



GREAT BIRDING PROJECTS



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

18 December 2012

Holiday Greetings!

***Wishing you the very best of the season and health,
security, and nature's solace throughout the
coming year...***

Some Last-minute Holiday Gift Ideas

Bird-associated ideas for the season

'Tis the season! Thinking about those last-minute gifts for the holidays?

Try these seven easy and relatively inexpensive gifts. They are all bird-associated and they are all sources for lively discussion during the holiday season and well beyond. The seven are presented here in no particular order:

1 [Shade-grown Coffee](#) - This is a wonderful gift, ideal also to bring to a holiday party. It should start up a conversation about shade-coffee vs. sun-coffee and the ways that certified shade coffee helps our Neotropical migrants in coffee country throughout much of Latin America and the Caribbean.

2 [Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp](#) - The "duck stamp" is a fine gift, and a great conservation-supporting item. Since almost all the funds collected from the stamp go to building wetland and grassland habitat in the National Wildlife Refuge System, it sends a great message, too. Besides, you will probably be at the Post Office anyhow, so picking up a \$15-stamp or two should be easy. Just add a small and inexpensive picture-frame, and you are ready to go!

3 [Bird Feeder](#) - Few backyards are so full of bird feeders that another one wouldn't help. Another tube feeder? A suet feeder? A hopper feeder? Sure, why not!

4 [Bird Seed](#) - And there should be quality feed to fill those feeders. A large bag or two of bird seed can go a long way. Think especially about getting black-oil sunflower and Nyjer.

5 [Optic Gear](#) - No, it doesn't have to be new binoculars, but it could be associated optic gear. How about a new binocular strap-harness? A traveling case? A quality cleaning kit?

6 [Field Guide](#) - There are so many excellent field guides out today that it may be hard to choose. But pick one that fits the recipient. For kids? Try a Thompson guide. You might consider a National Geographic, a Kaufman, a Sibley, a Crossley, a Stokes, or even a classic Peterson. They all have their own particular advantages.

7 [American-grown Rice](#) - A festively-wrapped bag of fine American-grown rice is another great gift that sends a message about habitat for our wetland-associated

birds. Ok, Ok... A wrapped bag of rice may seem odd, but at least consider serving the rice with a special note for that holiday meal you are attending with family and friends. You want to know why rice is so good for birds? See the item below.

Why Rice?

A short video

Rice habitat constitutes the very best bird-compatible mass-produced crop in the United States. It's great for waterfowl, long-legged waders, rails, shorebirds, raptors, and many wetland-loving songbirds.



Just look at the array of varieties of American-grown rice on the grocery shelf and consider the number of species that benefit from fields of rice, providing nesting, stopover, and wintering habitat for so many birds.

For a short video from the field - in this case, from California rice country - on why American-grown rice is so good for our birds, see [here](#).

(Rice image on the right: Long-grain rice from Louisiana, photo by P.J. Baicich)

Birding History Dialogue

An H-Environment Roundtable Review

A thoughtful and thorough online review of works in the field of environmental history can regularly be found on the [H-Environment Roundtable Review](#).

Last month, Volume 2 Number 7 was released, focusing on a review of Thomas R. Dunlap's *In the Field, Among the Feathered: A History of Birders and their Guides* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2011).



Reviewers were Kristen Johnson (University of Puget Sound), Paul Baicich (Great Birding Projects), Akihisa Setoguchi (Osaka City University), and Jeremy Vetter (University of Arizona), with a response by Dunlap, the book's author. You can access the entire dialogue [here](#).

Words to Consider:

"The law locks up both man and woman
who steals the goose from off the common
but lets the greater felon loose
who steals the common from the goose."

- Old English Rhyme, a 17th century protest against English enclosure

GBP Bulletin Archives

Great Birding Projects is a vehicle to promote a creative approach to bird-related editing, education, tourism, and marketing. GBP functions as a bridge to an innovative engagement between people and birds. You can access all previous issues of the *GBP* bulletin on the GBP website [here](#).

