



GREAT BIRDING PROJECTS



An approach to bird-related editing, education, tourism, and marketing 2 December 2011

Some Holiday Gifts with a "Bird Message"

And a particular stamp reminder!

It's that time of year when we are thinking about holiday gifts for family and friends. As an outdoor or nature enthusiast, you may want something to convey your interests to your intended recipients. And there are wonderful options to consider such as the following (starting with some of the more expensive):

- binoculars or spotting scope (quality optics are available at different price-levels, appropriate for those who are beginning birders up to skilled observers);
- some additional hiking or camping gear, which can be used for all sorts of outdoor activities (backpack, vest, binocular/camera strap, GPS, etc.);
- a bird feeder that could be used immediately (think suet feeder, Nyjer sock, or tube feeder);
- a book on nature in general or birds in particular (some fine field guides have appeared in the past year);
- bird-compatible shade-grown coffee (a case of these bags can go a long way to supporting multiple holiday parties);
- US-grown organic rice, which is almost always de-facto bird-compatible, providing duck/waterbird/shorebird habitat in Arkansas, Louisiana, California, and elsewhere (more on this subject some other time);
- but don't forget the Stamp!

The Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp, often called the "Duck Stamp," may be an ideal gift this holiday season. When you buy - and give - that \$15 stamp, you help secure valuable wetland and grassland habitat for the National Wildlife Refuge

System. And you say something about important values.

Since the mid-1930s, over 5.3 million acres of habitat have been preserved through Stamp sales.

We can take comfort in the fact that the Stamp dollars go directly to securing crucial wetland and grassland habitat to the Refuge System. And, despite some misunderstanding, it's not "just for ducks." The wetland and grassland habitat goes far beyond waterfowl, helping secure habitat for shorebirds, rails, egrets,



herons, quail, songbirds, and lots of other wildlife.

Whether you are a birder, a hunter, an angler, a wildlife photographer, an environmental educator, or just someone with a deep and lasting love for wildlife and wild places, buying and displaying a Stamp is a way to stand up and be counted for those things which are important to you.

Getting your Stamp:

You can get your \$15 Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp at most U.S. Post Offices, staffed National Wildlife Refuges, better sporting goods stores, or online [by clicking here](#).

If you're still having a hard time finding a Stamp, send me \$15.50, and I'll mail you one. If you also want a clear plastic key-ring holder in which to place your stamp (on your binoculars, backpack, or simply to be used as a key-ring) include another \$1.00. Just make your check payable to "Paul Baicich," and mail it to me at my address below.

Words to Consider:

"Few of us can hope to leave a poem or a work of art to posterity; but working together or apart, we can yet save meadows, marshes, strips of seashore, and stream valleys as a green legacy for the centuries."

- Stewart Udall, Secretary of the Interior, 1961-1969



For contact and more information:

You can contact me on your avitourism interests, site and trail/byway evaluations, and group presentations. (A list of 2012 talks can be sent to you on request.) I can be reached at the e-mail and/or P.O. Box below.

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