

Collectors Are Singing To A New Tune With U.S. State Birds

(NAPSA)—If you're a collector, you'll find lots of company. The National Association of Collectors estimates there are more than 200 million people in the U.S. who collect everything from butterflies and postage stamps to antique dolls and Pez dispensers.

Most recently, a craze developed around newly minted state quarters released at specific intervals over the past two years. Each quarter represented one of the 50 states. Now there is another collectible state item that has many people, including children, singing a new tune—plush U.S.A. State Birds by Wild Republic.

The Audubon Birds State Bird Collection by Wild Republic, which includes 28 collectible beanbag birds representing all 50 states along with our national bird, the Bald Eagle, emit authentic bird sounds when squeezed. The prestigious Cornell Lab of Ornithology recorded these sounds, some more than 40 years ago.

“Collecting as a hobby is truly a part of our national pastime. While Americans enjoy hunting for pieces to complete an entire collection, such as stamp sets and the state quarters, they can now also have fun scouting for specific state birds and building the entire set of 28 to represent all 50 states. This can be an enjoyable activity for children, adults, and especially bird enthusiasts,” says John



FLOCKING TO COLLECT BIRDS—Is your state bird in this bird collection? This flock includes 28 collectible beanbag birds representing all 50 states.

Trenta, a spokesperson for Wild Republic.

Part of the joy of collecting is the research and education. Often, entire programs evolve around collecting a specific item. For example, collecting plush beanbag birds can be combined with nature walks for the entire family. “Do some research first, then hike along paths looking for specific birds. When you find one, record its habits or take a photo, and then compare the actual sound and appearance to our plush bird. It’s a great learning experience,” says Trenta.

To find your state bird, visit www.wildrepublic.com.