



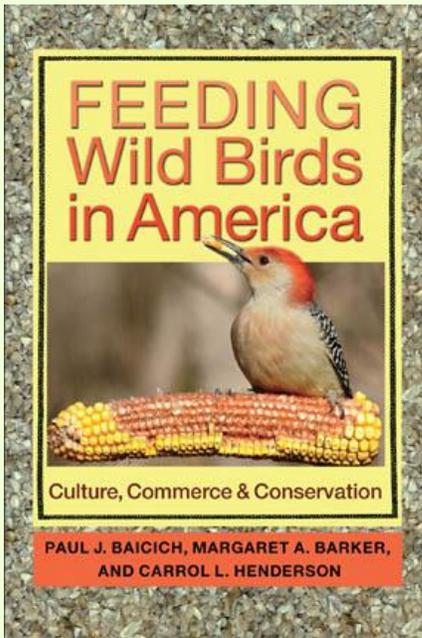
GREAT BIRDING PROJECTS



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

1 July 2016

The Unique History of Backyard Bird Feeding in America



This is a short-n-sweet summertime note - and a Fourth of July weekend notice to you - from the co-authors of *Feeding Wild Birds in America: Culture, Commerce and Conservation*.

A few updates...

Our most recent talk at the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C. drew a large lunchtime crowd, and, the Library's bookstore sold out of our book! It could not have been better or more fun.

Here's a sampling of some of our recent book-related talks: Wild Bird Feeding Industry, Phoenix, AZ; Louisiana Ornithological Society; Tennessee Ornithological Society, Knoxville chapter; Maryland Ornithological Society, multiple chapters; Patuxent National Wildlife Research Refuge; Library of Congress, Mary Pickford Theater, Washington, D.C.; Annapolis Garden Club; libraries and other venues near the three co-authors' homes.

In addition, we've been interviewed by various broadcast media, including Ray Brown's "Talkin' Birds" radio show and Baltimore's weekly, "The Nature of Things" on WYPR (NPR). Newspapers, too, printed numerous book-related articles, including this representative Christmas-time review about our book and bird feeding from the Minneapolis area's [StarTribune](#).

We are now lining up talks, interviews, and book-signings with bird and garden clubs, nature centers, festivals, parks and refuges, stores and more, plus media outlets for available dates through the rest of 2016 and into 2017. We invite you to get in touch! For these sorts of activities, and more information, please contact [Margaret Barker](#).

Our presentations cover a wide range of bird-feeding history topics, linked with practical lessons for today. For example, we can speak about the following:

- Why extremely popular **hemp seed** lost favor as a birdseed. (And the possibility of it being on the verge of a comeback!)
- The origins of **black-oil sunflower seed**. (And the involvement of what could be considered Cold War agricultural espionage.)
- How **hummingbird nectar and feeders** came to be. (And the efforts to devise "just the right sugar-formula.")
- How the plastic **tube-feeder** was invented. (And its connection to modern art-design.)
- Why **coconuts** became the foundation for many feeder designs in the past. (And how the source goes back to the end of the 19th century.)
- How **nyjer seed** came to America as a backyard birdseed. (And how it has been used in south Asia.)



Hemp: Cannabis sativa



From the Federal Cartridge Corporation in the 1930s

Of course, there is so much more to the remarkable story of bird feeding, including its link to the earliest of our bird conservation efforts.

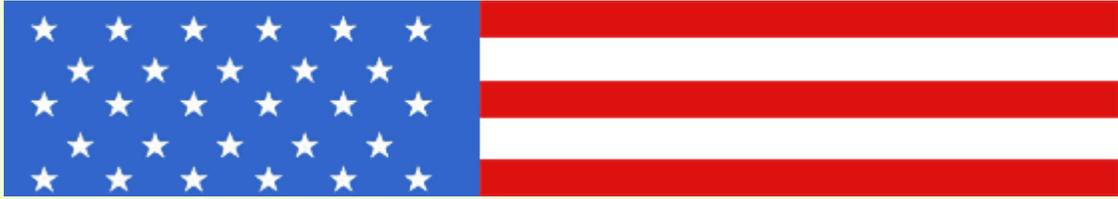
Thanks to our friends and readers for your ideas, support, and connections through the year. You can see how some of them worked out quite well! Please keep 'em coming!

Best wishes and a Happy Summer to you! Hope to see you along the way in the near future.

~ Paul, Margaret, and Carol

A FEW CONTACTS AND IDEAS FOR YOU

- If you want to order a supply of our book for your own store, nature center, or organization, contact [David Neel](#) at Texas A&M University Press: 979-458-3988
- For talks, book signings, festivals, interviews, etc. please contact [Margaret Barker](#).
- To order an individual copy of the book, use this [order-form](#).



HAVE A WONDERFUL 4th OF JULY

Words to Consider:

"In utilizing and conserving the natural resources of the Nation, the one characteristic more essential than any other is foresight."

- Theodore Roosevelt, June 1907

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](#).

