

Alaska artist's work selected for stamp

An Alaska artist's painting has been chosen as the design for the state's third Waterfowl Conservation Stamp, to be issued in 1987, according to Don W. Collinsworth, commissioner of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

"Carl W. Branson of Peters Creek painted a pair of spectacled eiders at water's edge to take the top honors," said Collinsworth. "The use of the spectacled eider keeps Alaska's waterfowl conservation stamps a unique collection of Alaskan art."

Branson has a majority of his works in private collections in Canada and Alaska. He has most recently exhibited his art in Anchorage at the annual Audubon Art Show and local galleries.

The spectacled eider provided a substantial challenge to the 39 artists from 17 states that submitted entries because of its remote distribution in northern and western Alaska and the lack of reference material from which to work.

The eider has never been portrayed on a federal or state duck stamp before and was designated as Alaska's 1987 species to continue portrayal of the state's unique waterfowl in the stamp and print series.

These hearty sea ducks nest in coastal western Alaska and the western North Slope, but their winter whereabouts are relatively unknown. The few winter records are from around the Bering Sea and at Kodiak and Kachemak Bay.

In its first two years, the state duck stamp and art print program has generated more than \$1 million for waterfowl conservation projects in Alaska. Duck stamp funds were used to establish Canada geese on the Kodiak Archipelago in 1986.

Funds will be used to match monies from Ducks Unlimited to construct a proposed habitat enhancement project on Creamer's Field in Fairbanks.