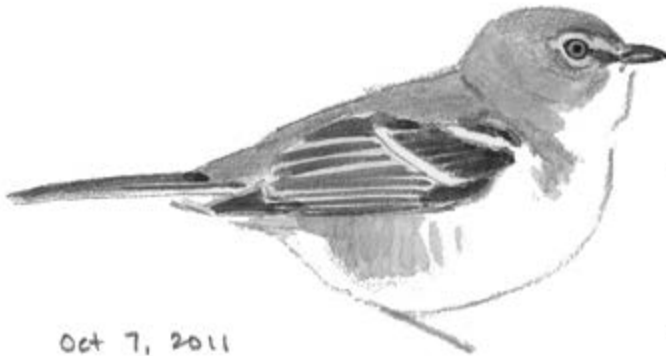


# Bird Observer

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White-eyed  
Vireo  
- without the  
white-eye!

- 2 first year  
bird

Oct 7, 2011

in "the Grove",  
Salisbury

Flanks washed  
w/ strong  
lemon



- very subtle  
color shifts  
gray/olive  
white  
on head



we saw two  
birds in this plumage,  
today - here and at  
P.I.

# Connecting Children with Nature through Science and Art: Junior Duck Stamp Program Marks 20 Years in Massachusetts

*Pam Landry*



*Trumpeter Swan* by Xiaomei Chen, Grade 12. Junior Duck Stamp Best of Show from Massachusetts and Top 25 National. (All images are courtesy of the author.)

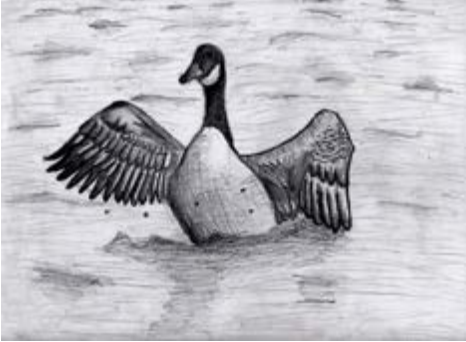
You can be a significant part of the celebration of youth, art, and conservation as 2015 marks the 20th anniversary of the Junior Duck Stamp Program in Massachusetts. To help increase the statewide flock of youth artists, I invite birders, sportsmen, educators, parents, grandparents, and others to encourage, cultivate and support youth who have an innate interest in art and conservation. Take a child outdoors to observe waterfowl and be part of reconnecting youth creatively with the natural world. They are the future!

Students in grades K-12 from across the Commonwealth of Massachusetts have submitted more than 12,500 entries since 1995. Teachers and parents incorporate the program into various education settings including public, private, and home schools, art studios, art museums, after-school programs, libraries, zoos, scouts, boys and girls clubs, and sportsmen's clubs. Nationally, more than 29,400 students participate annually from all 50 states, Washington, DC, and several US territories.

Since 1934, licensed waterfowl hunters must have a waterfowl stamp known as the Federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp, or Duck Stamp. In Massachusetts, licensed waterfowl hunters must also purchase a state waterfowl stamp. The \$15 Federal Duck Stamp has generated over \$850 million, which has been used to acquire more than 6.5 million acres of important wetland and associated upland habitat. In 1994 Congress passed the Junior Duck Stamp Conservation and Design Program Act authorizing the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service to sponsor the Junior Duck Stamp program and produce the Junior Duck Stamp.

The Junior Duck Stamp is a pictorial stamp produced by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to recognize the conservation efforts of students and support environmental and conservation education programs. Sold by the U.S. Postal Service <<http://www.usps.com>> and Amplex Corporation <<http://www.duckstamp.com>>, the \$5 stamp is purchased by birders, conservationists, wildlife art and stamp collectors, students, hunters, educators—any citizen can purchase a Junior Duck Stamp! Funds generated are re-invested in the program to fund environmental education efforts, provide awards

for the students, teachers, and schools that participate in the program, and market the JDS program.



