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Birds: The Art Of Ornithology (Rizzoli Classics)



Synopsis

This remarkably beautiful volume gathers together a selection of the most important and vibrant ornithological art from London's Natural History Museum. *Birds* tells the remarkable story of the development of ornithological art through the ages, from the earliest images of birds in the Renaissance, through the Age of Exploration, to the present day. Brilliantly reproduced original artworks by such renowned artists as Audubon, Gould, MacGillivray, Thorburn, and Wolfe are included. The lively accompanying text tells the story of how ornithological art grew out of the naturalistic tradition of European painting to become a genre on its own, where the artist's focus on aesthetic appeal was married to the scientist's need for precision and detail. Many of the works reproduced in this volume have never before been published. The detailed text interweaves science, art history, biography, exploration, and travel to paint a vast and wondrous picture of the bygone world of artist-scientists, exotic birds, and faraway lands. It makes a perfect gift for anyone who loves fine prints and drawings or has an interest in nature or birding.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"We couldn't be more enthusiastic about *Birds* (and birds). It is a dazzling production ... fully in the Audubon tradition" —RalphMag

Jonathan Elphick has a degree in zoology and is a popular writer, journalist, and broadcaster

specializing in natural history and science.

A stunning overall view of the art of drawing birds . The main part of the wide and rich collection of artists and the colored bird plates is from the collection of the Natural History Museum in London . It starts with the quite beautiful drawing of a Great Spotted Woodpecker of Pieter Holsteyn the elder , includes Eleazar Albin with the Poole snipe (Female Ruff) , a finely drawn bird and wanders through the ages , showing quite clearly how bird-drawing has evolved , with short biographies of the artists who made these portraits . The book missed out on some of my personal favorites(no Louis Agassiz Fuertes) but showed me some other delightful and to me quite new drawings like the Secretary bird of John Latham on page 67 and the quite stunning work of Joseph Wolf . There is a nice collection of the work of Sarah Stone , a female ornithologist of note and of William MacGillivray writer of ' A history of British Birds ' with his impressive Grey Heron p 147 . The book has four big chapters : Engravers and explorers : 1650 to 1800 , then Audubon to the first lithographers : 1800 to 1850 ,with among many others the remarkable work of the Indian artist Khuleelooddeen who worked in gouache , something I would like to try myself one day . Then : The Golden age of Lithography : 1850 to 1890 and the last : An Age of Transition : 1890 to today . The Golden age shows some very fine drawings like the South American Painted Snipe by the hand of Elizabeth Gould , one of my favorite bird -artists and of John Gould . There are also some remarkable examples from several collections by anonymous artists . The last chapter , An Age of Transition ,shows the beginning of the use of photographs to capture the birds while they are alive and moving ; this gives artists a whole new way of showing birds in the environment they live in . To my mind , this part of the book should have shown more contemporary artists . The field is wide , granted and it is difficult to choose , but there is only one artist mentioned from later than 1920 , namely Angela Gladwell with a lively Kakapo from 1998 . This is also the only criticism I have on the book . However , maybe the writer means to write a second book with modern works , coupled with the same bird drawn by an artist from the Golden age ? That would be really great .

very nice

Beautiful book. Thanks!

I love this book! full of beautiful illustrations

Beautiful book. Just perfect for my coffee table in Florida. I plan to give this as a gift in the future

My friends son loves it & they are using it for home schooling

Beautiful book with lovely illustrations of birds

Fantastic

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