



GREAT BIRDING PROJECTS



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

24 May 2014

New USPS Stamps Feature Songbirds *Continuing a grand tradition*



Last month, the U.S. Postal Service released a new set of 10 "forever" stamps, each illustrating a colorful North American songbird. This continues a tradition of U.S. stamps highlighting our wildlife and wild birds.

The artwork is by Robert Giusti; his previous USPS work has included a series on tropical birds and birds of prey.

The current selection includes the three songbirds by Giusti pictured above, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, American Goldfinch, and White-throated Sparrow. The other seven birds are Western Meadowlark, Mountain Bluebird, Western Tanager, Painted Bunting, Baltimore Oriole, Evening Grosbeak, and Scarlet Tanager.

Each of the 10 colorful songbirds is shown perching on a fence post or branch embellished with vines, pine-cones, leaves, or flowers. The artwork for each bird appears against a plain, white background.

In many respects, these stamps and their presentation resemble the series of bird stamps released by the USPS in 1982, featuring the birds and flowers of the 50 states. Those bird watercolors were created by Arthur B. Singer, famed bird artist and naturalist. (The accompanying wildflowers were painted by his son, Alan.) That 1982 series was believed to have been the largest-selling special issue in the history of U.S. postage.

The [new USPS series by Giusti](#) is a reminder of the popularity of birds on stamps and the eagerness that the public has in buying and using these stamps. Reports over the last

month indicate that this new songbird series has been - figuratively speaking - flying out of post offices across the country.

Next "Duck Stamp" Coming Soon *Continued Support for the Refuge System*



While we are on the subject of stamps, it's time for a reminder.

In a little more than a month, on 27 June, the latest Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation [Duck] Stamp will go on sale.

This is not a postage stamp, of course, but is a stamp that all waterfowlers over the age of 16 must buy. It is also the most successful fund-raising conservation stamp in American history,

having generated about \$900 million to go into the Migratory Bird Conservation Fund (MBCF).

The next stamp will feature the artwork of Adam Grimm, with his pair of canvasbacks pictured above. The MBCF dollars from the stamp go to build wetland, riparian, and grassland habitat in the National Wildlife Refuge System, and it is important to realize that while waterfowl is the main beneficiary, other birds that benefit considerably include shorebirds, long-legged waders, raptors, gulls/terns, songbirds, and more.

For more on the stamp and its value, you may want to check the [Friends of the Migratory Bird/Duck Stamp](#).

Bird Study: Going "Hog Wild" *A season of opportunities at Hog Island, Maine*



The historic Hog Island Audubon Camp in Maine is just about to launch its series of bird-oriented 5-day and 6-day [programs](#) for the season. Hog Island is a 330-acre spruce-covered island in the mid-coast area of Maine. This year will be the fifth since National Audubon resumed management of the famous camp. It had been run for a time - about eight years - by Maine Audubon, but the camp originally goes back to 1936.

There are still openings in most of the intriguing programs, such as [Joy of Birding](#), [Arts and Birding](#), and [Sharing Nature: An Educator's Workshop](#). All of these programs include highly skilled and well-known instructors.

Anyone interested in serious bird study should consider a Hog Island experience.

May 27th - Rachel Carson's Birthday

And a note on "Dying to be Heard"

Monday is Memorial Day, and Tuesday is Rachel Carson's birthday. Carson (1907-1964), of course, was the biologist, conservationist, and author whose book *Silent Spring* is credited with launching the environmental movement. Carson was attacked by the chemical industry, by agricultural interests, and by some in government and the media as an alarmist. Still, she continued to speak out to remind us that we are a delicate part of the natural world subject to the same damage as the rest of our ecosystem.

A related story - with parallel assaults - has to do with the experience of Michigan State University professor and ornithologist, Dr. George J. Wallace (1907-1986), who discovered a link between DDT and dying birds on the MSU campus. His work was highlighted in Carson's famous book, and his story was told in an Emmy-award-winning, 26-minute, film in 2007 titled [Dying to be Heard](#).

2014 Wetland Conservation Award

...for Communications

In March, Ducks Unlimited announced the six winners of its 2014 Wetland Conservation Achievement Awards during the 79th North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference held in Denver. [This year's recipient](#) in the "Communications" category was Paul J. Baicich, for the promotion of bird and wetland conservation.

Words to Consider:

"I recognize the right and duty of this generation to develop and use the natural resources...but I do not recognize the right to waste them or to rob, by wasteful use, the generations that come after us."

- Theodore Roosevelt, Kansas, 31 August 1910



GBP Bulletin Archives

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