

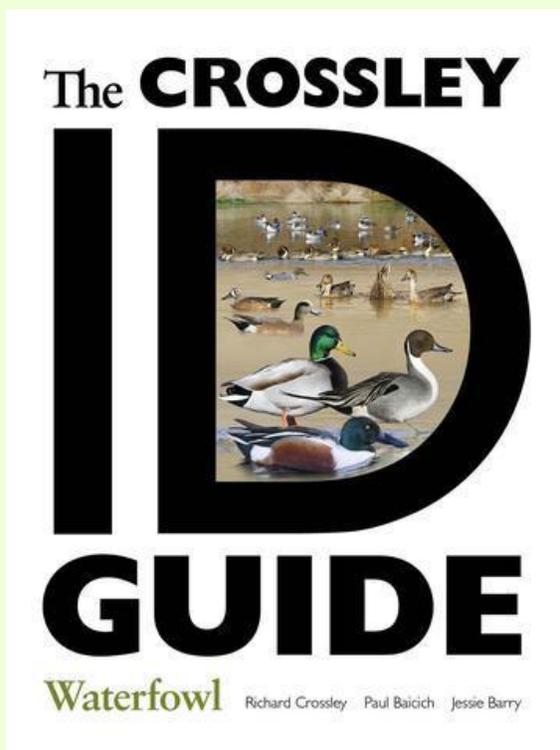
GREAT BIRDING PROJECTS



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

25 September 2017

New Crossley ID Guide: Waterfowl



The new *Crossley ID Guide: Waterfowl*, by Richard Crossley, Paul Baicich, and Jessie Barry, is now available.

This new standard in waterfowl books, with the award-winning Crossley-style plates, is perfect for beginning and intermediate birders and kids. It is also destined to please legions of avid waterfowl hunters. There is something for everyone, from bird educator to wildlife manager. The book contains over 300 pages of images, using over 5,000 individual shots. The book covers all of North America's ducks, geese, and swans. It has a friendly, interactive writing style covering identification, life history, and vital conservation. For those who enjoy the challenge, there are also lots of mystery photos to explore.

View the waterfowl in their different and specific habitat backgrounds, see individual birds and flocks near and far, examine them from different angles, and study various plumages and behaviors, including flight.

To find out more and to order your own copy, go to [Richard Crossley's website](#).

"As a long-time birder and a waterfowl hunter, I appreciate the way this book fits the needs and interests of both groups. The details provide a fresh approach to learning waterfowl identification in the field and helps the birder and hunter figure out not just the species, but age and sex as well. The emphasis on habitat and the other bird species that share it, is fundamental learning in the book as well."

- Bob Ford, National Coordinator, Partners in Flight

Next Federal Duck Stamp Art Chosen

On September 15-16, the Federal Duck Stamp Art Contest was held at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point at its Noel Fine Arts Center. The panel of five judges went through 215 submissions in this year's exciting competition. This year, eligible species were: Mallard, Gadwall, Cinnamon Teal, Blue-winged Teal, and Harlequin Duck.



Bob Hautman, an accomplished artist from Delano, Minnesota, won the contest.

His image of a pair of Mallards flying over a cattail marsh - with other Mallards in the background - will be made into the 2018-2019 stamp. It will go on sale in late June 2018. The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service sells the stamps for \$25 each and raises nearly \$40 million annually to provide easement and fee-title wetland and grassland habitats for the National Wildlife Refuge System. The benefits accrue to many species beyond waterfowl, of course, since the acquisitions provide habitat for shorebirds, long-legged waders, raptors, songbirds, and more.

This is Bob Hautman's third Federal Duck Stamp Contest win. His work appeared on the 1997-1998 (Canada Goose) and 2001-2002 (Northern Pintail) stamps. Bob's brothers, Jim and Joe, are also multiple Duck Stamp artists, having each won the contest five times. Greg Alexander of Ashland, Wisconsin, placed second this year with his acrylic painting of a Cinnamon Teal. Christine Clayton of Sidney, Ohio, took third place with her oil painting of a Blue-winged Teal.

