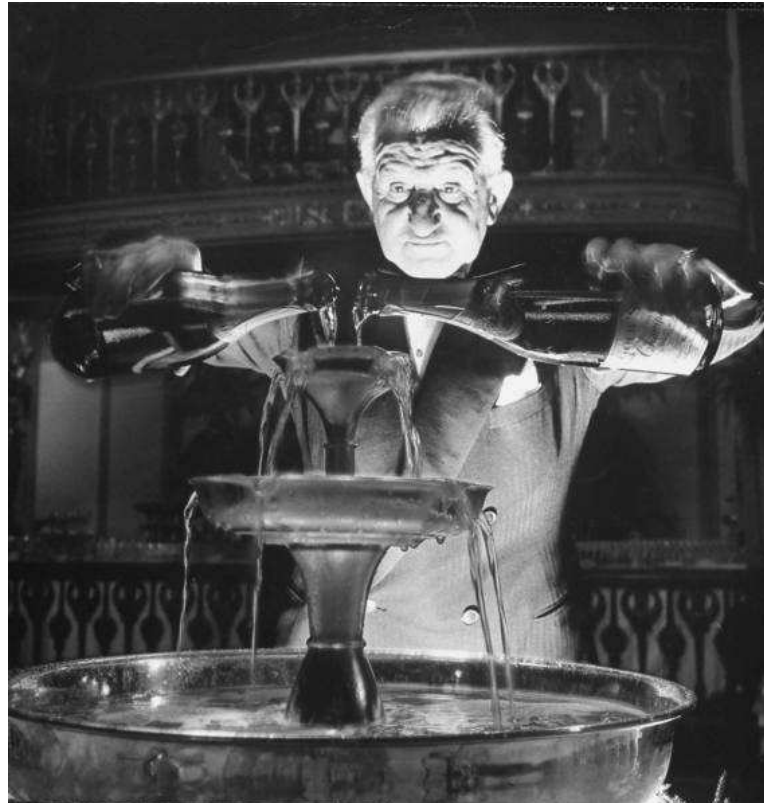


The Dirty Bird



For millennia, the village of Lamington had sat smack-dab in the north-south flyway of zillions of migratory birds. And for nearly that long, the villagers had been holding annual competitions to see who could attract the most birds to his feeder. Some people employed elaborate enticements, such as bird chews laden with fresh grubs, animatronicly suggestive robin trollops, or giant wormwiches. Others shot colossal nets into the air to snare their prey, though that practice was officially prohibited. However, for the last 22 years, nothing in the village sucked in the avian air traffic like the birdbath in Bernard's back yard. Birds of all sorts of feathers flocked to it, sometimes a thousand at a time. And no wonder! It wasn't just water that Bernard put in that birdbath. By mixing equal amounts of Wild Turkey and tequila, he created a swimming pool that no itinerant fowl could pass up. Eventually, the concoction wound up in the Mixology Hall of Fame, where it was dubbed the Dirty Bird cocktail. You can look it up!