

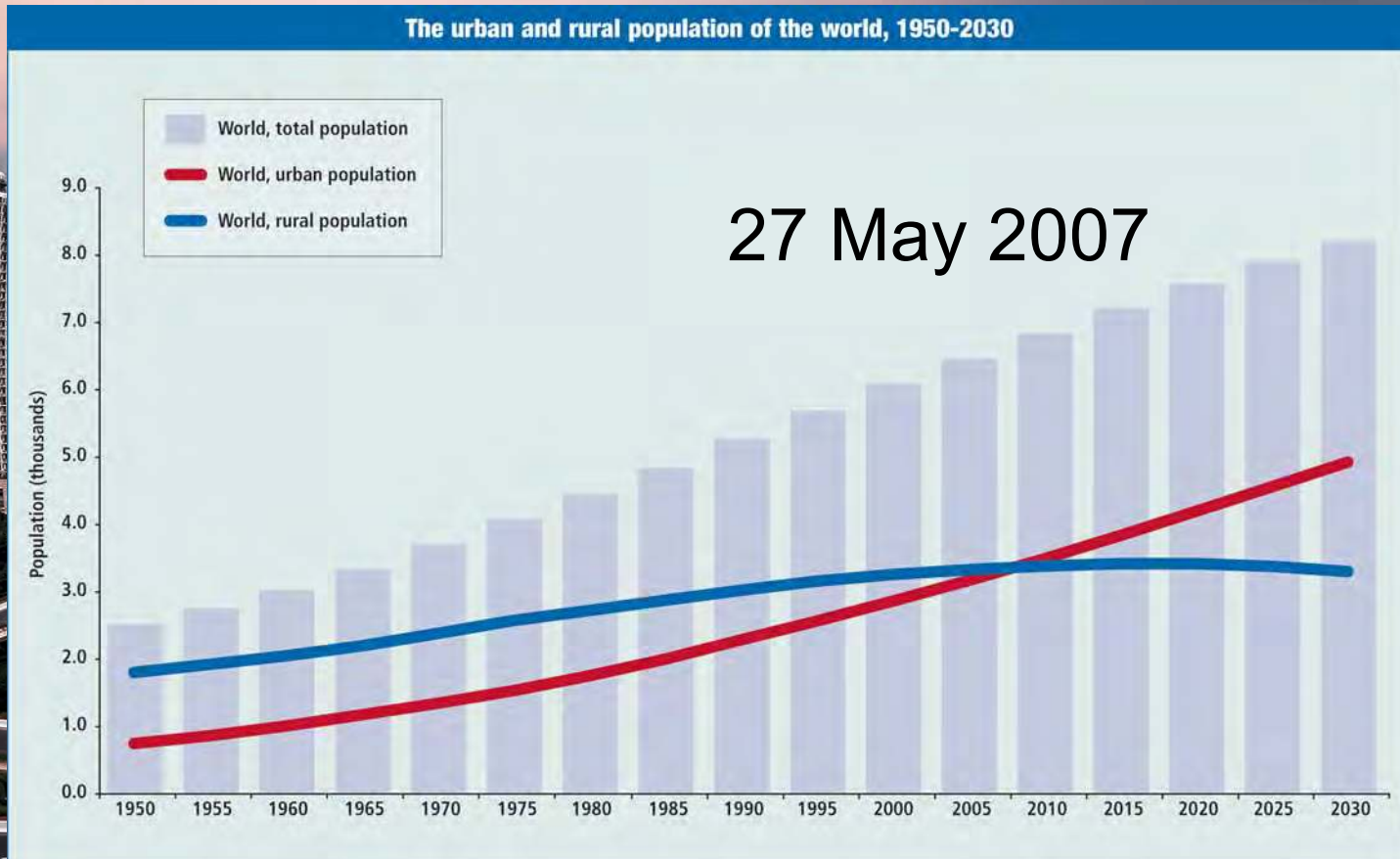


Why do people feed wild birds?