In the meantime, the easiest way for you to buy a stamp for *this* year (the current 2017-2018 stamp with Canada Geese) is to get yours at your local post office. Also, you can send a \$25 check (made out to "Friends of the Migratory Bird/Duck Stamp") along with a self-addressed, stamped envelope, and you will be sent a current stamp. Include a note with your e-mail address, just in case there is a problem and the Friends need to get back to you:

**Friends of the Migratory Bird/Duck Stamp
P.O. Box 2143
Columbia, MD 21045**

Check out more from the [Federal Duck Stamp Office](#) and the [Friends of the Migratory Bird/Duck Stamp](#)

Attending a Unique Festival

Yellow Rails and Rice Festival



Bird, birding, and nature festivals certainly abound these days. Invariably, you can take a trip - near or far - to attend such a festival at almost any time of year. One of the unique and most creative festivals is the Yellow Rails and Rice Festival that takes place in late October or early November each year. This year's festival, in the first days of November, is the region's ninth, and it should be another exciting one.

Where else can you ride a huge rice combine to watch the rails flush in front of you? Where else can you mingle with farmers who understand the importance of bird conservation, a regular element of their work? Where else can you visit a rice mill to start to understand how the country's most important bird-friendly crop, rice, is processed for delivery to your local store? Where else can you be virtually guaranteed seeing shy Yellow Rails every day you are in the field?

The festival is small (limited to about 110 participants), but the size is a byproduct of field and harvester space. There is still room! This year's festival will run from 1-5 November. [It's a festival like no other!](#)

Also, consider the [rice-and-birds T-shirt](#) that is available... for a limited time.

National Park Service Takes a Step Backward On Bottled Water

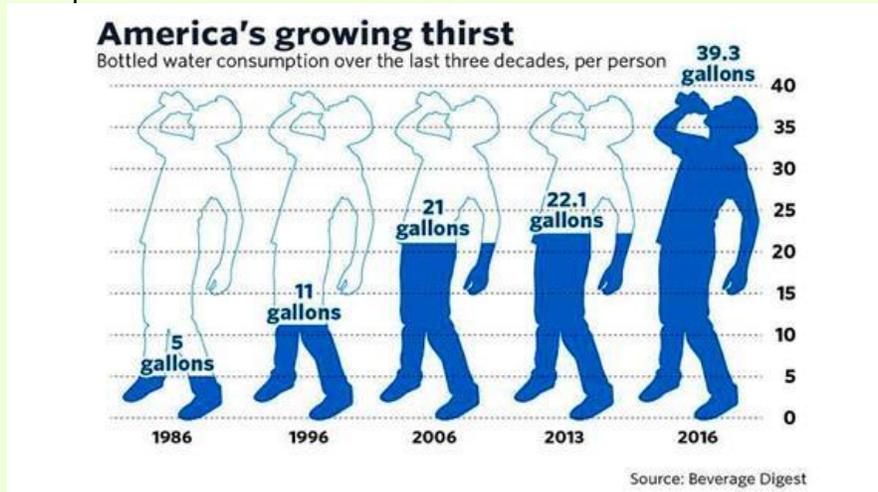


In 2011, the National Park Service instituted its "Policy Memorandum 11-03," commonly known as the "Water Bottle Ban." The policy, established to encourage National Parks to eliminate the sale of water in disposable water bottles, has been rescinded. Fewer than two dozen National Parks had implemented the policy, but it was cut short in a new directive last month.

The original arguments against selling bottled water at National Parks were compelling.

Last year, bottled-water consumption in the U.S. reached 39.3 gallons per capita, while carbonated soft drinks fell to 38.5 gallons. This marked the first time that soda was knocked off the top position, according to the Beverage

Marketing Corporation. It is a shift in consumption that decades ago would have seemed unthinkable: consumers buying a packaged version of something they could get virtually free from the tap.



