



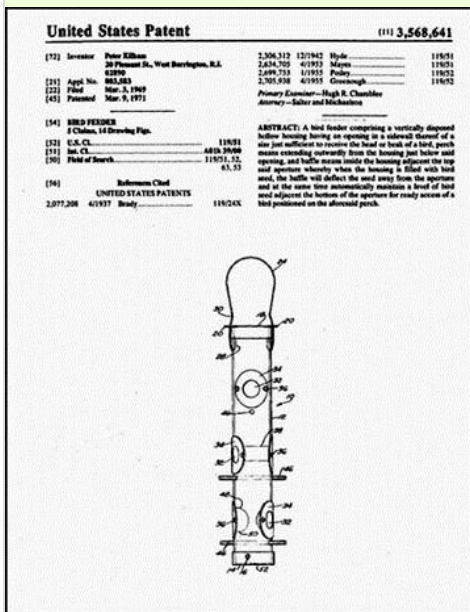
GREAT BIRDING PROJECTS



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

6 July 2015

Backyard Bird Feeding Quiz Did you know?



- The origins of black-oil sunflower seeds?
- Who invented and patented the tube-feeder? (See the patent form on the left.)
- The connection between suet cakes and rodenticide?
- How hummingbird mixes developed?
- Why coconuts were so popular at feeding stations in the past?
- Why hemp lost favor as a birdseed?
- What is the difference between thistle and Nyjer?
- What was the connection between pigeon feed and post-war birdseed?
- If Teddy Roosevelt had a bird feeder at the White House?
- How citizen science got a major boost through feeder observations?

You can find answers to these questions in the new book, *Feeding Wild Birds in America* (Texas A & M University Press), written by Paul J. Baicich, Margaret A. Barker, and Carrol L. Henderson.

Depending on the time and place, the seemingly simple practice of bird feeding in America has been many things over the last 120 years. It has been a social cause, a trendy curiosity, an agricultural obligation, a serious hobby, a billion-dollar industry, a basis for scientific study, a pathway to conservation, and pure entertainment. The book covers our pioneer bird-protection foremothers, the do-it-yourself origins of early feeding, the devices and appliances invented in the roaring '20s, hard times and bird feeding in the Depression, war rationing and feeding during WWII, the post-war suburban growth and the parallel role of feeding in the backyard, the experimentation with new seeds and products, the rise of all-year feeding, and 21st century experiences.

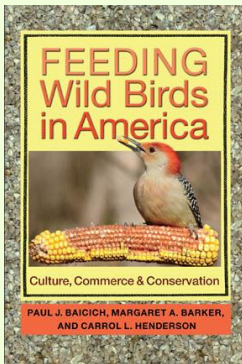
The multi-decade story of bird feeding is one of innovation and a reflection of changing times in America, but it is also a story of how we Americans have come to value the natural world. This is a story that has never been presented in book-form until now.

What the authors have with this new book is the story of *bird feeding in context*. This book tells a real historic tale.

It also concludes with valuable insights concerning rarities at the feeder, feeding across the Americas, and the cumulative lessons of 120 years of bird feeding, the 10 key foods and 5 essential practices for feeding success.



From the Federal Cartridge Corporation in the 1930s



If you wish more details - including comments from early readers - if you want to order quantities of the book, or if you want individual copies, see [Texas A&M University Press](#). You can also order individual copies from other online sellers, such as [Buteo Books](#), [Bird Watcher's Nature Shop](#) (where you can also get a free autographed book-plate), or from [Amazon](#). The book is also starting to appear at many bookstores across the country, including bird-specialty stores and nature-centers.

One particularly insightful review of the book appeared last month in the Wildlife Management Institute's monthly *Outdoor News Bulletin*.

Written by Jodi A. Stemler, you can access it [here](#).

The authors are very much looking for input, feedback, and assistance in brainstorming. This is very much an American story of how we in this country interact with nature close to us. And the story needs to be appreciated. Please consider the requests below, and understand that your opinions are certainly appreciated.

Three requests from the three co-authors:

- 1) Stores/Reviews:** If you have some ideas about stores (and on-line shops) where the book might be sold, or magazines (and popular blogs) where the book should be reviewed, please consider contacting Paul J. Baicich (paul.baicich@verizon.net).
- 2) Talks:** If you are aware of places where an author can be invited for a book-signing session, or meetings/festivals where one or more of the authors might be invited to give presentations, please inform Margaret A. Barker (mab27@cornell.edu).
- 3) Artwork:** If you have a need for some related artwork from the book (e.g., for a review or blog), please contact Carrol L. Henderson (carrollhenderson@prodigy.net).

Words to Consider:

"The lure of the distant and the difficult is deceptive. The great opportunity is where you are."

- John Burroughs (1837 - 1921)

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](#).

