

# ***Fun Vintage Ornaments— Birds, Animals, and***



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Birds have been a favorite Christmas ornament for many years and they still hold our interest. Companies like Old World Christmas continue to create new bird ornaments for us to enjoy. Because they've been loved by so many, there are quite a few vintage bird ornaments out there, and we have lots to offer right now. Some of them are what I call "exotic" birds. These are usually a little larger than the songbirds, and include birds such as parrots, swans, peacocks and other fanciful creations. Most are clip-on ornaments, but a few are meant to be used with ornament hangars. Sometimes the clips aren't quite perfect, so I sometimes wire the birds onto my tree for additional support. But I think all the ones in our current collection have functioning clips.



Exotic Birds 1



Exotic Birds 2

We have even more songbird ornaments. I'm not sure if these were more popular back in the day, or perhaps they are less likely to break, so they are easier to find. The exotic birds often have longer necks, beaks, legs, and tails, so maybe they were more susceptible to damage and fewer of them survive. Although smaller, the songbirds are just as colorful and useful for decorating your tree. I often find that the tops of branches can look bare, even when a tree is covered with other ornaments. If you add birds or other clip-on ornaments to the tops of the branches, the tree looks more complete.



Songbirds



Nesting Birds

Perhaps the rarest of our bird ornaments are those with birds on a nest. We only have a few right now, but that's more than usual. Some years we don't find any. These ornaments are different from others in the way they are displayed. They don't have clips, and you can't hang them vertically or they wouldn't display properly. Some are decorated with very fine wire. This was common for many types of ornaments back in the early days of glass ornaments. But those thin wires often break or become tangled. It's almost impossible to find an old ornament with pristine wires. These same wires are sometimes attached to both ends of glass ornaments, and the ornament is then suspended from a branch. The bird's nest is nestled into the top of the ornament, and the bird sits in the nest. Since these wires rarely survive, another way must be found to display the ornaments. You could substitute a pipe cleaner or a heavier gauge new wire. Or you could just nestle the ornament into a suitable spot and hope no one touches it. You'll have to figure out what's best for you.



Assorted Birds

Along with bird ornaments we have a number of animals. Dogs, cats, bears, frogs, fish, insects, and more. You can surely find something that sparks a memory for you. Or create a new memory. Some folks collect fish ornaments because they are a symbol of Christianity. I like the ladybug and the older, round ornament with the cat face.



Animals



Mostly Italian

Lastly, we have a nice collection of "people" ornaments. One group is mostly made up of Italian ornaments. You can tell these because unlike German ornaments where a character's arms and legs are held close in, in the Italian ornaments the appendages are attached later, when the glass is still hot. The arms and legs are held more naturally on the figures, and make them seem more animated. Of course, this makes them more fragile. Some enthusiasts collect Italian ornaments exclusively. Along with these we have a nice selection of clowns, soldiers, nutcrackers, angels, snowmen, Indians, and a Madonna. Keep in mind that we generally only have one of a kind of any of these ornaments shown here. We never know what we'll find next. But that's the fun. Its like opening a present at Christmas, having no idea what's inside!



People 1



People 2

Please email me ([kevin@milaegers.com](mailto:kevin@milaegers.com)) with your questions and comments!