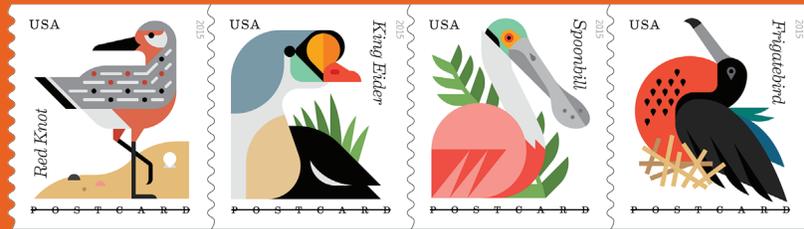


STAMP SCOOP



COASTAL BIRDS

The Frigatebird is a migratory avian that breeds along tropical coastlines, but can be found as far north as North Carolina and the Bay Area during non-mating seasons. Males have a startling red gular pouch, which they inflate to attract females (who have white throats and bellies). Otherwise, their black bodies boast a hooked, slender beak, forked tail feather and a seven-foot wingspan, the largest wingspan-to-bodyweight ratio of any bird on earth!

The King Eider is a large, brilliant duck that calls most Arctic coastlines home. As with most bird species, males are more conspicuous, with a prominent orange knob over their beaks and beautiful sea blue faces. Though females have a more subdued plumage, their brown and black feathers help them protect their nests – which they alone protect – from predators. And the King Eider has many! These ducks feed in waters up to 80 feet deep.

The Spoonbill is a bizarre, fanciful species that Americans will spot along the southern coasts of Florida and in the Caribbean. The size of most herons with bright pink feathers, Roseate Spoonbills are often mistaken for flamingos. Spoonbills, though, have a distinctive spoon-shaped beak that helps probe food out of the marsh. White Spoonbills also exist across many corners of the globe.

The Red Knot is one of the most robust coastal birds, traveling the farthest (over 9,000 miles – nearly half the circumference of the globe) and consuming the most solid foods, including crab and whole, shelled eggs. Surprising, then, that it is still considered a “peep” bird. The Red Knot has a sandy red breast with speckled black wings. It breeds in the summer in Arctic waters then flies as far south as Southern Argentina for the winter. They are a common spring fixture in the Delaware Bay.

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