Darryl Jones

The future is urban

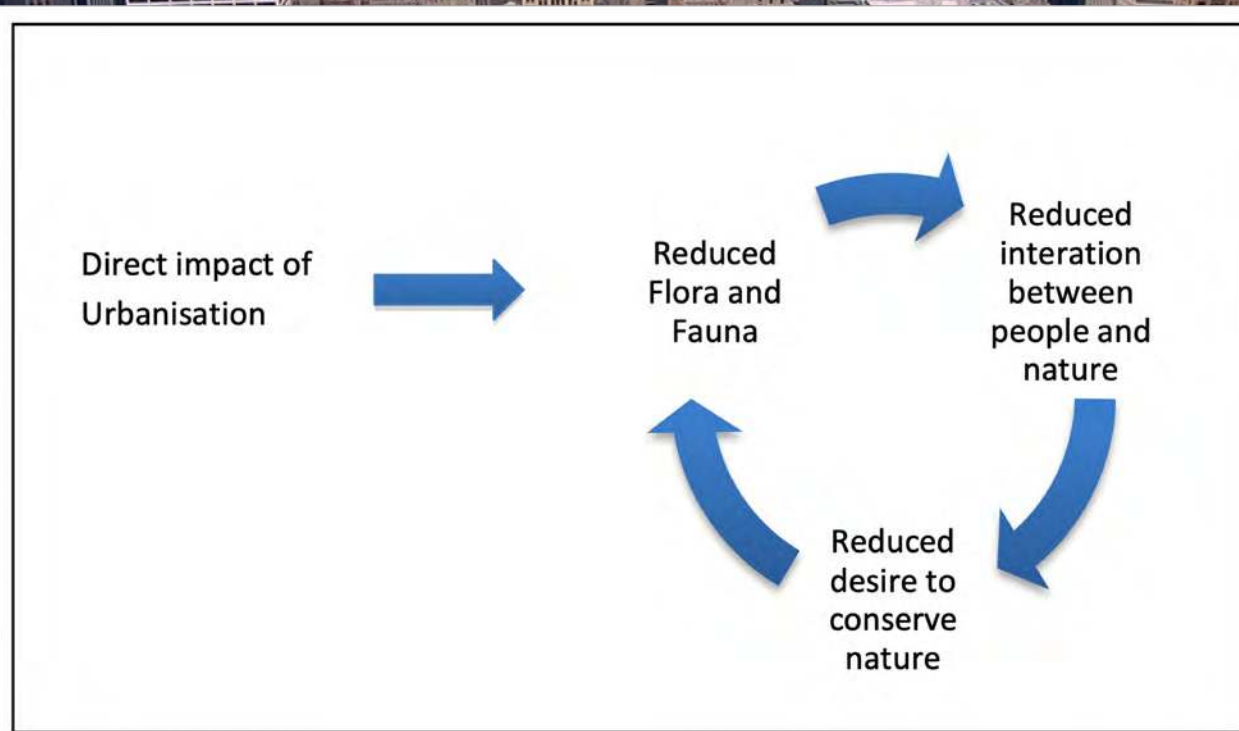


An aerial photograph of a city, likely Vancouver, showing a dense urban landscape with numerous skyscrapers. A large, curved, metallic structure, possibly a bridge or a large-scale architectural element, dominates the left side of the frame. In the foreground, a large, lush green park area is visible, contrasting with the surrounding urban environment. The sky is blue with some light clouds.

Urbanisation transforms landscapes



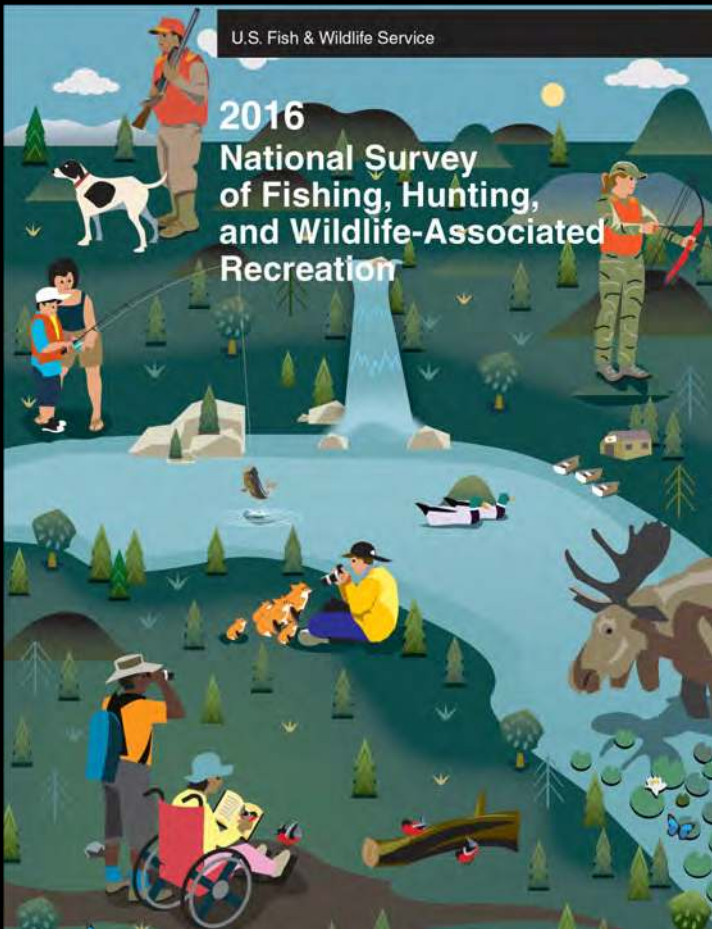
Urbanization disconnects people from nature



Does bird feeding
have a role to play?

