

RECOMMENDED RESOURCES

Ruby's Birds by Mya Thompson, illustrations by Claudia Dávila
Longwood Gardens Community Read, March-May 2021

We hope that *Ruby's Birds* has inspired you to share more books about exploring birds and nature with your young readers. Here are some titles that we recommend to get you started.

Am I Like You? By Brian Scott Socking & Laura Erickson, illustrated by Anna Rettberg (Cornell Lab Publishing, 2016. ISBN 9781943645039. Recommended for ages 4-7 years) “Join mom and son on a nature walk, playing their favorite outdoor game, “Am I like you?” As they happen upon and observe different birds along the trail, each with their own unique personality traits and behaviors, they consider which one they feel most like on that day—a chickadee (highly curious, friendly, talkative, and smart), a Peregrine Falcon (solitary, shrewd, strong, and bold), or another unique bird?” (from <https://cornelllabpgstore.com>)

Backyard Birds (Peterson Field Guide for Young Naturalists) by Jonathan P. Latimer (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 1999. ISBN 9780395952108. Recommended for ages 8-10 years) “Featuring the original art of celebrated naturalist Roger Tory Peterson; incorporating the Peterson Identification System, the most effective method for bird identification; and using a straightforward design. This series makes field guides accessible and appealing to children.” (from <https://www.hmhbooks.com>)

Buzzing with Questions: The Inquisitive Mind of Charles Henry Turner by Janice N. Harrington, Illustrated by Theodore Taylor, III (Penguin Random House, 2019. ISBN 9781629795584. Recommended for ages 7-10 years.) “Can spiders learn? How do ants find their way home? Can bugs see color? All of these questions buzzed endlessly in Charles Henry Turner’s mind. As the first Black entomologist, he was fascinated by plants and animals and bugs. And even when he faced racial prejudice, Turner did not stop wondering. He constantly read, researched, and experimented.” (from www.PenguinRandomHouse.com)

Crow Not Crow by Jane Yolen and Adam Stemple, illustrated by Elizabeth Dulemba (Cornell Lab Publishing, 2018. ISBN 9781943645312. Recommended for ages 6-9 years) “A gentle tale of a father introducing his daughter to the joys of bird watching. Using the simple “Crow, Not Crow” method for distinguishing one bird from another, father and daughter explore the birds near their home...and there are so many to see!” (from <https://cornelllabpgstore.com>)



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How to Find a Bird by Jennifer Ward (Beach Lane Books, 2020. ISBN 9781481467056. Recommended for ages 4-8 years) “How do you find a bird? There are so many ways! Begin by watching. And listening. And staying quiet, so quiet you can hear your own heartbeat...It features more than fifty different species, from the giant whooping crane to the tiny ruby-throated hummingbird, and so many in between, and a detailed author’s note provides even more information about birding for curious readers.” (from <https://www.simonandschuster.com>)

A Nest is Noisy by Diana Hutts Aston and Sylvia Long (Chronicle Books, 2015. ISBN 9781452127132. Recommended for ages 5-8 years). “Gorgeous and informative look at the fascinating world of nests. From tiny bee hummingbird nests to orangutan nests high in the rainforest canopy, an incredible variety of nests are showcased here in all their splendor. Poetic in voice and elegant in design, this carefully researched book introduces children to a captivating array of nest facts and will spark the imaginations of children.” (from <https://www.chroniclebooks.com>)

On Bird Hill by Jane Yolen, illustrated by Bob Marstall (Cornell Lab Publishing, 2016. ISBN 9781943645022. Recommended for ages 3-5 years) “Loosely based on the old cumulative nursery rhyme/song “The Green Grass Grew All Around,” a nursery rhyme first published as a song in 1912. But in this version, it’s a boy and his dog who find the bird in a nest on a hill in a strange valley.” (from <https://cornelllabpgstore.com>)

Owl Moon by Jane Yolen, illustrated by John Schoenherr (Scholastic Books, 1987. ISBN 9780590420440. Recommended for ages 3-7 years) A classic. “A young girl and her father take a nighttime stroll near the farm where they live to look for owls. It is a beautiful night, a moonlit winter night. Bundled tightly against the cold, they trudge through the pristine snow, ‘whiter than the milk in a cereal bowl.’ As they go, hidden in ink-blue shadows, a fox, a raccoon, a field mouse and a deer watch them pass. A delicate tension builds as the father imitates the great horned owl’s call once without answer, then again. Finally, from out of the darkness ‘an echo/came threading its way/through the trees.’ (from <https://www.scholastic.com>)

Taking Time by Jo Loring-Fisher (Lantana Publishing, 2020. ISBN 9781911373087. Recommended for ages 4-6 years) “This poem is inspired by principles of mindfulness and invites children around the world to gaze, wonder and marvel at this astonishing planet we call home.” (from <https://lantanapublishing.com>)



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The Young Birder's Guide to Birds of North America (Peterson Field Guides) by Bill Thompson III (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2012. ISBN 9780395952108.

Recommended for ages 9-12 years) "Covering 300 of the most common birds in all of the United States and Canada, *The Young Birder's Guide to Birds of North America* is loaded with color photographs, drawings showing typical behaviors, range maps, an easy-to-use checklist, fun facts, and authoritative information about each bird, its vocalizations, and its habitat. While other field guides might overwhelm kids who are new to birding, *The Young Birder's Guide to Birds of North America* was created with help from kids. " (from <https://www.hmhbooks.com>)



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