

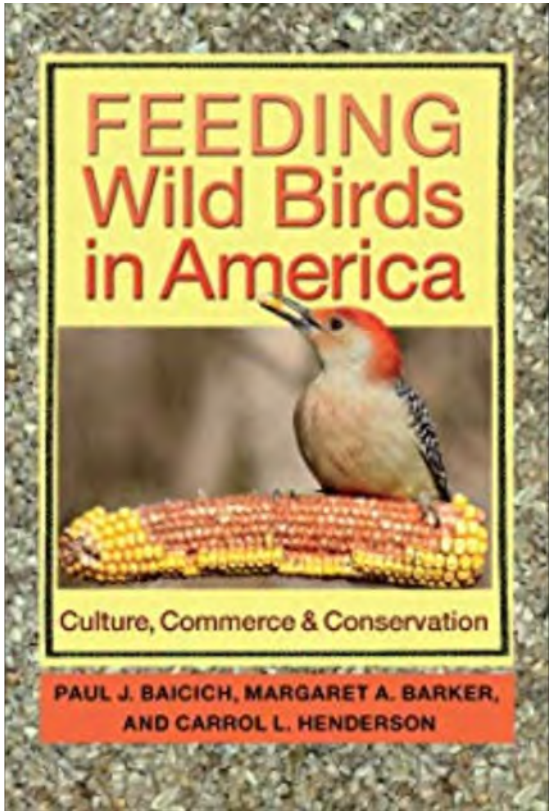
A (selective) history of wild bird feeding

A global perspective



Darryl Jones

Sincere thanks...



It's different in Australia



But also the same.....

Participation rates:

UK: 30-75%

US: 30-68%

Australia: 38-57%



What do I mean by 'feeding'?

Spontaneous feeding
is probably universal



Feeding is:
Systematic,
Intentional,
involving planning and
cost

And in private houseyards



It started simply...





Origins?



Magura Cave, Bulgaria





Egypt 700-500 BC

Temples of Thoth

Saqqara supplied
10,000 ibis per year



Bhutayajna Orthodox Hindu Continuous practice for 3500 years



Kerith Ravine, Jordon, ca. 550 BC
(Reverse feeding?)



Elijah

“Ravens brought him bread and meat in the morning and in the afternoon”

1 Kings 17: 6

1845: Henry David Thoreau at Walden Pond: The beginning?



In the course of the winter I threw out half a bushel of sweet corn and was amused by watching the motions of the animals [squirrels, blue jays, chickadees]

Walden (1854) page 183

The first feeder?

John Freeman Dovaston (1782-1854)
Stropshire, England

The Ornithotrophe, 1835



The Great Blizzard of March 1890-91



Widespread awareness of the plight
of birds despite traditional Victorian
frugality