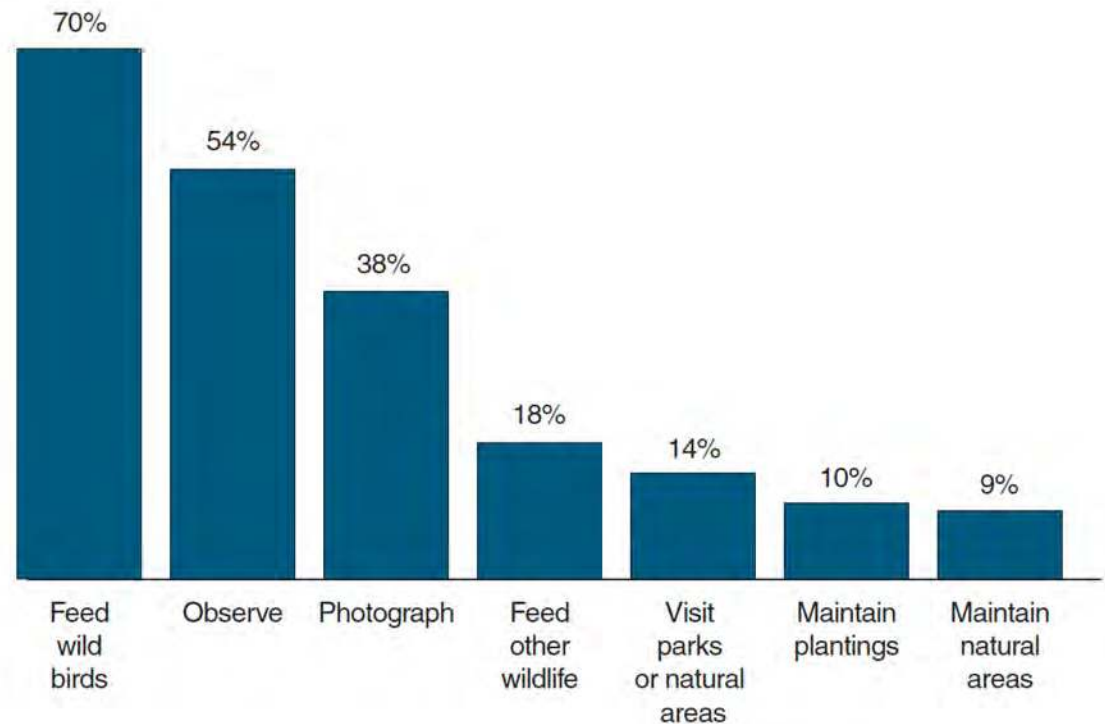


Just how popular is bird feeding?

