



GREAT BIRDING PROJECTS



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

12 December 2016

Holiday Greetings!

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



The Birds' Christmas Tree

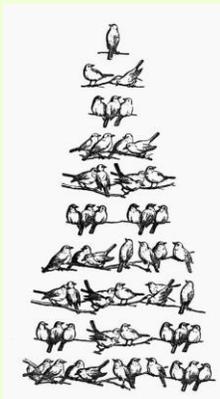
Bird-Lore, the unofficial magazine of the Audubon movement in the early part of the 20th century, provided this attractive Christmas gift card in 1915 to those subscribers who purchased subscriptions of the magazine as gifts for family members and friends.

(Image courtesy the Eddie Woodin Collection)

Americans have been feeding wild birds for over 100 years, but very few people have followed the history and development of that popular pastime. It's a real surprise, since over 55 million Americans today engage in some level of backyard bird feeding.

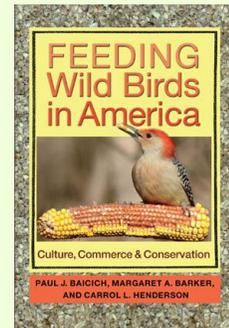
In *Feeding Wild Birds in America: Culture, Commerce, and Conservation* by Paul J. Baicich, Margaret A. Barker, and Carrol L. Henderson (Texas A & M University Press, 2015, flexbound), you will get to appreciate how bird feeding evolved, from decade to decade, and you will get insights into little-known stories of feeding development. These include the invention of the hopper feeder, the "discovery" and use of such seeds as black oil sunflower and Nyjer, the creation of the tube feeder, the evolution of hummingbird feeding, and why hemp (popular through the 1920s) is no longer fed to birds.

Most importantly, you will learn to connect the past with current developments in bird feeding. Included in the book's conclusion are the "top ten bird foods for bird feeding" and the "five steps to double the number of bird species at your feeders," a tight summary of over a century of bird-feeding experience.



The winter season, especially this holiday season, is an ideal time to re-connect with our bird-feeding history. Note, for example, the Christmas-tree drawing of birds to the left, a image from a children's schoolbook in the 1870s. Indeed, a combination of this season and the appreciation of birds goes back a long way!

If you want a copy of *Feeding Wild Birds in America: Culture, Commerce, and Conservation* sent to you before Christmas, you can send \$25 to Paul J. Baicich at P.O. Box 404, Oxon Hill, MD 20750. This includes postage and handling, but add \$1.50 for sales tax if you live in Maryland. (The book has a list price of \$27.95, so this holiday price is kept as low as possible.)



At the same time, if you wish to invite one of the three book authors to a reading, a short talk at a garden or bird club, or a full presentation at a nature/bird festival, contact [Margaret A. Barker](#).

Two Other Holiday Gift Books *Two book ideas for the season*

We have two other books available this season.

The first is *A Guide to the Nests, Eggs, and Nestlings of North American Birds* by Paul J. Baicich and the late Colin Harrison. This book (second edition, paperback) remains the only thorough guide to the breeding biology of our North American birds. It regularly lists for \$29.95 and is available from us for \$25.

The second is *Green in Gridlock* by Paul W. Hansen. This book, published in 2014, provides insight into the internal workings and priorities in the conservation and environmental communities in the U.S. Hansen, with over four decades of experience in the field, gives examples and lessons that are more important than ever these days.

Hansen covers both meaningful accomplishments and squandered opportunities. The book (paperback) lists for \$19.95 and is available from us for \$15.

In either case, postage and handling is included for the books, but please add an additional \$1.50 for tax for *Nests, Eggs, and Nestlings*, if you live in Maryland. And add an additional \$0.90 for tax for *Green in Gridlock* if you live in Maryland.

For either or both books, send your check made out to Paul J. Baicich to P.O. Box 404, Oxon Hill, MD 20750.

Another Cuba Connection *Opportunity for 2017*

In the past few years, Cuba has been in the process of some significant changes, many of which will impact birds, wildlife, and wild places. These are unique and very interesting times for the people and resources of Cuba. This has been the subject of previous issues of *Great Birding Projects*. Under these circumstances, the engagement of U.S. citizens with Cubans on the island may turn out to be very important.

One such activity will be the scheduled meeting of BirdsCaribbean in Cuba next summer. The meeting will take place in mid-July at Topes de Collantes Nature Reserve Park, Cuba.



Cuban Trogon by Laura Gooch

In addition to the five days of the main conference, there will be pre-conference and post-conference workshops and field trips to vital bird sites in Cuba offering the opportunity to see more of Cuba's endemic birds and experience the rich culture of the country and the warmth and generosity of the Cuban people.

Indeed, this event could represent another real breakthrough in dialogue and cooperation. Mark your calendars for July 13-17 (plus time before and after), and check the [BirdsCaribbean website](#) for upcoming plans.

Future issues of this *Great Birding Projects* bulletin will have more details and include other opportunities for creative Cuba connections.

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](#).