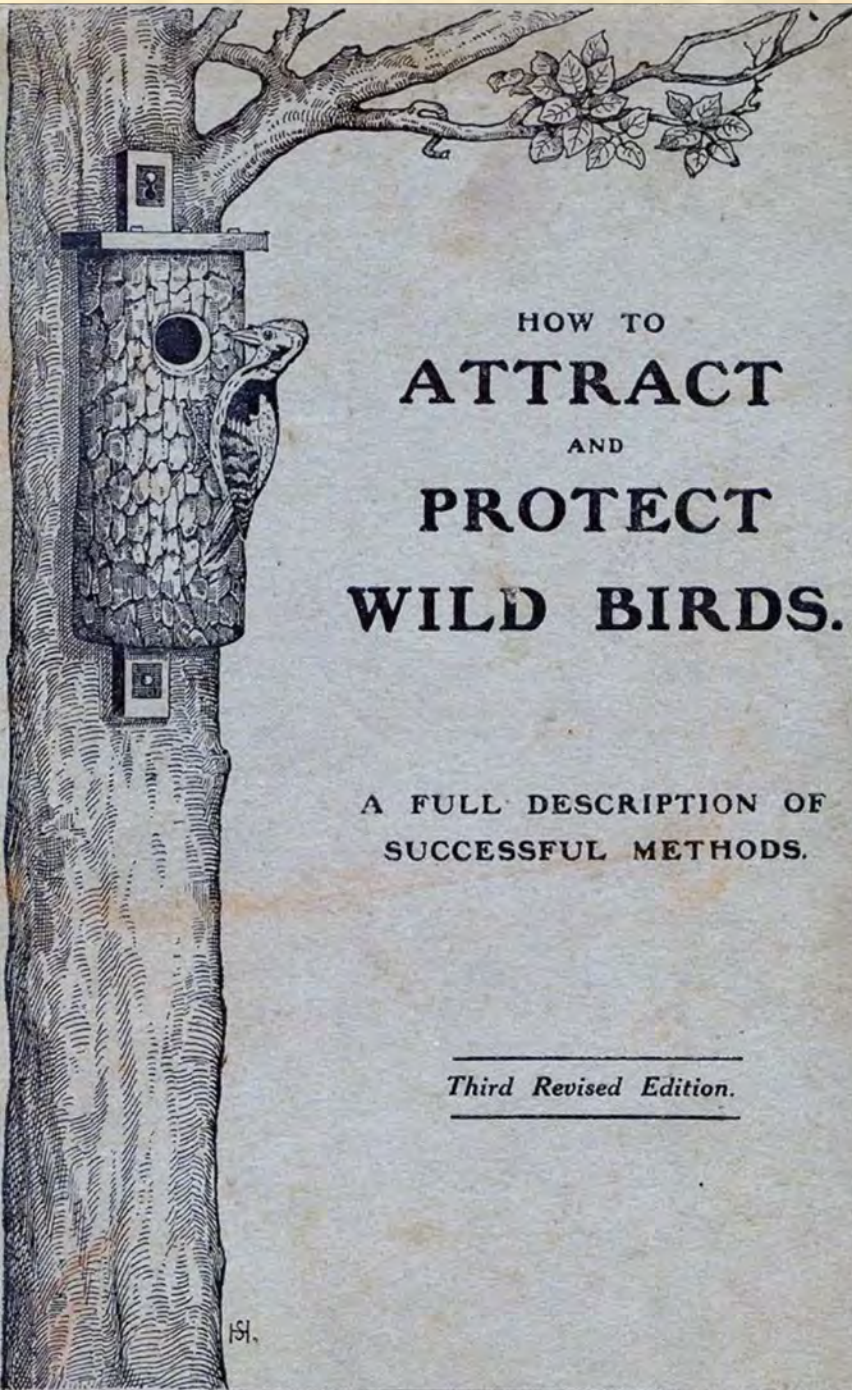


*Sir, - I am much obliged for
your kindness in reminding
your readers of their duties
to our friends, the Birds.*

*Their suffering is far greater
than any can realise. I implore
One and All to offer any form of
sustenance that you are able.*

