



# GREAT BIRDING PROJECTS



*An approach to bird-related editing, education, tourism, and marketing*

*9 August 2011*

## ***It's time to get your Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp***

It's that time of year again!

The latest Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp, often called the "Duck Stamp," was released for distribution a little more than a month ago. When you buy that \$15 stamp, you help secure valuable wetland and grassland habitat for the National Wildlife Refuge System.

Since the mid-1930s, over 5.3 million acres of habitat have been preserved through Stamp sales.

This year, however, you may want to remind yourself of

a few things...

Annually, about \$22 million is collected through the Stamp. Given the fact that Congressional funding for land acquisition (previously through the Land and Water Conservation Fund, or LWCF) is dropping, the dollars that come through the Stamp are increasingly important.

Stamp funds (held in the Migratory Bird Conservation Fund, or MBCF) are protected from the reach of Congress. The Stamp dollars bypass the Congressional appropriations process. You know where the money is going!

We can take some comfort in the fact that the Stamp dollars go directly to securing important wetland and grassland habitat to the Refuge System. And, despite some misunderstanding, it's not "just for ducks." The wetland and grassland habitat goes far beyond waterfowl, helping secure habitat for shorebirds, rails, egrets, herons, quail, songbirds, and lots of other wildlife.

Whether you are a waterfowl hunter, a non-waterfowl hunter, an angler, a wildlife photographer, a birder, an environmental educator, or just someone with a deep and lasting love for wildlife and wild places, buying and displaying a Stamp is a way to stand up and be counted for those things which are important to you.

## Getting your Stamp:

You can get your \$15 Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp at most U.S. Post Offices, staffed National Wildlife Refuges, better sporting goods stores, or online [by clicking here](#). (If you're still having a hard time finding a Stamp, send me \$15.50, and I'll mail you one. If you also want a clear plastic display holder on which to hang your stamp, include another \$1.00. Just make your check payable to "Paul Baicich," and mail it - with your own address - to the address below.)

## Words to Consider:

"Birds should be saved for utilitarian reasons; and, moreover, they should be saved because of reasons unconnected with dollars and cents. . . To lose the chance to see frigate-birds soaring in circles above the storm, or a file of pelicans winging their way homeward across the crimson afterglow of the sunset, or a myriad of terns flashing in the bright light of midday as they hover in a shifting maze above the beach - why, the loss is like the loss of a gallery of the masterpieces of the artists of old time."

- Theodore Roosevelt, 1916

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