*Canada Goose* by Chloe Zastrow (Honorable Mention, Grades 7-9)

The purpose of the Junior Duck Stamp Conservation and Design Program <<http://www.fws.gov/juniorduck/>> is to teach “Conservation through the Arts” and to acquaint youth with one of the most successful wildlife conservation programs in the history of the nation—duck stamps. This pairing of subjects—science and arts—promotes a greater awareness of our nation’s natural resources and provides our youth with a deeper appreciation, knowledge, and understanding of wildlife and the natural world. Students express their knowledge of the beauty, diversity,

and interdependence of waterfowl artistically by creating a drawing or painting, which they submit to their state Junior Duck art contest.

Each state assembles a panel of talented artists with widely ranging areas of expertise to select its winners; judges include veteran birders, international wildlife artists, waterfowl carvers, professional nature photographers, waterfowl hunters, and entrants and winners of past state waterfowl stamp contests. They judge the entries according to grade level: grades K-3, grades 4-6, grades 7-9, and grades 10-12. The judges select the top 100 pieces of art (three 1<sup>st</sup>, three 2<sup>nd</sup>, three 3<sup>rd</sup>, and sixteen honorable mention in each of the four grade categories) using several criteria: original design, anatomical accuracy, colors, artistic composition, and suitability for reproduction as a stamp. Next, each panel chooses its state’s best of show from the twelve first-place finishers, which then represents the state at the national judging. The artwork of the first place national winner of the contest graces that year’s junior duck stamp.

Artists who submit an official entry receive a certificate of appreciation and the top 100 artists receive additional recognition and prizes at an awards ceremony. In Massachusetts, a combination of the top pieces of artwork go on tour as part of a yearlong traveling exhibit to various venues across the Commonwealth. For an exhibit schedule visit MassWildlife’s website <<http://www.masswildlife.org>>. The state entry judged “Best of Show” tours with the national exhibit <<http://www.fws.gov/juniorduck/ArtTour.htm>>.

With all the components of coordinating a statewide program it is sometimes difficult to determine how or if the Massachusetts Junior Duck Stamp Program will have an impact on a student’s life. The impact is revealed when past participants state that they are now teachers and are sharing their excitement, knowledge, and experience with their students who are submitting entries:

I'm excited to get to work on these with my students! I grew up in New Jersey (my grandfather has a decoy collection of over 300 birds) and placed second for my age group three years in a row—nothing that impressive, but it was very meaningful and encouraging to me at the time. So much so, that my rule as an art teacher is that all of my students' first paintings must be of a duck! It teaches students to do a wash for the sky, water techniques, and solid lines and patterns on the bird, using light and dark to convey shape (Rachel Fondell, Covenant Christian Academy)

Another teacher, Marina Raybman of Chestnut Hill Art Studio is equally enthusiastic:

Coaching my students through the Junior National Duck Stamp Competition is a delight. They get to learn the finer aspects of painting using a subject that brings them closer to nature, pushes them to make deep observations of their environment, and ignites their sense of inquiry.

Students of all abilities enjoy and benefit from the Massachusetts Junior Duck Stamp program, as well as learn about conservation and art. They begin the process by following the guidelines set forth in the official contest brochure and by selecting a permitted waterfowl species from the list provided. Extensive research of this species allows students to ascertain the habitat, behavior, plumage, colors, and anatomy so that they can best depict the waterfowl in its natural environment. The program encourages students to spend time outdoors photographing waterfowl and studying mounted specimens at local sportsmen clubs, nature centers, and museums in order to gain inspiration for the creation of their final original masterpiece. To solidify the learning, all students are also encouraged to write a short conservation message that expresses the spirit of what they have learned about wetland conservation and the importance of conserving habitat for wildlife or why conservation is important to them. Below are four conservation messages from students across Massachusetts:

I learned that we need to protect wildlife to help keep the environment balanced. (Abigail, Worthington Rod & Gun Club)

Preserve and protect the environment and it will provide you a future. (Hanna, Tong Pei Studio)

Think of nature as your best friend, you care for it and should never want to hurt it. (Allison, Charlton Middle School)

Conservation is important because it preserves the beauty of nature for future generations. (Mattina, Notre Dame Academy)