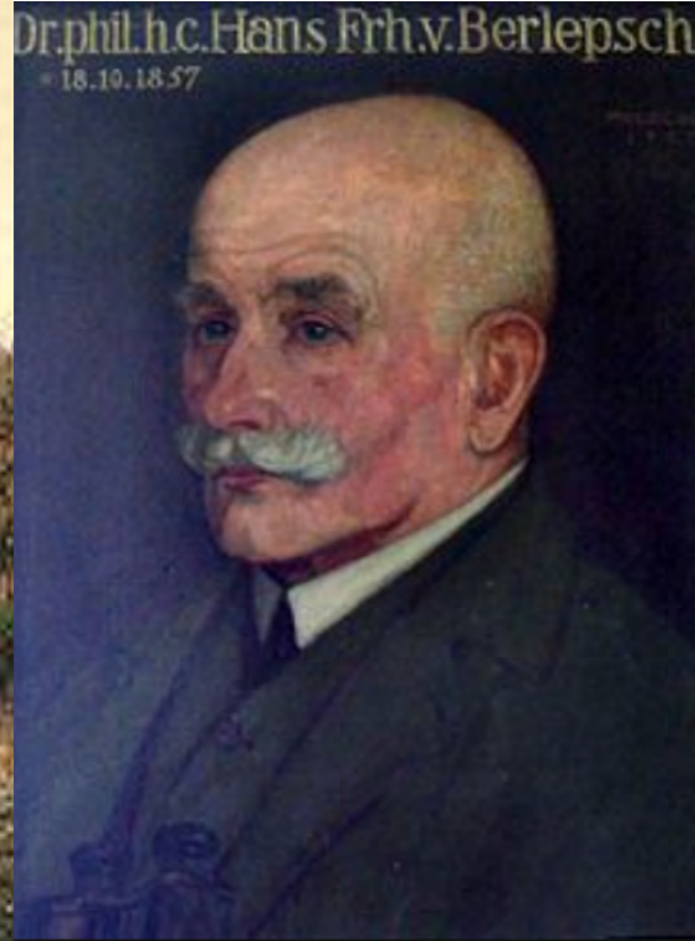
London Evening Standard
30th Dec 1890





The Baron (1908) Hans Freiherr von Berlepsch

Seebach, central Germany

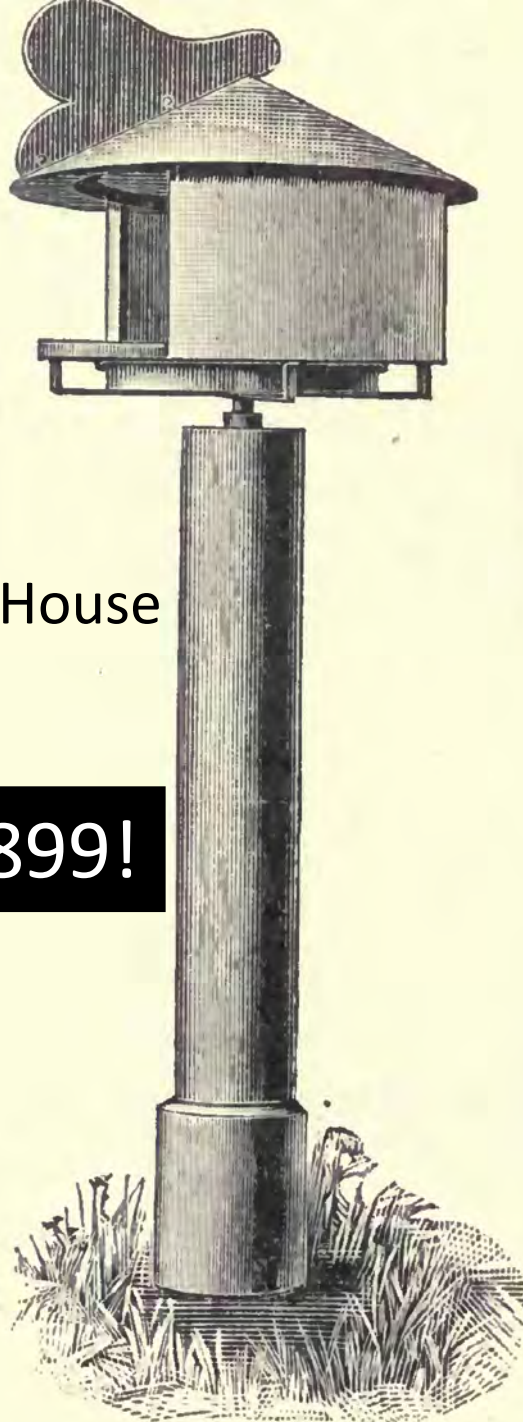


The Feeding Bell



The Food House

Before 1899!



The Feeding Tree



Dried bread, meat, hempseed, poppy flour, white millet, maw, elderberries, sunflower seeds, ant eggs mixed with 2 gallons of beef fat. Apply while still molten.

Female pioneers



Florence A Merriam
1898

Mabel Osgood Wright
1885



Harriet Memenway
1899



BIRDS
OF VILLAGE AND FIELD

A Bird Book for Beginners

BY

FLORENCE A. MERRIAM

ILLUSTRATED



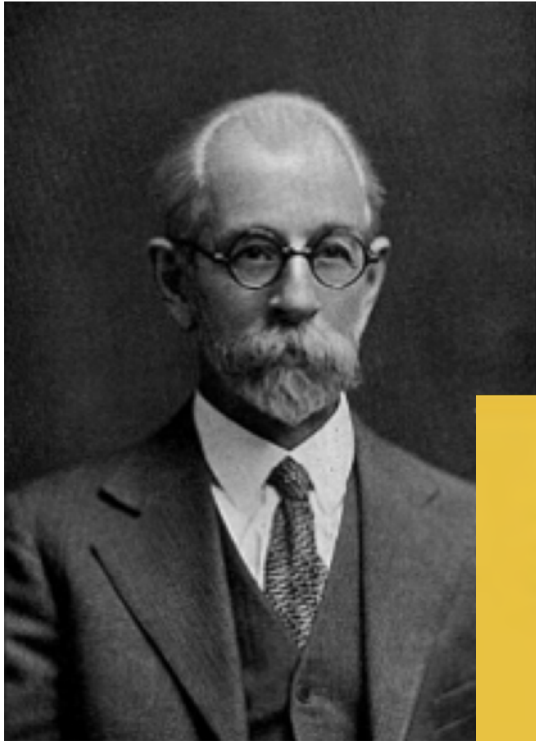
BOSTON AND NEW YORK
HOUGHTON, MIFFLIN AND COMPANY
The Riverside Press, Cambridge
1898

