



GREAT BIRDING PROJECTS



An approach to bird-related editing, education, tourism, and marketing 20 October 2011

Broadcasting the Birding Diversity Conference

You can "attend" from home



As you may be aware, an innovative conference, "Focus on Diversity: Changing the Face of American Birding," will be held at the John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge, all day on Saturday, 22 October.

This is an effort to get new and diverse audiences (e.g., Hispanics, non-Hispanic Blacks, Asian-Americans, and Native Americans) interested in both birding and nature-based recreation in general. It should yield some significant results. The premise of this event is that birding needs to reach diverse audiences if it wishes to be relevant to important issues - ranging from responding to a changing outdoor culture and helping shift the terms of conservation dialogue.

You can find details, including a full schedule, [here](#). There should be about 100 people attending the conference at Heinz National Wildlife Refuge, in Philadelphia, on Saturday.

Even if you can't be there, you will have the opportunity to watch most of the proceedings. Connecting to Saturday's live-streamed talks and panels (including a live chat-room for interactivity with online viewers) will be available from [here](#) and for viewing with live-captioning features from [here](#). The conference is scheduled to start at 8:30am (Eastern) on Saturday.

Federal Migratory Bird Stamp Contest

And while we are on the subject of live-streaming, the 2011 Federal Duck Stamp Art Contest, to be held at the National Conservation Training Center in Shepherdstown, West Virginia, on October 28 and 29, will also be live-stream broadcast.



The qualifying species-images for this coming year's Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp (often called "The Duck Stamp") are these: Mallard, Blue-winged Teal, Cinnamon Teal, Wood Duck, Gadwall. Last year, Jim Hautman's rendition of two White-fronted Geese won, and that image graces the current stamp (shown here on the left).

Between now and 28-29 October, you can actually view all 191 entries in the upcoming contest [here](#). And you can

watch the live-streamed contest. The details (including exact times) for the live streaming will be accessed [here](#) closer to the start of the contest. The broadcast itself will be for both Friday and Saturday, 28 and 29 October.

Avitourism Dollars Add Up in the Rio Grande Valley of Texas

A recent survey conducted by Texas A&M University has found that nature tourism - dominated by birding - brings in a hefty \$300 million a year to the Lower Rio Grande Valley economy. The survey, just released last month and commissioned by South Texas Nature Marketing Coop, estimates total annual expenditures by visitors in the Valley who come specifically to bird or for other watchable wildlife activities to be \$300,090,866 per year.

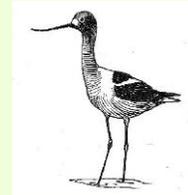
This kind of study is a model for birding trails, scenic byways, convention-and-visitors bureaus, and others looking into how birding can mean significant dollars for a region. The full report on nature tourism in the Lower Rio Grande Valley can be accessed [here](#).

Words to Consider:

"How rich will we be when we have converted all our forests, our soil, our water resources, and our minerals into cash?"

- Jay Norwood "Ding" Darling, 1938

artist, birder, hunter, head of the U.S. Biological Survey (1934-35)



For Contact and More Information:

Besides using the links that are provided above to find out more on the related subjects, you can contact me on avitourism interests, site and trail/byway evaluations, and group presentations. You can reach me at the e-mail and P.O. Box addresses below.