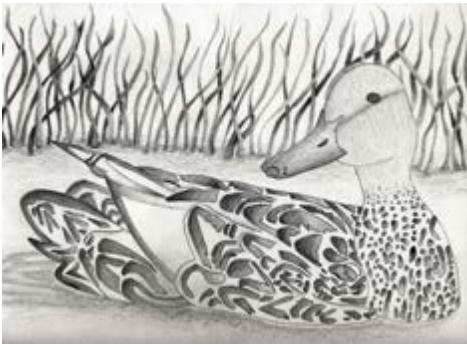
Daniel, from Marina Raybman's Chestnut Hill Art Studio expresses the impact of the Massachusetts Junior Duck Stamp Program on his perspective as an artist:

Capturing the beauty and magnificence of a nature scene, especially that of life, is impossible. However, with the Junior Duck Stamp competition I have a chance to portray nature through my style, and while not being perfect

representations of nature, the images that I create allow me to admire the subtle features which make life so elegant.

For several students, participation in the Massachusetts Duck Stamp Program has become an annual ritual.

My daughters, Anisha & Piyusha have been participating in the Junior Duck Stamp Contests since Kindergarten (over 7 years now). They have developed a unique love for nature & birds. Living next to the Assabet River Wildlife Refuge, they have participated in hikes, birding trips & even outdoor camps. They have taken plenty of pictures of ducks, geese, swans etc. at refuges and other natural reserves just so they can paint them for the JDS contests. It has been an invaluable experience for them over the years and we are forever grateful to the organizers of JDS for giving them a great opportunity to develop their artistic skills. (Bageshri Kundu)



*Black Duck* by Jenna Gormley (Honorable Mention, Grades 7-9.)

Jenna, a student, explains:

If it wasn't for JDS, I wouldn't have known I was an artist. It's something I do that no one else in my school does, it makes me unique. I look forward to designing my drawing every year.

Jenna has participated in the Massachusetts Junior Duck Stamp Program for eight years. Her mother Shelby Langevin describes the profound change that the JDS has made in Jenna's life:

At age five, Jenna spoke few words. She was labeled with an expressive and receptive language disorder; art was her communication tool, she drew all kinds of pictures for us. When our library offered a workshop for the JDS, we jumped on it. Her first drawing made Honorable Mention; she was so proud of herself, she brought her ribbon to school. Her self-esteem grew, and she started to work harder at talking. I truly believe Jenna came out of her shell with the positive praise from her peers on the drawings she's done for the JDS state competitions. Every year, she tells her friends, "I'm entering the Junior Duck Stamp Competition." Most of them don't even care, but for Jenna she is proud of herself and how far she's come, not only in her art, but in life. I also think you (Pam Landry) have made this an amazing journey for the kids, by dedicating your time to this program and our children. Kids need a constant, and you provide that year after year. Jenna always looks forward to seeing you, and she also wants to make you proud of her accomplishments. You are the JDS constant!

Teachers and parents can connect students to the natural world through the JDS Program's redesigned arts and science curriculum, which sparks youth interest in habitat conservation and careers in natural resources through science, art, math, and technology. Aimed at students in grades 5-8, with suggested adaptations for younger and older audiences, the curriculum encourages students to engage with the natural world and develop a deeper appreciation of natural resources. The diverse curriculum provides students with opportunities to increase their knowledge of field journaling, waterfowl anatomy, adaptations, migration, habitats, elements of art, waterfowl painting technique, and science and art process skills (observation, data gathering and interpretation, creative and critical thinking, problem solving, and artistic expression). It hones students' skills in using the Internet as a conservation tool, provides scientific information about current conservation challenges such as climate change and the impact on wetland habitat, and also focuses on careers in natural resources, photography, exploring the outdoors, and more. The guides meet a number of national educational standards for students in grades K-12. You may download the free Educator and Youth curriculum guides and supplements created for homeschool and nonformal education at [www.fws.gov/juniorduck/curriculum.html](http://www.fws.gov/juniorduck/curriculum.html).



Junior Duck Stamps 2013-2014 (Canvasback) and 2014-2015 (King Eider)

Help support youth, art, and conservation. Purchase your Junior Duck Stamp today!