Of course, there are rival motivations pulling consumers. On the one hand, there are consumer concerns about the effects of artificial sugar and sweeteners. On the other hand, public dismay over possible water contamination has helped boost growing demand for bottled water.

But when the public buys bottled water, it is often drinking the very same water that comes out of the tap. For the most part, bottled water is no safer or cleaner than tap water. About 45% of bottled water brands are sourced from the municipal water supply, the same source as what you may get at your kitchen sink.

Of course, when the public buys bottled water, many of the very same soda companies benefit. More than a quarter of bottled water revenue last year was shared by the soda giants Coca-Cola Co. and PepsiCo, selling Dasani and Aquafina respectively. (Both companies claim that their water is filtered for purity using a "state-of-the-art" process.) And Nestlé, the largest food company in the world, owns a suite of bottled-water brands with down-home names (e.g., Arrowhead, Deer Park, and Poland Spring). Also, if you are into higher-end water, try some of the European-based Nestlé options (e.g., the Italian San Pellegrino and the French Perrier). As of two years ago, multinationals like PepsiCo, the Coca-Cola Company, and Nestlé were raking in a combined \$110 billion a year selling bottled water worldwide.

Are there other good choices? If you want water, however, just bottle you own! The purchase of a reusable and refillable water bottle for as little as \$1.99 - versus \$1.25 for vending-machine water - is simply a smart deal. Those stainless-steel and durable plastic reusable water bottles are everywhere.

Besides, under circumstances when only about 2 of every 10 commercial plastic water bottles are recycled, the use of tough reusable bottles makes even more sense. Today, billions of plastic bottles still wind up in landfills and hundreds of millions end up littering streets, streams, beaches, bays, and the ocean. And that includes National Parks!

Unfortunately, in the U.S. alone, more than half the population drinks bottled water. Paying a premium price for water in bottles is something that is now viewed as "normal" in America. The sale of bottled water here now accounts for about 30% of all liquid refreshment sales, far exceeding the sales of milk and, yes, even beer. Still, the trend can be reversed... if we try.

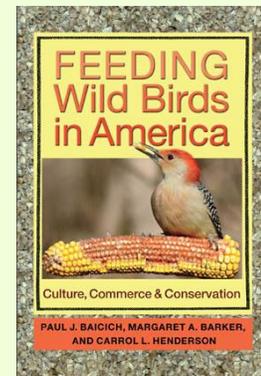
The National Park Service will no longer be among the institutions and organizations on the "change" side of this issue. While parks will continue to promote recycling of the disposable water bottles, and some parks will continue with their bottle-filling stations at visitor centers and by trailheads, the "choice" to buy bottled water is apparently paramount at the NPS these days.

Still, we can make our *own* choices, use refillable bottles, and work toward the day when the previous NPS policy is re-instituted.

More on *Feeding Wild Birds in America*

The authors of *Feeding Wild Birds in America: Culture, Commerce & Conservation* (Paul Baicich, Margaret Barker, and Carrol Henderson) continue to line up talks, interviews, and book-signings with bird and garden clubs, nature centers, festivals, parks and refuges, and stores. The presentations by these co-authors cover a wide range of bird-feeding history topics, linked with practical lessons for today.

- For talks, book signings, festivals, interviews, etc. please contact [Margaret Barker](#).
- To order an individual copy of the book, use this [order-form](#).



Words to Consider:

"The revenues from the stamp sales are all for the birds - the restoration of waterfowl. It does not matter which of us, hunter or birdwatcher, will benefit the most. What does concern us is that wildlife artists and technicians are using their skills to maintain the high aims of this unique series - to keep the flocks flying. May the artists and the ducks both flourish."

- Bob Hines (1912-1994), American wildlife artist, USFWS employee, and long-time guardian of the Federal Duck Stamp

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](#).