A-Birding on a Bronco
Florence A. Merriam

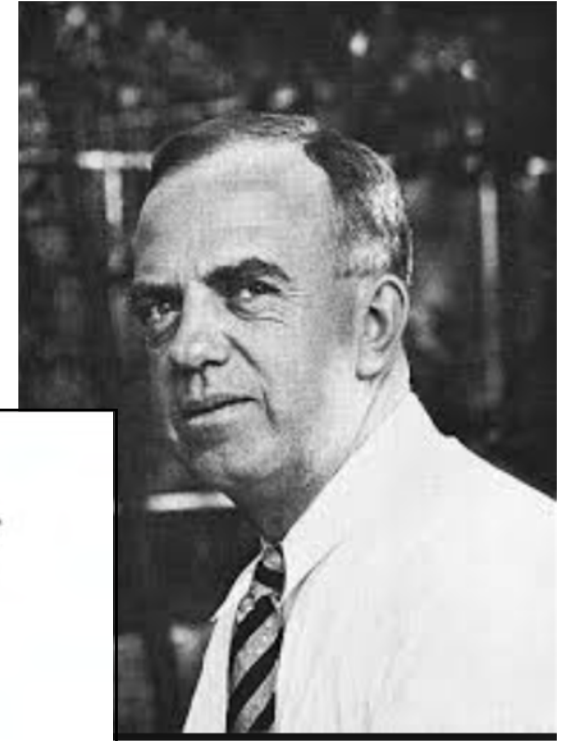
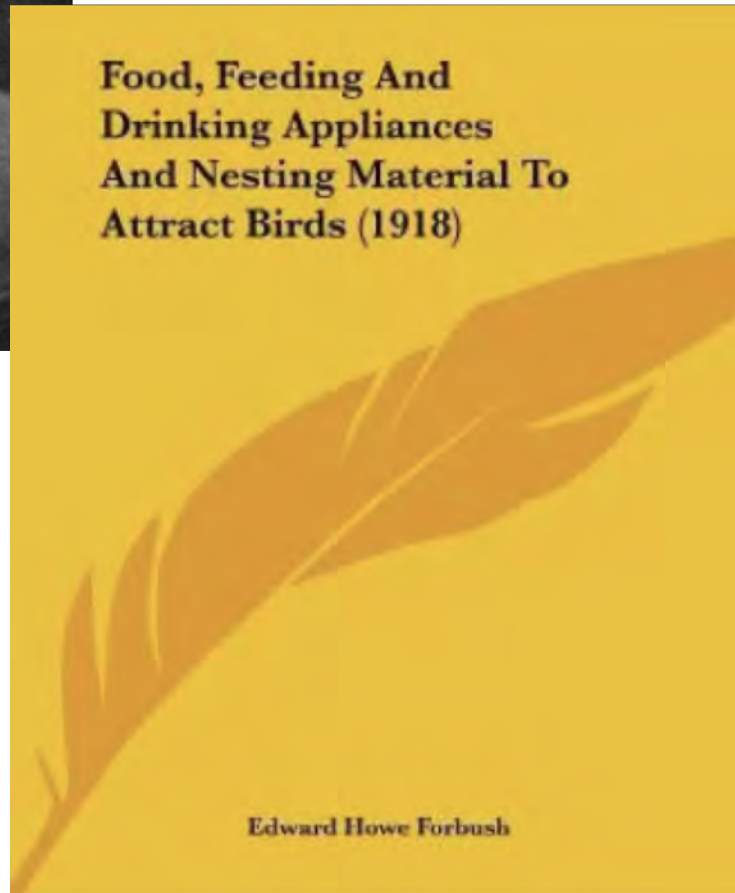


