

## Bird Watcher's Digest Guidelines for Writers

*Bird Watcher's Digest (BWD)* is a bimonthly magazine devoted to providing entertaining, informative, and engaging content to its readers and subscribers. We were founded in 1978 in the living room of the Thompson family of Marietta, Ohio, and we are still the only independently owned and operated wild-bird magazine in North America. *BWD* is also the only bird-watching magazine created by bird watchers for bird watchers.

Each issue of *BWD* contains a wide array of material aimed at bird watchers and birders at all levels of interest and ability. Regular columns and features include:

- “After The Spark,” written by Kenn Kaufman, one of North America’s leading birding authorities.
- “Watching Bird Behavior.” Dr. David Bird is an ornithologist and our resident expert on bird behavior. His column appears in each issue.
- “The Bird Watcher’s Question Box.” We get hundreds of reader questions each year. Many of these are sent along to Kevin J. Cook, who has been answering questions in *BWD*’s “Question Box” since 1992.
- “My Way.” Readers share their ideas with others in this short (fewer than 1,000 words) how-to forum. Authors whose material is published in “My Way” receive a year’s free subscription to *BWD*.
- “The Well-Equipped Birder” includes ideas, tips, and innovations for today’s active bird watcher. This short (750 word) column is usually written by *BWD*’s own Bill Thompson, III, but freelance submissions are welcomed.
- “Far Afield.” Travel articles focusing on great birding destinations, unusual travel experiences, and related topics. About 75 percent of our “Far Afield” articles focus on North American destinations.
- “The Bird Gardener.” Articles (1,500 to 2,000 words) about gardening to attract birds and wildlife.
- The Backyard. Our Backyard section comprises two to four short articles (from 500 to 1,500 words each) on backyard-related topics from feeding and housing to humorous backyard experiences and helpful ideas.
- Species Profiles. Each issue of *BWD* includes up to two species profiles covering the basic natural history of a given bird species. Length: between 2,000 and 3,500 words.

## Freelance Submissions

We appreciate query letters in advance, but we do not make a decision without reviewing the entire manuscript. If you send your submissions via regular mail (or UPS, FedEx, etc.), please include a SASE (self-addressed, stamped envelope) with enough postage for the return of all materials.

We gladly accept email queries and manuscript submissions but are not able to respond immediately to most inquiries via email. When submitting by email, please make the subject line read "Submission—your topic." Attach your submission to your email in either MS Word (.doc) or RichText Format (.rtf). Please do not copy and paste your submission into the body of the email.

Whether submitting by regular mail or by email, please include your full contact information on every page.

## Response Time from Editors

Due to the volume of submissions we receive, we ask that you allow 10 to 12 weeks for a response. Your submission will receive careful consideration regardless of the method by which it was sent.

## Suggestions

Obtain a sample copy of *BWD* from us or at your local newsstand, bird store, or bookstore, and familiarize yourself with the type of material we regularly publish.

If you're a current *BWD* subscriber, you'll already know the topics we've covered in recent issues. We rarely repeat coverage of a topic within a period of two to three years.

Sincerely,

Bill Thompson, III

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