



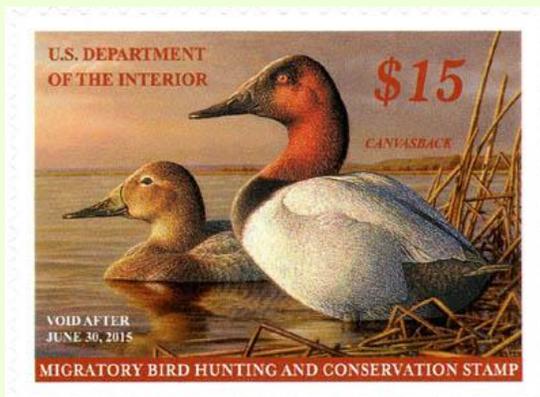
GREAT BIRDING PROJECTS



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

9 July 2014

The New "Duck Stamp" Released *Time to contribute to bird-habitat conservation*



The new Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation [Duck] Stamp was released for sale in the last days of June. The stamp, costing \$15, shows a pair of Canvasbacks painted by Adam Grimm.

Not only does the stamp display great bird art, but it is also the single most effective thing anyone can do to support a legacy of wetland and grassland conservation for birds. Almost all the stamp proceeds go to help secure valuable

Refuge System habitats.

In fact, this year marks 80 years of success for the stamp. Since its creation in 1934, the "Duck Stamp" has raised approximately \$900 million to contribute to over 5.5 million acres of habitat conservation in the National Wildlife Refuge System.

The latest stamp is available at Post Offices across the country, at sporting vendors, and through the the Internet.

Sales of the stamp are mainly sustained by waterfowl hunters, but the popularity of the stamp beyond the waterfowl community seems to be on the increase. To follow some of the broad stamp appreciation, you may want to view recent articles, blogs, and comments from [Ducks Unlimited](#), the [National Wildlife Refuge Association](#), the [American Birding Association](#), and the [Cornell Lab of Ornithology](#). For other ways to promote, preserve, expand, and appreciate the stamp, see the website of the [Friends of the Migratory Bird/Duck Stamp](#).



Visit the "Yellow Rail Capital of the World"
29 October through 2 November

In April, Thornwell, Louisiana, in the southwest part of the state, was named by the state legislature as the "[Yellow Rail Capital of the World](#)." This is no quirky accident. It's the outgrowth of years of interaction between birders and rice farmers who simultaneously value the birds and the agriculture of the region.

At the end of October, the sixth annual Yellow Rails and Rice Festival will take place in that very area.

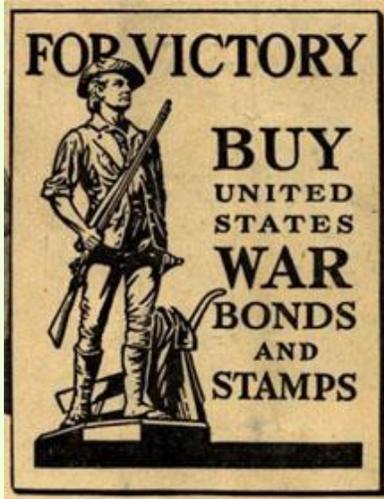
This creative event is unique insofar as it brings birders and farmers together on "working wetlands," the rice country of the area. Indeed, the participants will view many wetland birds, including elusive wintering yellow rails, in rice fields, but they will also combine birding activity with the working lives of people engaged in the most mass-produced and bird-friendly crop in North America: rice.

Registration for festival attendance opened at the start of this month. For more about the Yellow Rails and Rice Festival, see [here](#).

Bird watchers, educators, and rice-farmers in other rice areas (e.g., California, Arkansas, Mississippi) might do well to consider similar kinds of efforts.

Consider Victory Energy Bonds

Could this retooled concept help a modern America?



The last time the United States issued war bonds was during World War II. During the war, the government, with the help of businesses, unions, community groups and popular celebrities, worked hard to convince people to buy these Defense Bonds, later called War Bonds.

War bonds were not simply a way for the government to raise money; they were also a patriotic way for every person to participate in the war effort. Generally, the bonds sold in denominations of \$25 to \$10,000. (The bonds could even be bought by purchasing "stamps" for 10 or 15 cents each. The stamps were pasted into booklets that could be turned in for a \$25-bond when the booklets were full.)

A few months after the end of the war, in January 1946, the last proceeds from the Victory War Bond campaign were deposited into the U.S. Treasury. More than 85 million Americans - half the population at the time - purchased bonds totaling \$185.7 billion (c. \$2 trillion in today's dollars). Those incredible results, due to the effective promotional efforts made to finance the war, have never since been matched.

In early April of this year, the Clean Energy Victory Bonds Act, H.R. 4426, was introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives. The bill is intended "to promote the domestic development and deployment of clean energy technologies required for the 21st century." Such action is expected to allow all Americans to invest in Treasury Bonds for as little as \$25 each that will fund a clean energy future. The estimated \$50 billion raised from the bonds could generate 1.7 million new jobs around manufacturing, deploying, and maintaining renewable energy projects.

The bonds would support both the research and manufacturing of such green energy innovations as the following:

- Solar (panels and other related technologies)
- Wind (turbines)
- Geothermal (drilling water or steam wells to access earth's heat)
- Second generation biofuels (switchgrass and agricultural waste)
- Electric vehicles (motors powered by rechargeable batteries) and charging stations

As such, the proposal is not perfect, but rarely is proposed legislation perfect. It would certainly need some work. Curiously, however, [H.R. 4426](#) has not received the attention it deserves. This may be surprising to some, since the proposal is not a tax, does not require direct budget allocations or expenditures, is a voluntary mechanism, and is surely a patriotic call.

In any case, a campaign is afoot to get more interest in the proposal and to get the public to pledge to buy the bonds. For more details, see [here](#).

Words to Consider:

"I'm learning one thing the hard way... you have to re-educate the public mind about every 15 or 20 years or it forgets everything learned a while back."

- "Ding" Darling (*artist, conservationist, head of the U.S. Biological Survey - 1934-35*)

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](#).