loyalBooks.com

Demand for advice

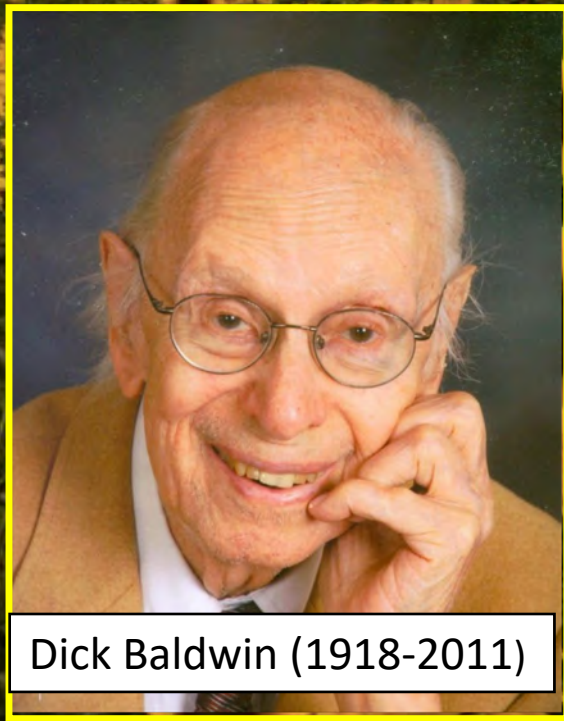


Edward Howe Forbush
1918



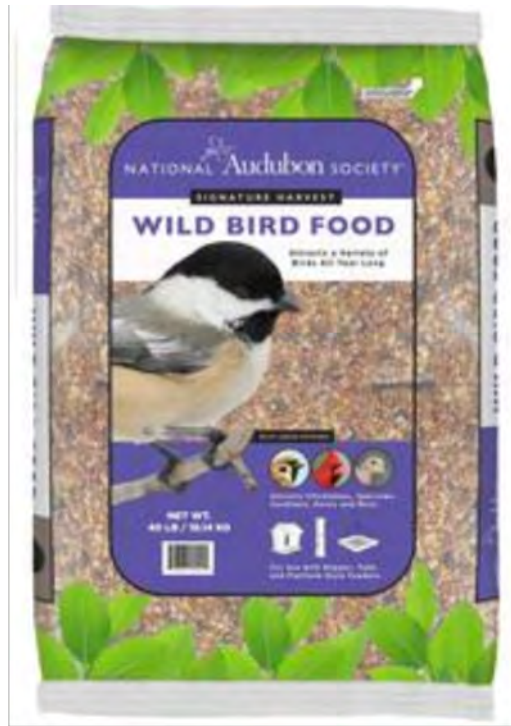
W L McAtee
1918





Sunflowers Blooming 1966

The first *wild* bird food products



Kellogg's
Audubon Society Mixture
1953



Knauf & Tesch's
Wild Birdseed
1955

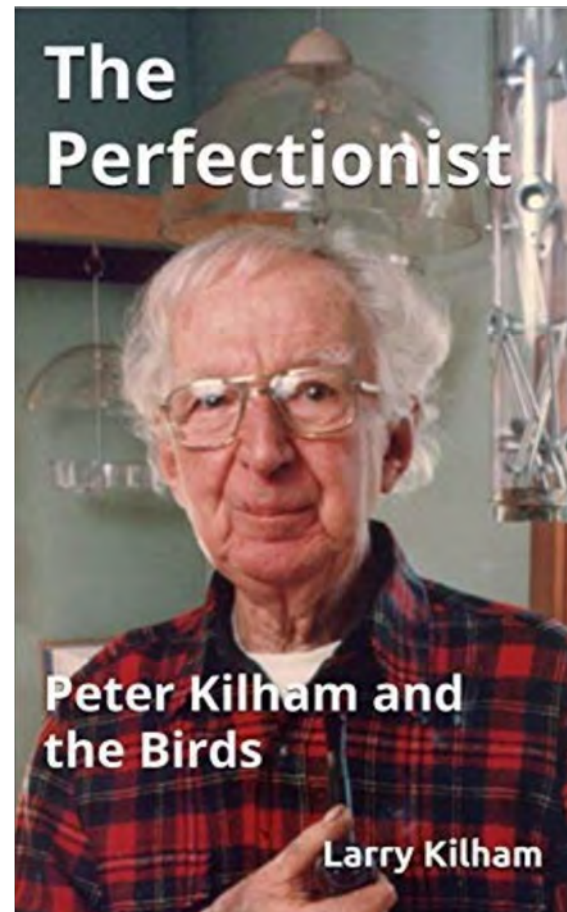


Wagner's
Four Seasons
1956



UK
Swoop
1958

The first (commercial) wild bird feeders



Droll Yankees
A-6F
1969

Then, proliferation and expansion....