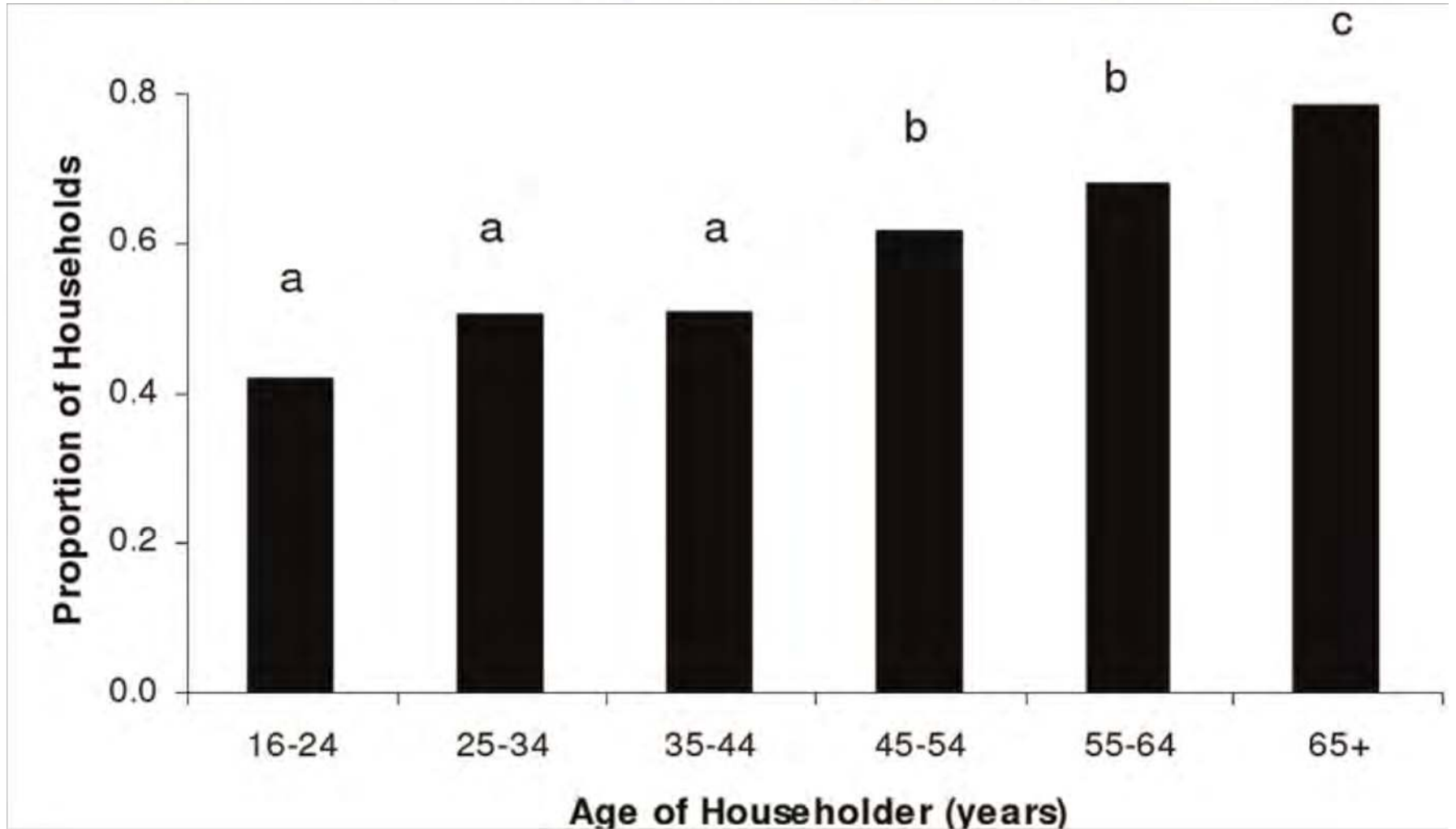


Percent of Total Around-The-Home Participants by Activity

(Total: 81.1 million participants)

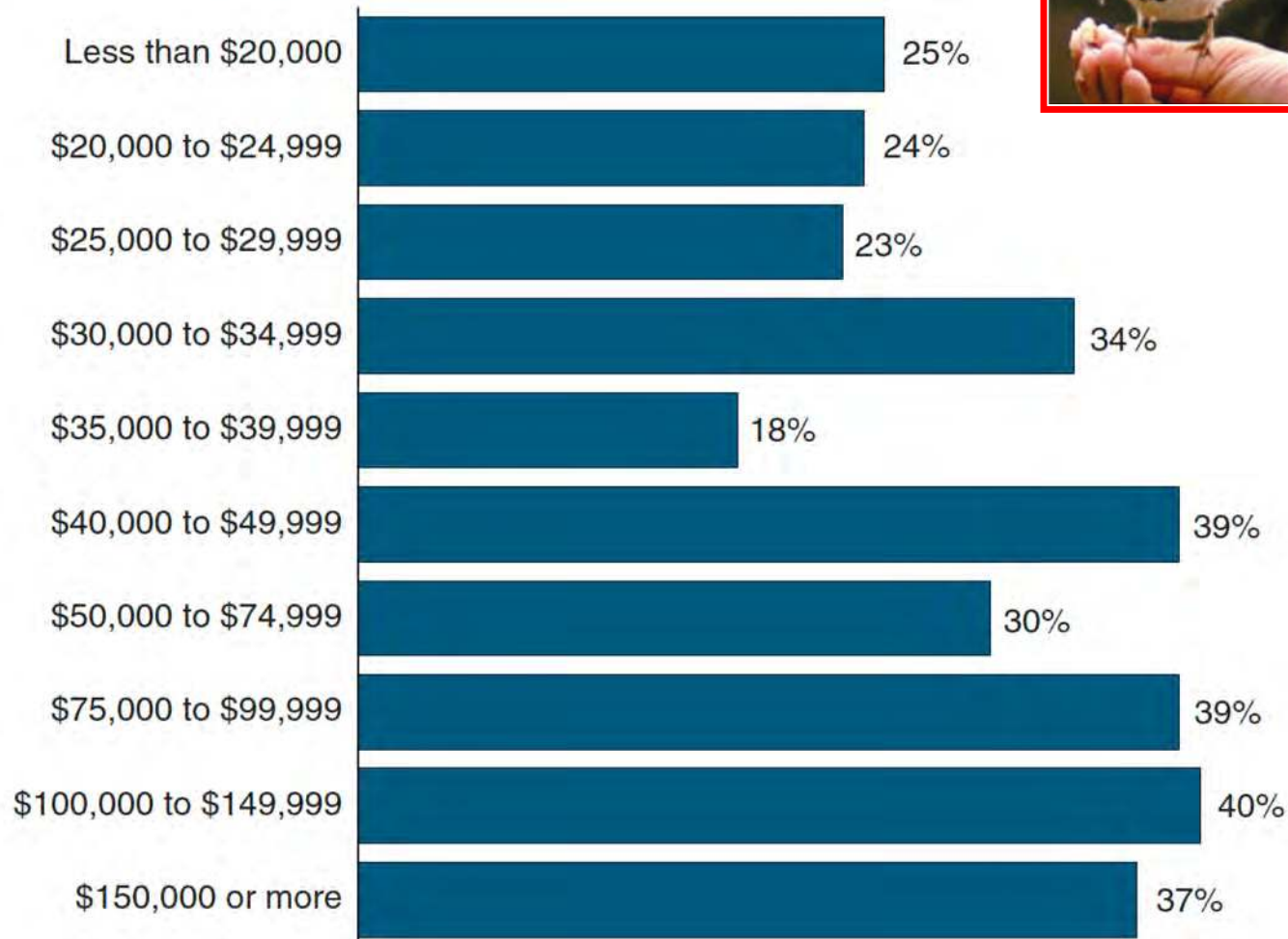


Who?



