

PAT BRODBENT'S ADVICE IS FOR THE BIRDS.

THE BIRD MAN

LITERALLY.

He's known as The Bird Man — he's even had the moniker officially trademarked. Brodbent's business revolves around helping folks determine the best way to attract birds —and bats — to their yards.

"Birds are the most beautiful creature on the planet," Brodbent says as he sits in his well-equipped shop, surrounded by various equipment used to support the ecosystems he creates for peoples' yards.

The Bird Man specializes in creating property plans for homeowners.

"We show them where and how to maintain their bird boxes, feeders, bird baths. We can do as much or as little as they want," he says.

Brodbent started the business in 2002 when he left his two-decade-long career in support sales for Hewlett-Packard.

"I needed something that wouldn't give me a heart-attack," he says with a smile. "I've always been attracted to birds."

He began by selling top-of-the-line organic bird seed. From there, he expanded his business to include his high-quality bird boxes and feeders.

Brodbent shows off one of his handmade bird boxes (houses), which he has refined over the years through trial and error, keeping the designs that the birds gravitated to the most.

After he had perfected the bird boxes, the bat houses followed.

"Bats are the king of the insect-eaters," Brodbent says.

A population of birds and bats on a property helps to control mosquitoes and other

insects, and it also helps organic gardeners keep pests away without the use of chemicals.

When he visits a property, The Bird Man assesses its layout, the direction of the sun, quantity, and types of foliage, and territorial features that contribute to the kinds of birds and that will likely gather there. He also determines whether the property can support a bat house.

"Temperature is very important. If it's too hot, the bats won't come," he says.

Brodbent strives to help people have as much success as possible in their pursuit of creating an ecosystem for their property. It is lucky for Parker to have him roosting so close.

ARTICLE JODI HORNER

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The Bird Man
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