Bird-oriented design





Now, whatever.....

Human aesthetics



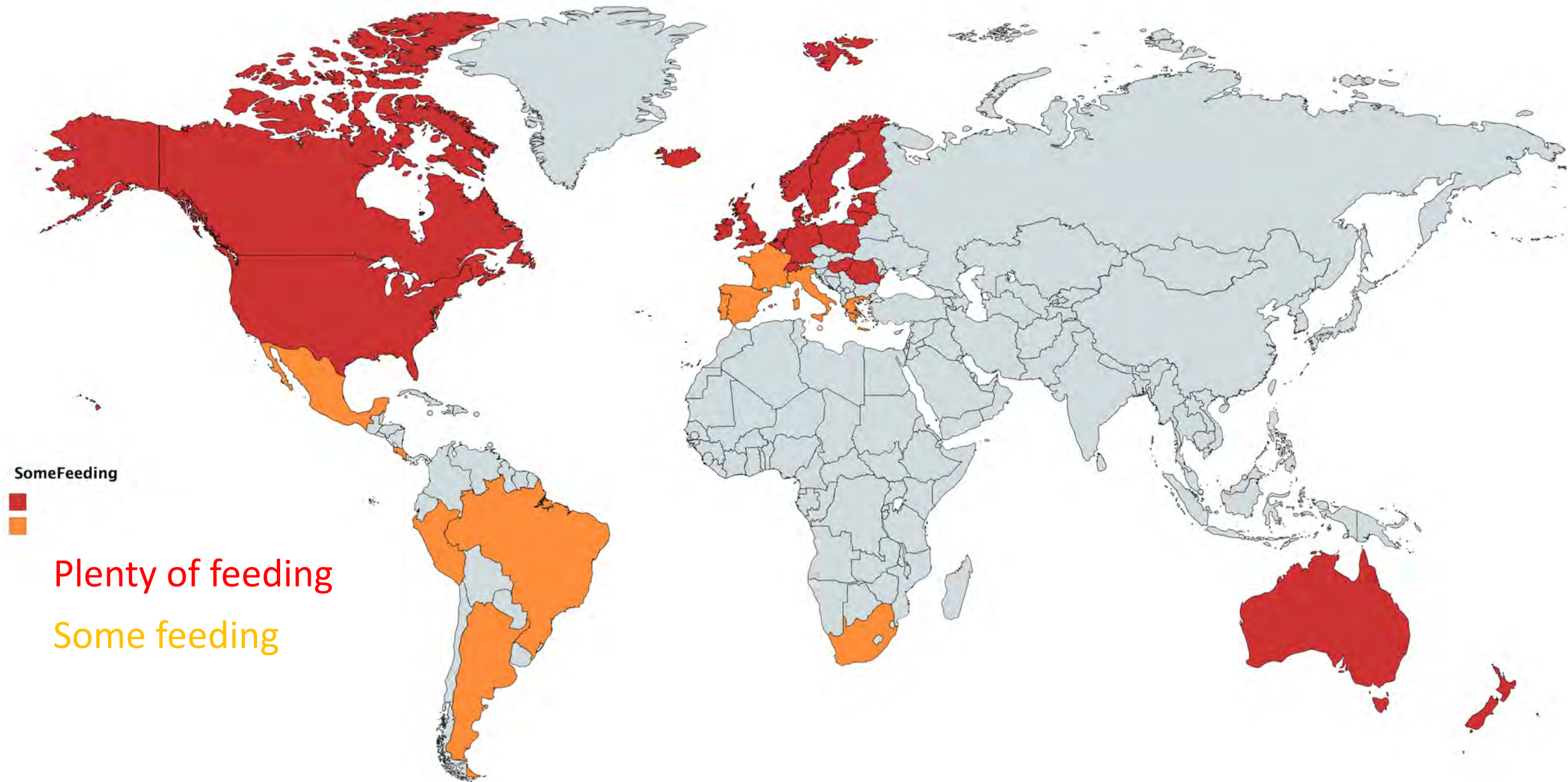


MajorFeeding



Plenty of feeding

Global, really?



SomeFeeding



Plenty of feeding

Some feeding



Quality and discernment



Human wellbeing

What's next..?



Beyond feeders



Beyond seed



Bird communities



New places