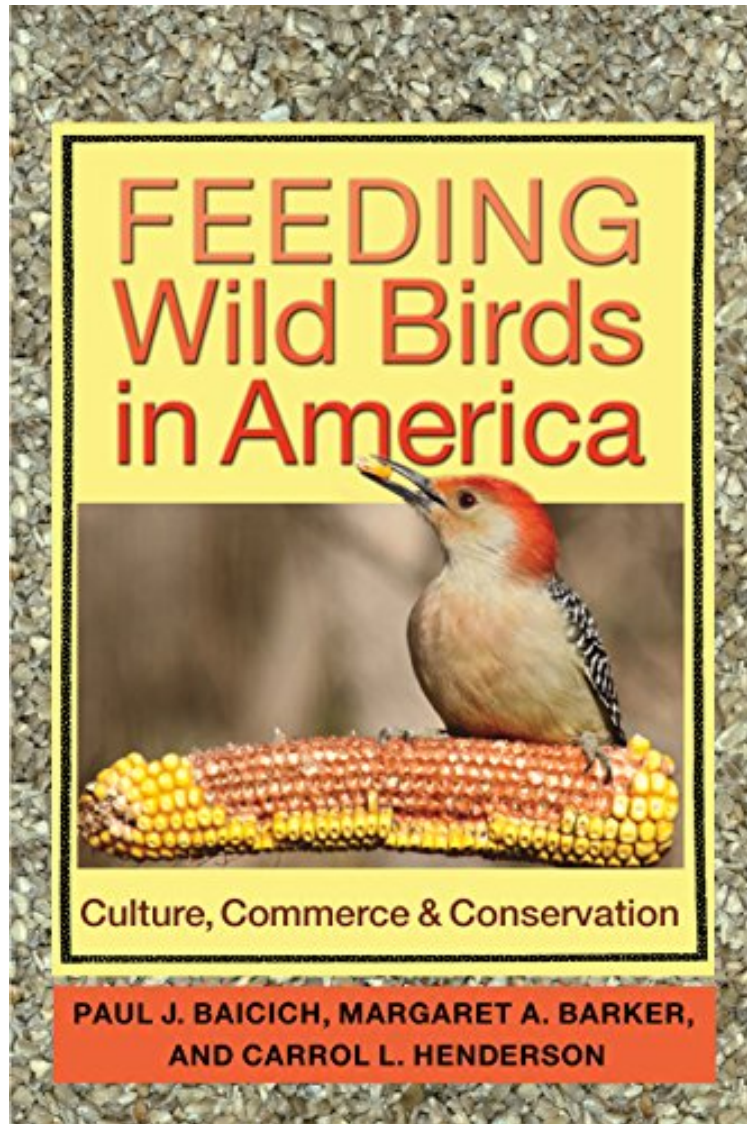


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Feeding Wild Birds in America: Culture, Commerce, and Conservation

Paul J. Baicich, Margaret A. Barker, Carrol L. Henderson
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Paul J. Baicich, Margaret A. Barker, Carrol L. Henderson : Feeding Wild Birds in America: Culture, Commerce, and Conservation before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Feeding Wild Birds in America: Culture, Commerce, and Conservation:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Best book to read this year By CoffeeKnitRead This might be the best book I'll read this year. It is so well researched, arranged in a logical and pleasing format, and very well-written. This book is loaded with fascinating facts, but nothing about it is dry or dull. It is historically cool to track the settlement of

the West through bird feeding practices and devices. I loved reading about the tinkering that took place in garages and workshops in pursuit of a perfect feeder. Actually, I wished for more of that information, but I understand that there are constraints on size that require judicious editing. This isn't the book that you power-read, rushing to see whodunit. This is a book to savor. It is packed with information that you just want to enjoy. It is the perfect gift for friends and relatives who are impossible to buy for! Add in a package of bird seed, and they will love you every time they look out the window. If you like birds, you need this book. If you like history, you need this book. If you just like to read, you need this book.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A Perfect Addition to my Birding Library
By Catherine Cleaver
This book is so much more than just the ordinary bird guide. This is a love story; a passionate tale about beautiful but untamable birds and the humans who go out of their way just to be able to spend a few fleeting moments in their company. The authors follow the relationship over time, decade by decade, revealing just how much time and money can be dedicated to this simple hobby. The book is filled with beautiful pictures and is truly a must-have for anyone who has ever hung a cake of suet. I'll be buying several more copies to give as gifts this holiday season.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A Delightfully Readable Book
By JDJ
Like millions of other citizens, I have fed wild birds for decades without much thought to the story behind this past time. I applaud the co-authors of this delightfully readable book, which discusses the various intersections between nature study, bird appreciation, U.S. history, and capitalism. In my time, I have seen the release of both black oil sunflower and nyjer seeds with a significant reduction in the prices of both. I hope to be able to experience the reintroduction of hemp seed, a once popular offering that has not been available in our country because of legalities. The evolution of hummingbird feeding is particularly interesting. That reminds me, now that spring has arrived, I need to get my hummingbird feeder filled and outside!

Today, according to the US Fish and Wildlife Service, more than fifty million Americans feed birds around their homes, and over the last sixty years, billions of pounds of birdseed have filled millions of feeders in backyards everywhere. *Feeding Wild Birds in America* tells why and how a modest act of provision has become such a pervasive, popular, and often passionate aspect of people's lives. Each chapter provides details on one or more bird-feeding development or trend including the "discovery" of seeds, the invention of different kinds of feeders, and the creation of new companies. Also woven into the book are the worlds of education, publishing, commerce, professional ornithology, and citizen science, all of which have embraced bird feeding at different times and from different perspectives. The authors take a decade-by-decade approach starting in the late nineteenth century, providing a historical overview in each chapter before covering topical developments (such as hummingbird feeding and birdbaths). On the one hand, they show that the story of bird feeding is one of entrepreneurial invention; on the other hand, they reveal how Americans, through a seemingly simple practice, have come to value the natural world.

Feeding Wild Birds in America is much more than the most complete history of the practice and business of feeding birds. Woven through this rich history are insights about how to set up feeders that are not only safe for birds but also most likely to provide engaging experiences. Such encounters are more important than ever—because birds certainly need more caring friends.

— Dr. Stephen W. Kress, Vice President, National Audubon Society, Bird Conservation Director/Seabird Restoration Project, Author, *The Audubon Society Guide to Attracting Birds*