
Bird Study and Ornithologists

Florence Page Jaques and her husband have here collaborated in producing a book that will be of considerable interest not only to ornithologists and experienced bird students, but to anyone who has ever thought of becoming interested in birds. The book deals principally with the author's relations to birds, bird trips, and ornithologists.

The author's experiences with bird study began with her marriage to Francis Lee Jaques, one of the foremost bird artists in the country and a member of the staff of the American Museum of Natural History. Her trips with her husband have taken her over much of this country (the back country of Minnesota, the waterfowl flyway down the Mississippi valley, the Appalachians and the Rockies) and parts of other countries (the Gaspé, England, Switzerland, and Panama), and behind the scenes at the American Museum of Natural History.

The author's general reaction to the field of bird study is summed up in her Preface: "When I first entered, I was entertained rather than sympathetic . . . but as I joined their activities my amusement changed to interest and then to joy. . . . This world is open to anyone, not merely those who have an innate love of birds. My knowledge has come slowly and even now my observation is far more joyful than scientific. But the deepening of insight and gradual knowledge has added infinitely to the richness of life." Reading the book, one feels with the author an increasing enthusiasm for the study of birds.

To the reader who knows the outstanding ornithologists of the country by name only, this book will give an intimate insight into their personalities. This reviewer will agree that these people are "some of the finest, the most delightful and inspiring people that I have had the good luck to know."

The colorful accounts of the author's trips and experiences, and the many excellent illustrations make this a very readable book, and one which will give some readers a new insight into the very interesting field of bird study.—*D. J. Borror.*

Birds Across the Sky, by Florence Page Jaques, with illustrations by Francis Lee Jaques. 1942. xii×240 pp. New York, Harper & Brothers. \$2.50.