The Federal Junior Duck Stamp is administered by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and in Massachusetts is coordinated by the Division of Fisheries & Wildlife (MassWildlife) with support from U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, the Massachusetts Chapter of Ducks Unlimited, and Massachusetts Wildlife Federation.

To learn more about how you can become involved in or help promote this program contact Pam Landry, Massachusetts Junior Duck Stamp Coordinator, MassWildlife, at [pam.landry@state.ma.us](mailto:pam.landry@state.ma.us), call 508-389-6310, or visit [www.masswildlife.org](http://www.masswildlife.org) 🐾

*Pam Landry has been the Wildlife Education Specialist for the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife (MassWildlife) since 1998. In this capacity she is the coordinator for the Junior Duck Stamp Program and Project WILD and also provides wildlife-related programs for preschoolers to retired adults.*



# PHOTO ESSAY

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## Massachusetts Junior Duck Stamp Entries



**Above:** *Mallard* by Amy Li (Honorable Mention, Grades 4-6), *Trumpeter Swans* by Chunzhou Gu (Honorable Mention, Grades 4-6), *Red-breasted Mergansers* by Anisha Kundu (First Place, Grades 4-6).

**Opposite page:** *Emperor Goose* by Mariah Morse (Honorable Mention, Grades 10-12), *Northern Pintail* by Yolander Yang (Honorable Mention, Grades K-3), *Canada Goose* by Nicholas Saparano (Honorable Mention, Grades K-3), *Green-winged Teal* by Matthew Liu (First Place, Grades K-3), *Wood Duck* by Grace Young (First Place, Grades 10-12).







2014-2015  
TRAVELING EXHIBIT SCHEDULE  
MASSACHUSETTS JUNIOR DUCK STAMP ART

June 17 - Aug 17, 2014	Custom House Maritime Museum, Newburyport Contact: Mike Mroz (978) 462-8681
Sept 8 - Sept 18, 2014 "ArtWalk"	Franklin Land Trust, Shelburne Falls Contact: Mary Lynn Sabourin (413) 625-9151 x 103
Sept 20-Oct 27, 2014	MA Audubon - Arcadia, Easthampton Contact: Patti Steinman (413) 584-3009 x 14
Oct 1-Oct 29, 2014	Borderland State Park, N. Easton Contact: Ellenor Simmons (508) 238-6566
Oct 1 - Oct 29, 2014	Millers River Environmental Center, Athol Contact: Dave Small ( <a href="mailto:dave@dhsma.net">dave@dhsma.net</a> ) ( <a href="http://www.atholbirdclub.org">www.atholbirdclub.org</a> )
Nov 6-Dec 18, 2014	Wachusett Regional High School, Bowes Gallery, Holden Contact: Suzanne Breen (508) 829-6771 Brian Keddy ( <a href="mailto:brian_keddy@wrsd.net">brian_keddy@wrsd.net</a> )
Dec 1, 2014-Jan 31, 2015	Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls Contact: Laurel Carpenter (413) 863-3676
Jan 8-Feb. 15, 2015	Buttonwood Park Zoo, New Bedford Contact: Jen Collier (508) 991-6178
March 1-31, 2015	Notre Dame Academy, Flagg Gallery, Worcester Contact: Mary Zywar (508) 757-6200 x 253

A combination of the top 100 pieces of art will be on exhibit throughout the Commonwealth during 2014-2015. Check the *MassWildlife* website for an updated schedule at [www.masswildlife.org](http://www.masswildlife.org). Call Pam Landry, MA Junior Duck Stamp Coordinator at (508) 389-6310 to determine if your artwork of interest is on exhibit.

Help support the Junior Duck Stamp Program! Proceeds from the purchase of the \$5 Junior Duck Stamp are used to support the program and go toward youth conservation education, awards for students &/or schools participating in the program, and marketing of the JDS program. You may purchase stamps from the U.S. Postal Service website ([www.usps.com](http://www.usps.com)) or Amplex Corporation ([www.duckstamp.com/mm5](http://www.duckstamp.com/mm5)).

The Junior Duck Stamp program is sponsored in Massachusetts by MassWildlife, and US Fish & Wildlife Service with support from Massachusetts Ducks Unlimited, and Massachusetts Wildlife Federation,

05/14