

Here come the birds! Here come the birds!

by Josh Furman

So, when you hear me say, “This lot is for the birds,” I am not being derogatory. I’m saying that we have a new opportunity to engage in a charitable function for the Audubon Center for Birds of Prey in Maitland.

For those of you who don’t know this organization, the Audubon Center for Birds of Prey is located in the city of Maitland and the Town of Eatonville. This urban environmental Audubon Center focuses on the rescue, medical treatment, rehabilitation and release of Florida’s raptors. Grounding our roots in conservation, Maitland hosted the first Florida Audubon Society meeting in March 1900 to save Florida’s imperiled wading birds. Today, Audubon Center for Birds of Prey carries on that mission of protecting and saving Florida’s birds of prey. “We invite you to experience our unique location, tucked along Lake Sybelia, just outside Orlando. Visitors can learn about the unique adaptations of raptors; challenges they face and the many ways to get involved with helping birds of prey and the important habitats and resources they depend on.”



So, what does that mean to us, the Central Florida Stamp Club? Well, one of the ways the Center raises funds for its efforts is to ask their supporters to donate stamps and stamp collections. The Center turns these donations over to us, the Central Florida Stamp Club to sort, lot and sell the stamp material, and return cash back to the Center to help with feeding and care for these raptors.



Here’s how some of that material arrives: Bags full of stamps, foreign and domestic, mint and used, blocks, sheets and covers; anything philatelic that you can imagine. (If you would like to help by sorting some of this material, please let me know.) Then there are the one-offs.

Do any of you old-timers recognize what this lot is? Well before the internet, stamps were sold in stationery stores, 5-and-10’s and by mail in packets. This is a lot that might have been sold to a packet-maker, stamps wrapped a hundred to a brick and tied, in the real olden days, by thin string and later like this, in a narrow strip of paper sealed with tape. Who

will make an offer for this lot? It weighs three and a half pounds!

We also get cartons of material. Here is one such in this year’s lot: a cardboard carton filled with mint sheets of mostly low-value mint stamps. These are good for postage to make up the difference between other, higher postage values and the current rates. Dealers and eBay-sellers enjoy these lots and pay a great deal less than face for their convenience. Anybody need some discount postage?

And then there are the one-offs. For example, here is a page from a Scott U. S. Album filled with duck stamps, favorites of many U. S. Collectors. Please be ready to bid generously when this lot comes to auction at the club. You won’t find a lot as nice as this on the internet, especially one that you can touch and feel to see if it fits your needs. So, these are just some samples of what appears in a “bird lot”. Would you like to help with the sorting and lotting process? Just let me know. And good luck in your bidding.



Winter One Day Show



It was a less than wonderful day to be out at the theme parks, tennis courts, golf courses or beach. However – people showed up at the stamp show! We had a solid attendance of right at 100 people – most who seemed eager to spend money. We had dealers come all the way from St. Augustine, Clearwater, Pinellas Park and Vero Beach. It is excellent five-hour show!



Picture directly above left side: Sheldon Rogg and his mother Leah – she turns 99 in April! [Photo credits, Karen Archbold.]