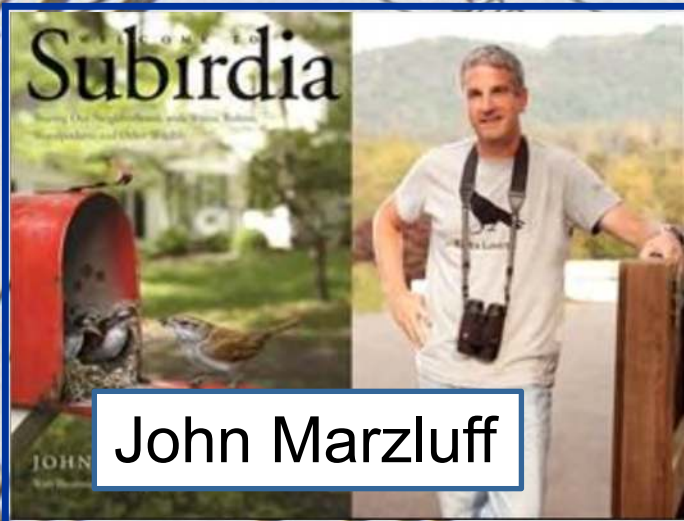
Financial status?

Percent of U.S. Population Who Participated Around-The-Home
by Household Income

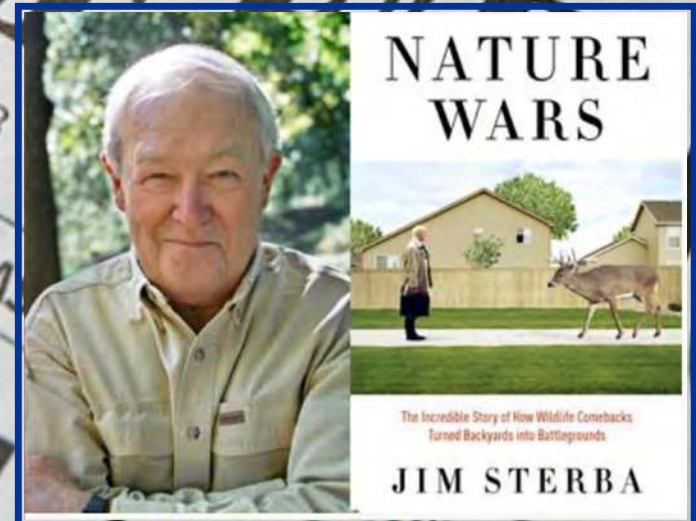


American Backyard Feeders May Do Harm to Wild Birds Feeding Wild Birds Lures Pests, Predators, Causing Illness and Distorting Populations

By JAMES P. STERBA
Staff Reporter
THE WALL STREET JOURNAL
December 27, 2002.



John Marzluff



Genuine concerns

Proponents

Dependency

Nutrition

Predation

Disease

“Too trusting”



Opponents

Dependency

Disease

Population changes

Predation

Nutrition

A person wearing a dark winter coat and a hat is standing in a snowy park, reaching out to feed a large flock of birds. The birds are scattered across a snow-covered path and a nearby body of water. The background shows snow-covered trees and a stone wall. The scene is captured in a slightly blurred, cinematic style.

Do birds become dependent on our food?

No evidence (excluding range expansion species)

Is nutrition an issue?

Not for most commercial products
(though bread and ducks is of concern)

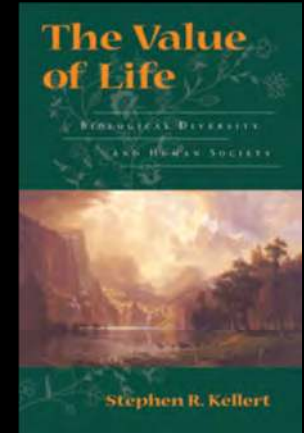
Should we be concerned about disease?

A very serious concern

How do we value birds?



