

Collector's Journal

A SERVICE OF COLLECTORS ALLIANCE

2015 Bombay Hook National Wildlife Refuge Quarter – Delaware

Twenty-Ninth in the America the Beautiful Quarters Collection

Bombay Hook National Wildlife Refuge in Delaware is featured on the fourth America the Beautiful Quarter issued in 2015. It is also the 29th coin in the overall collection. The year's set will be completed with the coin for Saratoga National Historical Park in New York in late 2015.

The America the Beautiful Quarters series was authorized by the America's Beautiful National Parks Quarter Dollar Coin Act that was passed by Congress in 2008 and signed into law by President George W. Bush on December 23, 2008.

Each coin in the series highlights a National Park or other national site in each of the 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the five overseas U.S. territories. Coins are issued at the rate of five per year, in the order in which the selected sites became federal property.

The minting period for each coin is limited to about 10 weeks, after which the design is retired and can not be used again. Each coin is struck for circulation at both the Philadelphia and Denver Mints. The two distinct coins are identified by a small "P" (Philadelphia) or "D" (Denver) mint mark under "In God We Trust."

Bombay Hook National Wildlife Refuge was established in 1937. The refuge was one of the first to be purchased using funds generated from the sale of federal Duck Stamps, which were sold to help maintain waterfowl habitat. It covers 16,251 acres on the Delaware coast and includes one of the largest tidal salt marshes in the mid-Atlantic region; it is a key link in the chain of migratory bird refuges along the Atlantic Flyway from Canada to the Gulf of Mexico.

In addition to tidal salt marshes, which account for 80 per-



cent of the area, the refuge also features upland habitats such as cordgrass meadows, creeks, and tidal streams that support a wide variety of wildlife.

It is the birds, however, that attract the most attention. Waterfowl such as ducks and geese are abundant in the fall and spring during their migrations, while shorebirds arrive in late spring and wading birds like herons and egrets dominate in the summer. The best ways to view the birds include a 12-mile wildlife drive, five walking trails and three observation towers.

The reverse of the 2015 Bombay Hook National Wildlife Refuge Quarter shows a summer scene in the tidal salt marshes at Bombay Hook. A great blue heron in the foreground and a great egret in the background symbolize the diversity of birdlife within the refuge.

As well as the final design, the U.S. Mint prepared seven other prospective designs for the Bombay Hook Quarter. Each showed at least one bird. Three designs featured herons, including one with a fish in its beak; three highlighted egrets; and one showed two Canadian geese in flight. One of the heron designs was similar to the final design but with a duck in place of the great egret in the background,

The Bombay Hook National Wildlife Refuge Quarter was released by the U.S. Mint in September 2015.

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