



# GREAT BIRDING PROJECTS



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

*25 September 2013*

## ***How is Wildlife Photography like Hunting?*** *The interesting overlap*



Wildlife photography - including bird photography - is an activity involving skill, patience, and, quite often, a level of endurance. Of course, skilled, experienced, and old-time bird-and-wildlife photographers will maintain that it has always been thus.

In the past, however, it was also very different. The patience involved was truly an extended process, and the associated learning actually took much longer.

How is that?

The patience had to include waiting, and waiting, and waiting for the film to be developed after the actual shooting took place! This is no longer a factor in the digital age. Not only is the wait eliminated, but the learning process is simultaneously shortened. Photographers can learn quickly with equipment that would have been impossible years ago. Results, errors, and corrections are all truncated in the activity of wildlife photography in the field today. Also, the expenses are reduced through the elimination of the photo- or slide-development process. This expense consideration is also true when it comes to the modest costs of wonderful, light, and handy, digital cameras, sometimes in the range of \$300-\$400. No, these aren't the kinds of equipment that the professionals will use, but they are remarkably effective digital cameras that can produce stunning photographs.

In a very real way - a strange way, actually - the changes in photography have come to resemble certain hunting characteristics.

No, this does not mean that there is a resemblance in the area of reduced expenses or even the learning experience. But the skills have drawn closer together, facilitated by the development of digital photographic equipment, where alertness, high accuracy, and

speed is of the essence.

Primarily, the results in both wildlife photography and hunting *are immediate*. You know, instantly, if you've succeeded or not. In both cases you can have *instant gratification*.

Areas where digital wildlife photography has distinct advantages over hunting include the fact that it can occur *at any time of year* and that it requires *no license*.

The fact that more and more hunters are getting involved in bird and wildlife photography is increasingly important. It's potentially healthy for hunting, for photography, for nature, and for conservation.

It also creates the arena for basic dialogue, creativity, and thoughtfulness.

## ***Diversity Dialogue on Birding and Birds*** *An audio interview and more*

Hear an excellent interview on birding diversity. It was made on *Voices Across EE* in a discussion with Dave Magpiong, of the Fledging Birders Institute, in early September. The interviewer was Flisa Stevenson, from the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, and the subject was the purpose and significance of the upcoming Focus on Diversity (FOD) conference in the Lower Rio Grande Valley of Texas (4-6 November). You can listen [here](#).



The goal of the FOD conference is to perfect and launch effective outreach methods for diverse audiences - Hispanic, African-American, Asian, and Native-American - using a birding message, general nature-study opportunities, and a conservation ethic. This third conference in a series aims to help "change the face of American birding." It is no small task, an attempt described by Magpiong in a short video [here](#).

The assumption is that getting diverse audiences interested in birding will not only benefit newer birders, but it should also be helpful to the general birding community and the broader environment as a whole. You can find more on FOD in early November in The Valley [here](#).

The FOD conference is scheduled right before the 20th annual [Rio Grande Birding Festival](#).

## ***Paton Progress in Southeast Arizona***

### *Closer to success*

The Paton's Birder Haven, in SE Arizona, was the project of Wally and Marion Paton for more than 35 years. It served as a place where tens of thousands of visitors came to see Arizona's outstanding hummingbirds. The property has passed on to the children of the Patons, and wish to honor their parents' work by continuing the access to this outstanding locale.



In partnership with Tucson Audubon Society and Victor Emanuel Nature Tours, the American Bird Conservancy (ABC) has entered into a contract with the Paton family to acquire the property as a hummingbird sanctuary. An amazing \$255,000 of the \$300,000 needed to acquire the property has already been raised. The remainder is due by 15 October. Once acquired, Tucson Audubon Society will assume long-term ownership and management of the property. Find more details from ABC, including a way to contribute, [here](#).

## ***Stamp Art Contest***

### *An update on developments*



The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will run the Federal Duck Stamp Art Competition at Maumee Bay State Park Conference Center in Oregon, Ohio, on September 27-28. Regular updated details, including a link to a full schedule, is posted on this [site](#).

Last year's art contest winner was Bob Steiner of California who painted a male Common Goldeneye, pictured in the image on the left. This artwork graces the current Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation

[Duck] Stamp.

The eligible waterfowl species for this year's art competition are Mallard, Canvasback, Gadwall, Cinnamon Teal, and Blue-winged Teal. All of this year's 201 art entries can be viewed [here](#).

The winning artwork chosen on Saturday, September 28, will appear on the 2014-2015 Stamp.

## ***Words to Consider:***

"My fervent desire is to see the soils safeguarded, the waters unpolluted, the forests and grasslands properly managed and wildlife protected... Conservation is plainly a moral issue."

- Roger Tory Peterson, (1908-1996)

## GBP Bulletin Archives

Great Birding Projects is a vehicle to promote a creative approach to bird-related editing, education, tourism, and marketing. GBP functions as a bridge to an innovative engagement between people and birds. You can access all previous issues of the *GBP* bulletin on the GBP website [here](#).