Stephen Kellert's Wildlife Values



Naturalistic: Values the experience of nature

Ecologicistic-Scientific: Knowledge and learning

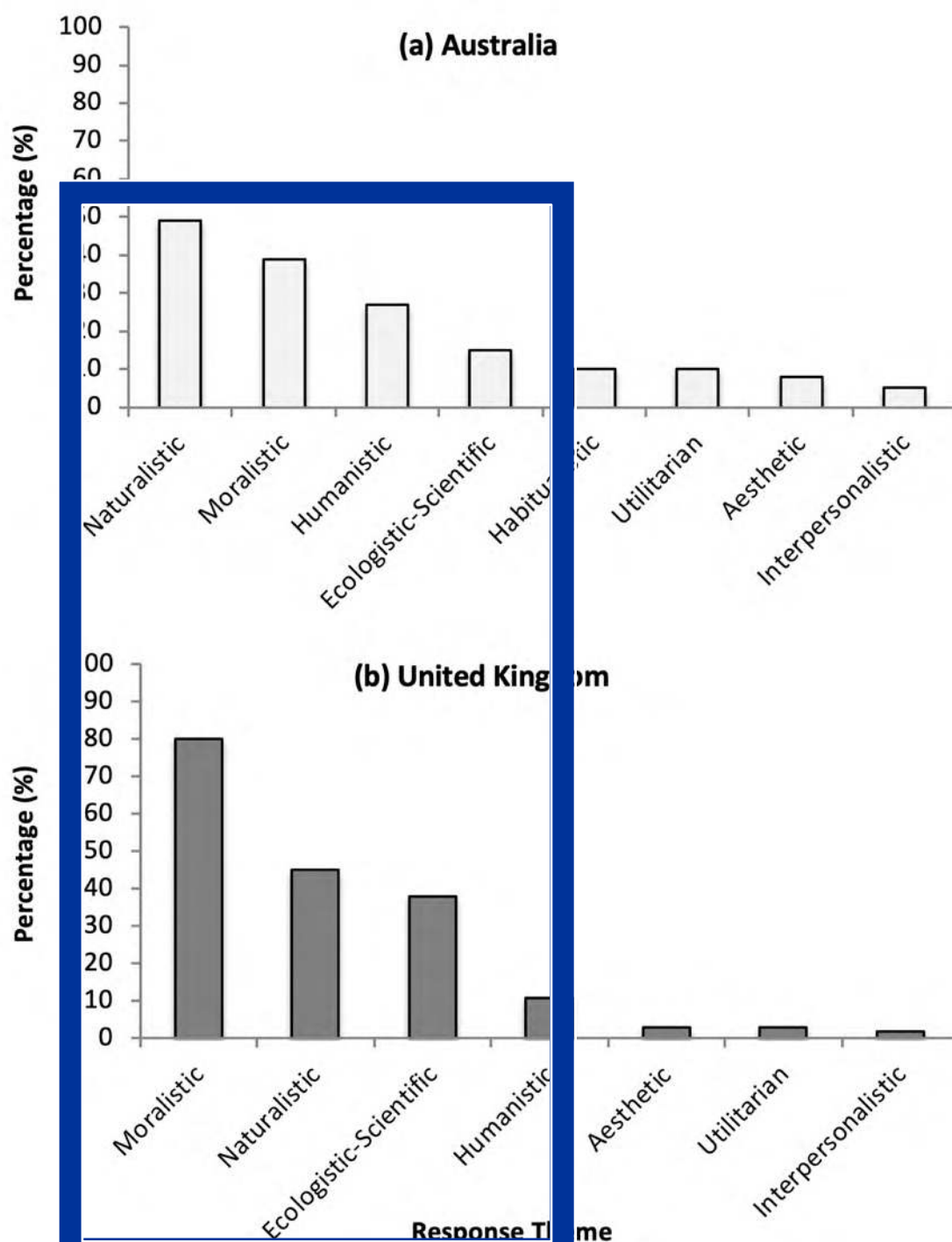
Humanistic: Affection, attachment, connection

Moralistic: Care and responsibility

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Utilitarian: Practical use and purpose



What are feeders' Values?

