

Israel Through Stamps



Shown here are the newest stamps of Israel - four birds of prey which have traversed the country since Biblical times. This set is now available from the Israel Stamp Collectors Society, as are all stamps

By Israel I. Bick, President
Israel Stamp Collectors Society

Israel's newest postage stamps depict Biblical Birds - eagles and vultures - on four mint issues and one souvenir sheet.

Because of Israel's geographic position at the junction of three continents, Israelis see 45 different species of birds of prey. Some remain permanently in the country. Others spend the summer or winter months in Israel. And others over-fly the land during winter and spring migration.

Some of these birds are mentioned frequently in the Bible, and the falcon and eagle were holy sym-

bol to Egyptians, Assyrians, Greeks and other ancient peoples.

Today, because of industrialization and development and extensive use of pesticides, many of these legendary birds are becoming extinct. As a result, Israel has taken steps to protect them by law. It is, in fact, forbidden to do any harm to birds of prey within the country.

No other nations in the region follow such stringent measures in protecting the birds - one more testimonial to the Jewish people's reverence for all forms of life.

The new stamps' magnificent illustrations depict Bonelli's Eagle, the Sooty Falcon, Lappet-Faced Vulture and Griffon Vulture.

These and every other stamp issued by the State of Israel since its independence are available from the Israel Stamp Collectors Society. All are beautiful and imaginative portrayals of the history and progress of the nation. And they bring the spirit of Eretz Israel into every Jewish home.

For full information on the stamps of Israel, at no obligation, write Israel Stamp Collectors Society, P.O. Box 854, Van Nuys, Ca. 91408. Or call our 24-hour telephone number (818) 997-6496.

Reid Re-Introduces Flood-Control Legislation

WASHINGTON -- Rep. Harry Reid introduced legislation to authorize \$200 million for construction of a comprehensive flood control project in the Las Vegas Valley and tributaries area. Rep. Barbara Vucanovich is co-sponsoring the legislation.

Reid, who introduced a similar bill during the final days of the 98th Congress, stressed the need to expedite the bill. "Southern Nevada is developing a dangerous history of recurring floods," Reid said, "and each flood brings greater losses of life and property."

The project, according to Reid, would serve the national interest and be economically justified "because of the impact such flooding has on governmental facilities, programs and manpower." The most recent flooding, which occurred during the summer of 1984, resulted in more than \$4 million in damages to public facilities and an undetermined amount of damage to private properties. These losses prompted President Reagan to declare Clark County a disaster area.

Reid, however, has been working on federal assistance for flood control measures since the summer floods of 1983. In testimony before the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development, Reid stressed the need for flood studies in Southern Nevada.

He requested \$450,000 for the Vegas Valley Wash study and \$400,000 for the Virgin River study. The House and Senate approved an Energy, Water and Development Appropriations Bill, which allocated only \$100,000 for the Las Vegas Wash area and \$100,000 for the Virgin River area studies.

However, the Army Corps of Engineers considered the 1983 flooding a significant factor in increasing the budget to Reid's original total request of \$850,000. The corps began Phase I, a program development of the reconnaissance studies, in October 1983. A final report of their study is expected by mid-1985. Planners say, if funding is available, construction could begin as early as 1988.

Such funding would require a 50-50 cost-sharing by the federal government and the county. According to officials, Clark County has expended approximately \$50 million since 1981 to plan and construct flood control facilities and is currently developing a funding program both to operate and maintain flood control facilities for emergency response and to match federal contributions.

"Topographic conditions and rapid development," according to Reid, "are the two major variables influencing project development." Reid's bill calls for a comprehensive project that includes: Duck Creek, Tropicana Wash, Flamingo Wash, Las Vegas Creek, Las Vegas Range Wash, Las Vegas Wash, the Henderson area and Moapa Valley.

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