

# 1959 THUNDERBIRD

*It's Hip to be Square*



A total of 10,261 T-bird convertibles were produced in 1959.

**T**he first Thunderbirds left a lasting impression. The initial design — launched in September 1954 — gained an immediate following, and collectors have seen to it that the little 'Birds have never lost their draw. The beautiful lines managed to be both elegant and sporty, and have since become one of the best loved and most easily recognized cars of the '50s. Even people who don't know anything about cars know an early 'Bird when they see one.

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BY DAN LYONS

Comparisons to the other American two-place standard bearer, the Corvette, were inevitable. History records that the two cars shared a two-seat platform but completely different philosophies. Though the T-bird was launched in response to Chevy's all star sports car, it soon became evident that the two models were heading in separate directions. And even as they competed in the mid-'50s marketplace, Ford designers were working on plans for a different kind of car. Corvette went on to push