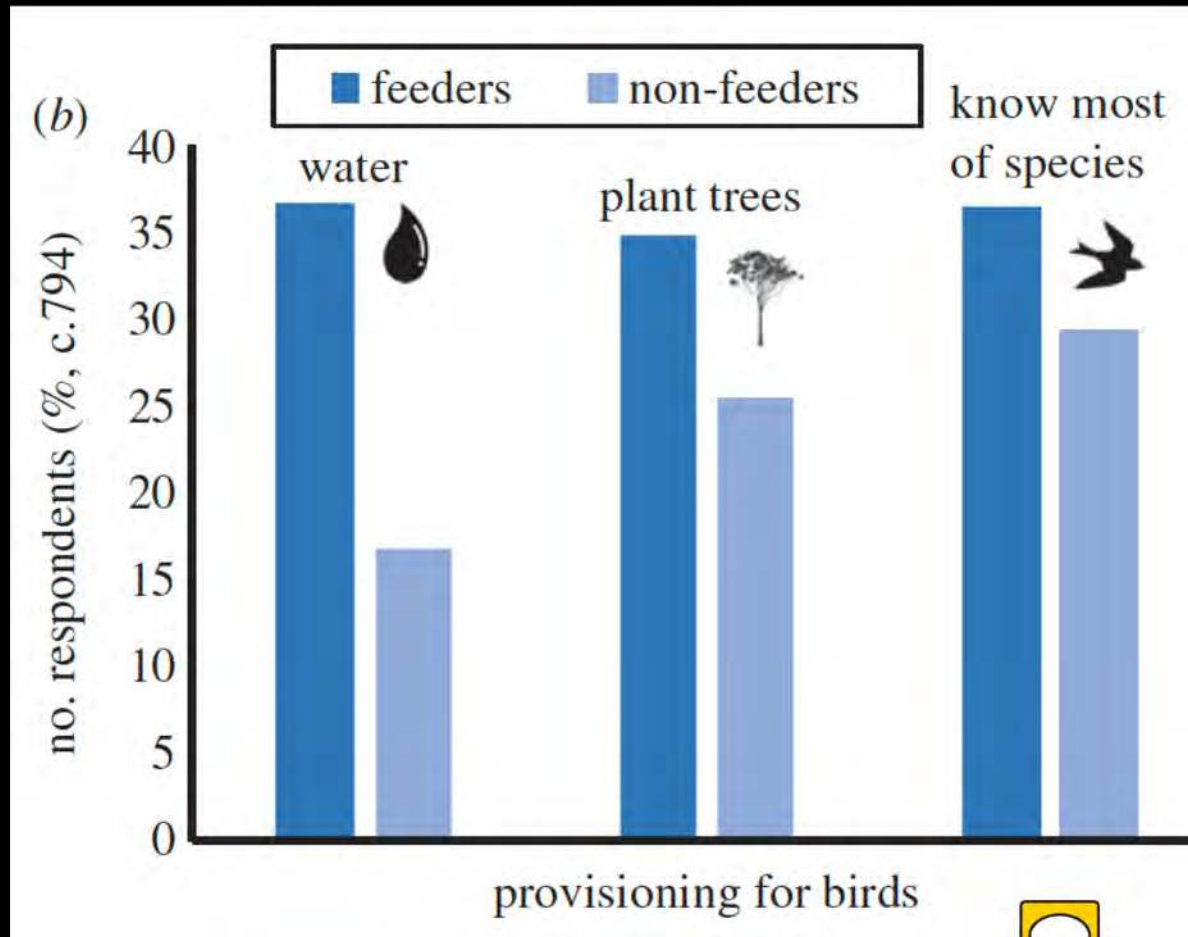
Moralistic and Naturalistic dominate

1 Atonement and pleasure

2 Care and knowledge

Renee Chapman (2016) PhD

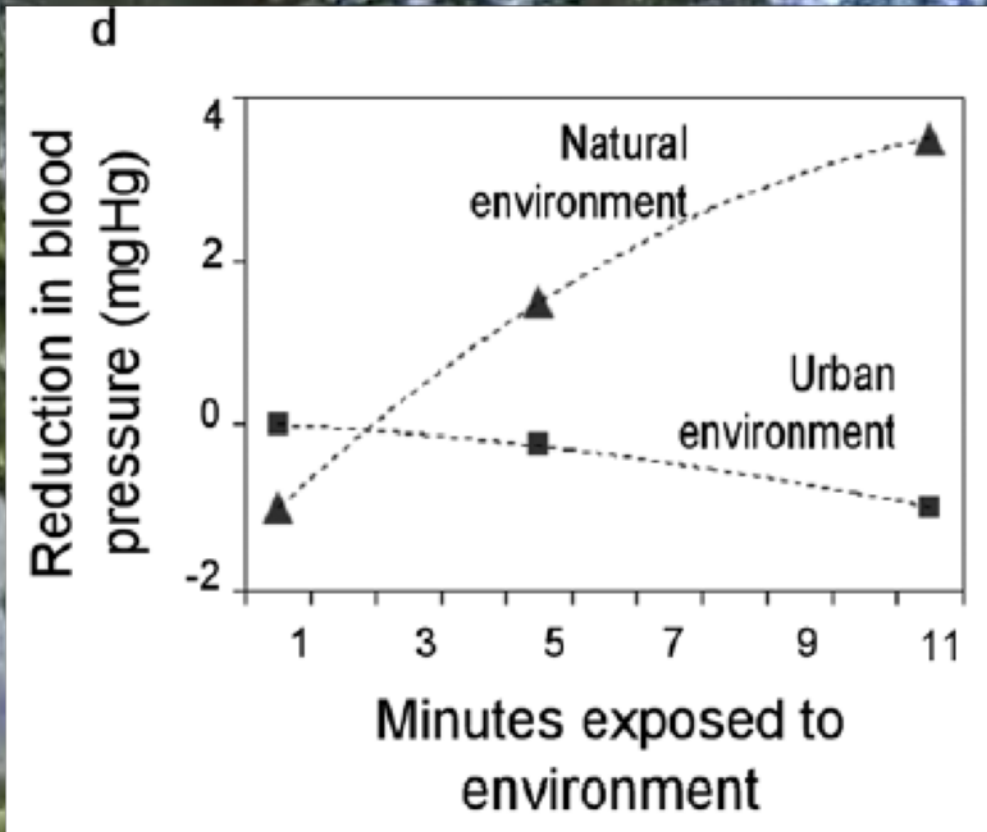
People who feed do more and know more



People who feed care







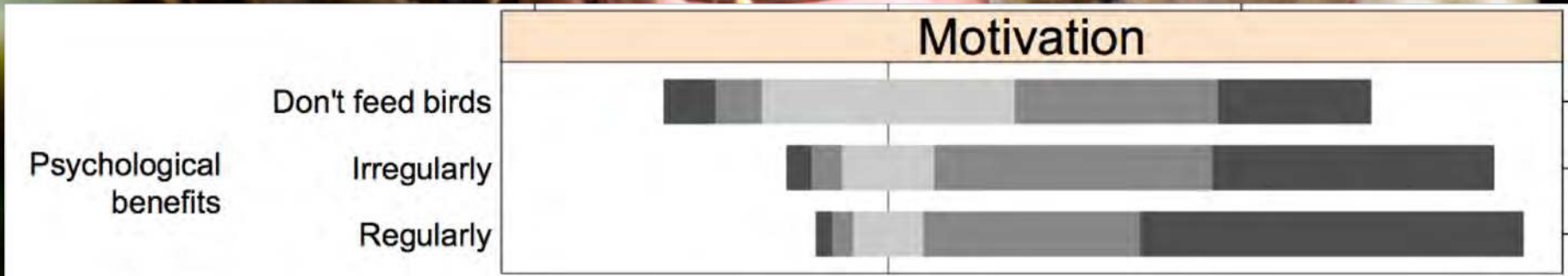
Time in nature is really good for your wellbeing

Shanahan et al. (2015) *BioScience* 65: 476-485

