FIRST DAY OF ISSUE

WILDLIFE HABITATS STAMPS

First Day of Issue Ceremony
Wildlife Habitats Stamps
June 26, 1981
Pioneer Theater Auditorium
Reno, Nevada

Presiding	Dwaine H. Evans Sectional Center Manager/ Postmaster Reno, Nevada
Presentation of Colors	Joint Services Color Guard
National Anthem	Al Shay Orchestra
Invocation	Reverend Father George C. Bratiotis St. Anthony's Greek Orthodox Church Reno, Nevada
Welcome	Richard E. Dreiling Show Chairman NEVPEX '81 and American First Day Cover Society
Introduction of Distinguished Guests	Ruthe Dreiling President Nevada Stamp Study Society
Remarks	John Jezek, Jr. President American First Day Cover Society William J. Oliver Nevada Stamp Study Society David K. Rice Nevada Department of Wildlife
Introduction of Asssistant Postmaster General	Mr. Evans
Address and Presentation of Albums	Gordon C. Morison Assistant Postmaster General
Benediction	Bishop Thomas K. Sawtelle Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints Reno, Nevada

The United States Postal Service is proud to issue this colorful block of four stamps which calls attention to the importance of the preservation of wildlife habitats.

The stamps are intended to focus public attention on the necessity for preserving the natural environment of our native wildlife. Each stamp depicts a different animal in its natural surroundings-- a great blue heron resting on a tree branch extending from the water, a badger surveying the open grasslands before leaving its underground dwelling, a grizzly bear approaching an evergreen forest with snow-covered mountains in the background, and a ruffed grouse perching atop a log in the forest.

The stamps were designed by Chuck Ripper, a noted wildlife illustrator and author from Huntington, West Virginia. Mr. Ripper was the designer of the 1980 Coral Reefs stamps, which were voted the most popular stamps of that year in polls conducted by major philatelic publications.

Cover photo by Jim Brandenburg