

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Contacts: Frances Frazier (202) 268-2898
Tony Musso (212) 330-3911
Web Site: www.usps.com
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SNOWY EGRET STAMP ISSUED AT POSTAGE STAMP MEGA SHOW

NEW YORK — A new postage stamp depicting the snowy egret, one of America's most beautiful birds and once saved from the endangered species list, was issued today by the U.S. Postal Service.

The Snowy Egret stamp is available at Manhattan and Bronx Post Offices starting today. It will be available at Post Offices across the country beginning tomorrow. The stamp is offered in pressure-sensitive adhesive coils of 100 stamps each.



Vinnie Malloy, district manager of the New York District for the Postal Service, dedicated the stamp at a first day of issue ceremony at the Postage Stamp Mega Show.

Joining Malloy at the ceremony were Elizabeth C. Pope, president, American Stamp Dealers Association, Inc.; Janet Klug, president, American Philatelic Society; Raschelle A. Miley, manager of marketing, New York District, Postal Service; Miosotis Malagon-Mesa, singer and songwriter; and Nancy Stahl, artist/illustrator of the Snowy Egret stamp.

Stahl's art features a rendering of one of the most beautiful of American birds. Based on photographs, the art depicts the head and upper body of a snowy egret against a blue background. Her previous projects for the U.S. Postal Service include designs for the New York Public Library Lion stamp (2000), Art Deco Eagle stamp (2001) and the Wisdom stamp (2003).

The snowy egret (*Egretta thula*) is a slender white heron with black legs and bright yellow feet, sometimes described as "golden slippers." Its black bill contrasts with its yellow eyes and lores—the area between the eyes and the bill. When flying or searching for food, it can curve its long neck into a compact "S" shape.

The snowy egret lives in marshes, swamps and other wetlands. A wading bird, it feeds in shallow water on fish and other aquatic animals. Its long, thin bill is adapted for spearing prey. This agile hunter uses various methods to find food. Sometimes it remains still, crouching as it waits for a meal. At other times it sprints through the water chasing minnows or shuffles its feet to stir up animals from the bottom.

In the breeding season the adult has long, lacy plumes on its head, neck and back. These graceful plumes, called aigrettes, were once used as decorations for ladies' hats. In the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, the snowy egret and its larger cousin, the great egret (*Ardea alba*), were hunted almost to extinction for their plumes. The National Audubon Society was founded to save egrets and other endangered bird species. Conservation efforts were successful and today the egret population is flourishing.

Carl T. Hermann, Carlsbad, Calif., was designer and art director for the Snowy Egret stamp.

To see the Snowy Egret stamp, locate the online version of this press release at www.usps.com/communications/news/stamps/welcome.htm.

Current U.S. stamps, as well as a free comprehensive catalog, are available by toll-free telephone order at 1 800 STAMP-24. A selection of stamps and other philatelic items are available at the online Postal Store at www.usps.com/shop. In addition, custom-framed art prints of original stamp art are available for purchase at www.postalgallery.com.

Since 1775, the U.S. Postal Service has connected friends, families, neighbors and businesses by mail. It is an independent federal agency that visits more than 141 million homes and businesses every day and is the only service provider to deliver to every address in the nation. The Postal Service receives no taxpayer dollars for routine operations, but derives its operating revenues solely from the sale of postage, products and services. With annual revenues of more than \$68.9 billion, it is the world's leading provider of mailing and delivery services, offering some of the most affordable postage rates in the world. The U.S. Postal Service delivers more than 46 percent of the world's mail volume — some 202 billion letters, advertisements, periodicals and packages a year — and serves seven million customers each day at its 40,000 retail locations nationwide.

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