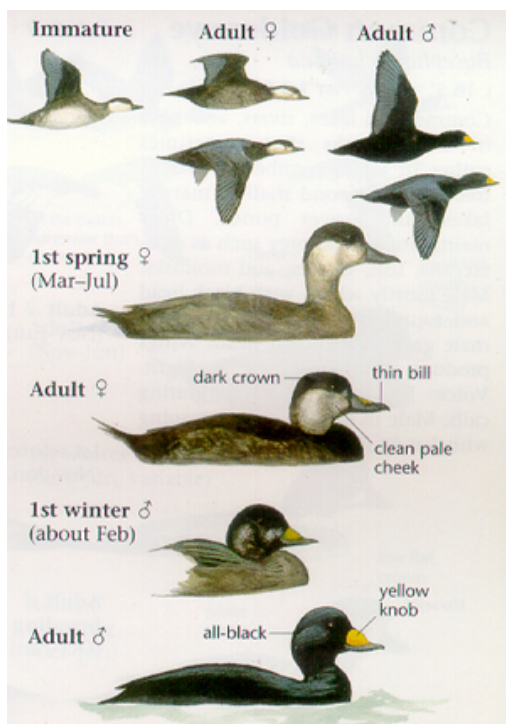


Photo Credit: <http://www.swartzentrover.com>

Features to consider when painting:

- The Competition guidelines specify a mated pair in breeding plumage.
- Body Shape: medium-sized stocky sea duck
- Breeding males can be identified by rich black feathers, with a black beak and with a bright yellow knob
- Females are brown with a lighter, pale cheeks and a brown crown



Breeding Pair

Photo Credit: <https://seaduckjv.org/population-delineation-migratory-connectivity-and-habitat-use-of-atlantic-scoters-black-scoters/>



THE HABITAT

Black Scoter (*Melanitta americana*)

Black Scoters are ground nesting birds that nest near the edges of shallow, small lakes with emerging vegetation and rocky bottoms.

They nest in the Boreal Forest in the far North, both in the Western and Eastern parts of North America.

The Western population breeds in Alaska and Northern Yukon, and winters along the Pacific Coast. The Atlantic population breeds in the Northwest Territories, and the northern regions of Manitoba, Ontario, and Quebec, as well as Newfoundland and Labrador. This population winters along the Atlantic Coast, as well as the Great Lakes.

Your painting should have accurate, realistic and definitive habitat. This means correct seasonality and greenery for the time of year you are portraying. Please do not include invasive plant species.

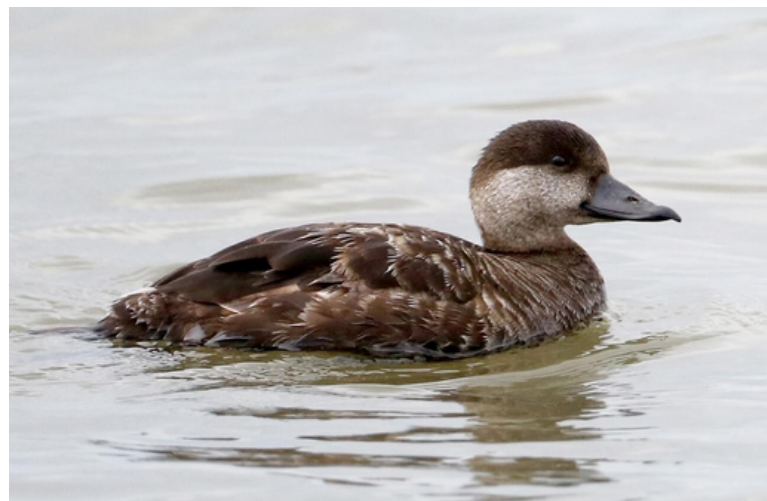
Adult Male - Black Scoter

Photo Credit: <https://www.audubon.org/field-guide/bird/black-scoter>



Male in Breeding plumage: Black Scoter

Photo Credit: <https://www.allaboutbirds.org>



Female in Breeding plumage: Black Scoter

Photo Credit: <https://www.allaboutbirds.org>



Art Image: 2009 WHC Art Competition winner -
"Northern Wetlands - Lesser Scaup" by Robert Bateman

TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS

Size Requirements:

- Horizontal design
- Created on a flat, hard surface that can stand upright on an easel with little to no assistance.
- Submissions must be one of the following to be accepted:
 - 12"*18" | 12"*16" | 11"*14" | 6"*8"
- Submissions must be properly proportioned to accommodate reproduction sizes:
 - Limited Edition Art Print Reproductions:
 - 165.1 mm high * 228.6mm wide (6 1/2" high * 9" wide)
 - Miniaturized into a Conservation Stamp:
 - 30 mm high * 48 mm wide (1 1/4" high * 2" wide)

Composition:

- The painting is required to have a corner of consistent contrast (a "tranquil" area) of approximately 7.5"*4" in one corner to allow for the required Stamp text)



Original 2023 Winning Image

Final 2023 Stamp



Art Image: 2017 WHC Art Competition winner -
"Tranquil Waters - Canada Geese" by Angela Lorenzen

TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS

Mediums:

- Entries must be an original multi-coloured painting in the artist's choice of medium
 - No digital, pastel or mechanical reproduction is permitted.
 - Use of Artificial Intelligence will result in the painting being disqualified

Identification:

- **No signature, date or initials may appear on the face or backing of the painting**
 - Our judging process is 100% anonymous
 - Each entry is identified by a number (photographed and labelled with the number)
 - If your entry is selected, it will be returned to you for signature.



