



The Mystery at the Birdfeeder

Author Information

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After graduating from the University of Michigan and accepting a teaching position with the Los Angeles Unified School District Wayne L. Brillhart, author of “The Mystery at the Birdfeeder”, pursued a side interest in photography. Taking photographs of sunsets over the Pacific Ocean to majestic peaks in the Himalaya Mountains of Tibet, Brillhart had no idea he would one day author a children’s photographic adventure book. It was on a winter day that some snapshots through the dining room window set him on the path to authoring. When he obtained the developed photographs and saw the results he determined this had to become a book. So all winter long 2008 – 2009 he continued to take photographs of birds and his English Setter, Purdy, to put together a story of who knocked the birdfeeder down and ate all the bird seed. His publisher was impressed with the quality of the photographs and insisted the book expand to the current published version. Brillhart has a series of books planned in which Purdy and his less adventurous brother Rusty, talk with the birds to solve mysteries. The soft cover version of “The Mystery at the Birdfeeder” was published near the end of 2009 and the hardcover version arrived September, 2010. While preparing for a speech on using Photography as an Educational Tool for the Michigan Association for Media in Education (MAME) Brillhart developed the **CAMIL** approach to learning. **Curiosity promotes Attention which leads to Motivation which leads to Invovement which produces Learning!** The books in the Rusty and Purdy series all employ the **CAMIL** methodology. More information on the book (including the culprit) can be found at the website www.mysteryatthebirdfeeder.com.

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