



# GREAT BIRDING PROJECTS



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

*11 December 2014*

## ***Holiday Greetings!***

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

### ***Some Holiday Gift Ideas***

*Twelve bird-associated ideas for the season*

'Tis the season! Are you still thinking about some appropriate gifts for the holidays?

Try these dozen gift ideas. Most are relatively inexpensive. All are bird-associated, and they are all sources for lively discussion during the holiday season. The dozen are presented here in no particular order:

1 Shade-grown Coffee - This is a wonderful gift, ideal to bring along to a holiday party. It should start up a conversation about shade-coffee vs. sun-coffee and the ways that certified *arabica* shade coffee helps sustain 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. You can also download a free and unique [stamp-related certificate](#) describing just how much one stamp secures in habitat, attach the stamp, put it in a frame, and you're set!

3 Bird Art - Speaking of frames, how about some bird art? No, not an original piece of expensive artwork, but a quality print... Whether your recipient favors waterfowl, gamebirds, raptors, shorebirds, hummingbirds, orioles, or warblers, the options are vast. Also, you can seek out a print by a favorite wildlife artist, dead or alive. Indeed, there are some very lovely prints out there, available in both framed and unframed formats. Just search online!

4 Bird t-shirt - Yes, lovely bird t-shirts are often perfect gifts. In fact, you can combine the previous two suggestions - the "Duck Stamp" and bird art - in one t-shirt purchase. Buy a t-shirt with a Duck Stamp design on it! You can find one [here](#).

5 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!

6 Bird Seed - And there should be quality feed to fill those feeders. A large bag or two of high-quality bird seed can go a long way. Think especially about getting black-oil sunflower or Nyjer.

7 Window Protection - Birdseed and feeders are great gifts, but they can also attract birds to potentially dangerous windows, a situation which creates unfortunate collisions. Short of retrofitting entire windows, some outdoor hanging bird-screens or large "one-way-view" stickers or films can alleviate the situation. These are also fine gifts for the season.

8 Catio - Also in the realm of backyard bird protection, there is the opportunity to address the issue of outdoor cats. There are an estimated 84 million pet cats in the U.S., and perhaps 36 million of them are let outside to roam. This is deadly for our wild birds. Now cat owners who wish to allow their cats outdoors have a bird-safe alternative. These are called a "catios," and they come in a variety of configurations available in various sizes and finishes. Check out these two sources for catio ideas: [Catio Spaces](#) and [Catio Showcase](#).

9 Optics Gear - No, it doesn't necessarily 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?

10 Field Guide - There are so many excellent field guides out today that it may be hard to choose. But pick one that fits the individual recipient. For kids? Try a Thompson guide. Otherwise, you might consider a National Geographic, a Kaufman, a Sibley, a Crossley, a Stokes, or even a classic and ever-reliable Peterson. They all have their own individual advantages.

11 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 (waterfowl, shorebirds, long-legged waders, and more). No other mass-produced U.S. crop can claim to have such benefits for our birds. Sure, a wrapped bag of rice may seem to be an odd gift, but at least consider serving the rice with a special explanatory note on U.S. rice habitat for that holiday meal you are hosting with family and friends.

12 Gift Membership or Subscription - There are a number of bird, nature, and conservation organizations or magazines that offer special annual gift memberships or subscriptions at this time of year. This is sometimes an ideal quick solution to your shopping problems, and the recipient is often contacted directly about your thoughtful gift.

## Words to Consider:



"Nature gives to every time and season some beauties of its own. "  
- Charles Dickens (1812-1870)

## 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](#).