Framing:

- **No framing - submit your piece unframed.**
 - Safe packaging and a plexiglass cover for protection is encouraged
 - If there is an exhibit of the competition entries, WHC will provide the appropriate display/temporary framing





Art Image: 2010 WHC Art Competition winner -
"Springtime in the Marsh - Green Winged Teal" by Pierre Girard

STAMP CROPPING

Reduction of the Painting:

The winning painting will be reduced to Stamp size. The most common reason for elimination in the first round of judging is the challenge of miniaturizing the painting.

The painting must be painted in such a way that:

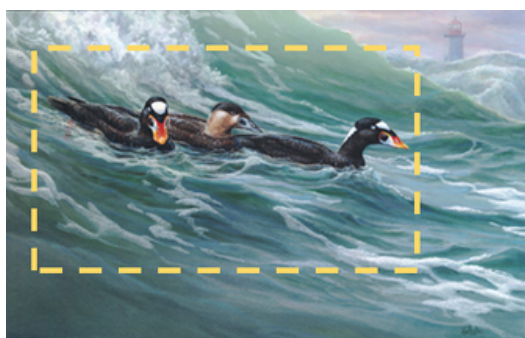
- The birds can be reduced to a miniature size and still be visible
- The painting is not too dark, busy or low contrast

Additional Considerations:

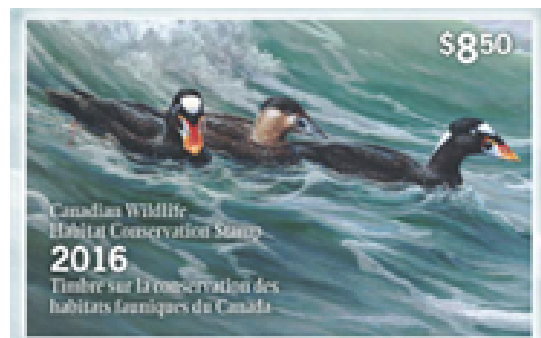
Depending on the composition of the winning painting, the Stamp could be designed in one of two formats

1. The entire painting is used to create the Stamp; or,
2. The painting is cropped to create the Stamp (example of our 2016 Stamp, below).

Note: The art prints are created from the entire painting image.



Original 2016 Winning Image



Final Cropped 2016 Stamp



PAINTING SUBMISSION

*Art Image: 2000 WHC Art Competition winner -
"Change of Seasons - Sandhill Cranes" by Ken Ferris*

New Wildlife Artists:

- Submit interest and samples of work to Jen at jcollard@whc.org.
 - Samples should include examples of realism with different species and landscape/habitat.
 - WHC will review your samples and let you know if you've been invited to participate!

Invited Wildlife Artists:

- Intent to Participate:
 - Submit your intent to participate form online no later than **August 1, 2025**.
- Submission to WHC by **October 24, 2025**:
 - Original painting of the Black Scoter (No pastel, mechanical, AI or digital art)
 - Signed Artist Agreement (Can be submitted via email or printed and included in submission package)
 - Paid registration fee (\$35)

Submit your **Intent to Participate** between **July 11, 2025** and **August 1, 2025**.

Deadline to submit pieces of art to WHC: October 24, 2025



Art Image: 2018 WHC Art Competition winner -
"Autumn Colours - Wood Duck" by Pierre Girard

SELECTION PROCESS

Original paintings marked for delivery on or before October 24, 2025 will be considered for the 2027 Canadian Wildlife Habitat Conservation Stamp Art Competition.

WHC has made the transition back to in-person art competitions after hosting only virtual events during the pandemic. This year's competition will be held in-person in Ottawa in November 2025. Five judges will attend the event and select a winning painting to be featured on the 2027 Canadian Wildlife Habitat Conservation Stamp and Print. **Your painting will be scored based on the following criteria:**

- Accuracy of the species anatomy and habitat (breeding plumage, correct landscape)
- Ability of your composition to maintain details when miniaturized to Stamp size
- Artistic composition (realism, fresh perspective, use of light, colour, technique)
- Originality (appeal to art and stamp collectors and waterfowl hunters)
- Size of the painting (sizes listed under "Technical Requirements")

Questions?

If you require any further information, or assistance in completing your applications, please contact Jennifer Collard, Acting Project Manager at jcollard@whc.org.