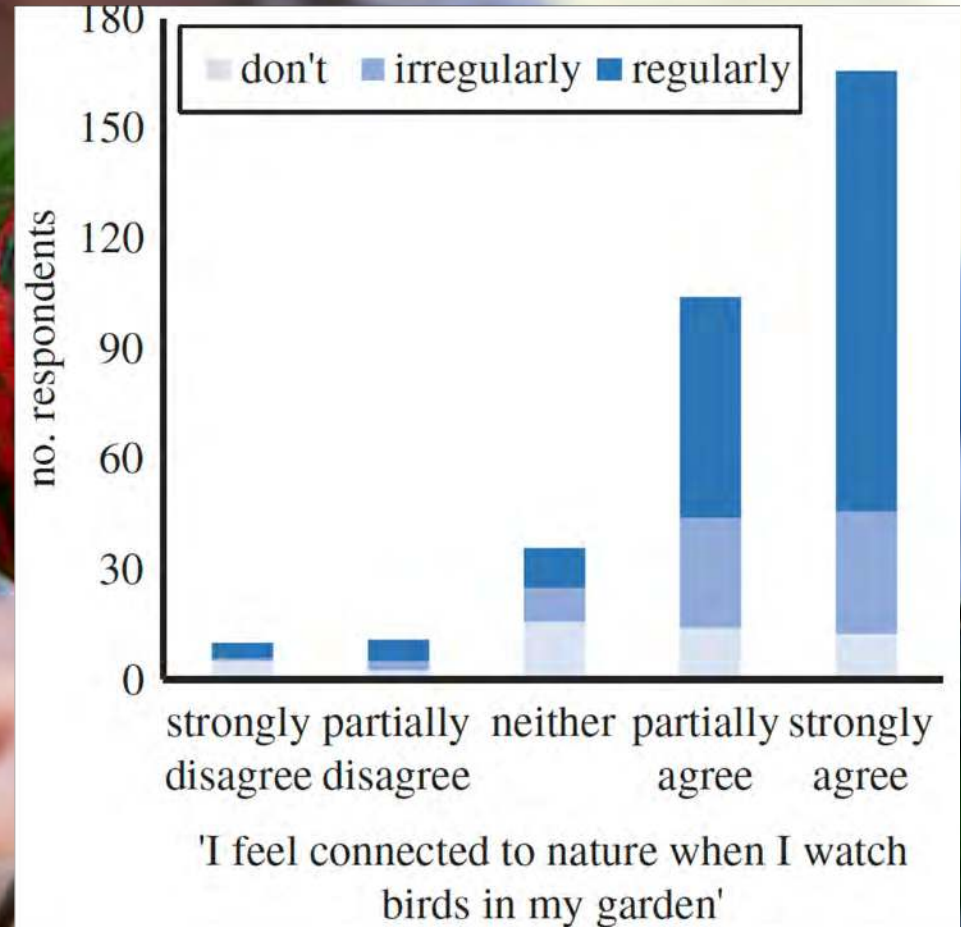
Bird feeding is the most intimate form of interaction with wildlife



Can feeding birds be good for people?



Feeding birds is one the most direct ways to connect with nature



We think our feeders are for the birds. Our feeders are actually for us. But the birds don't seem to mind. They continue to willingly bring their lives into ours, and so offer hope, knowledge and pleasure

