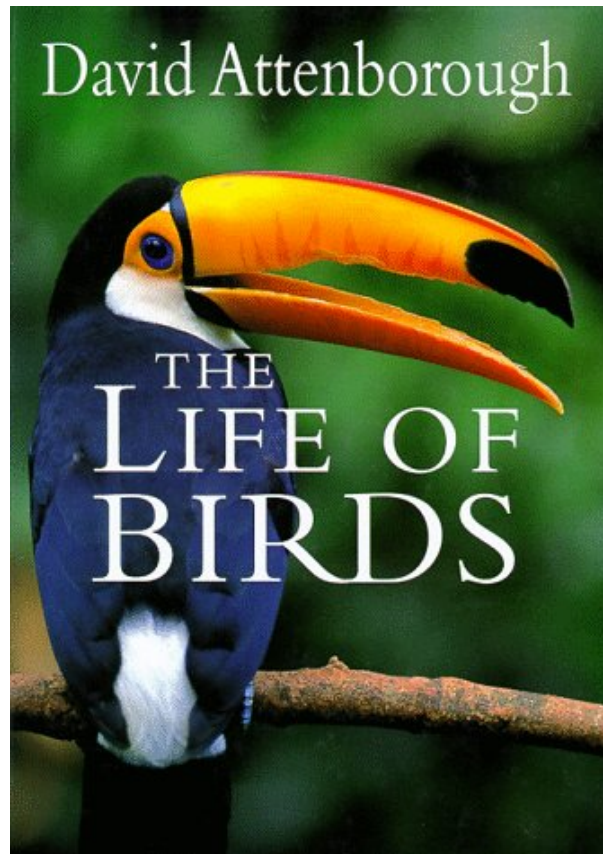
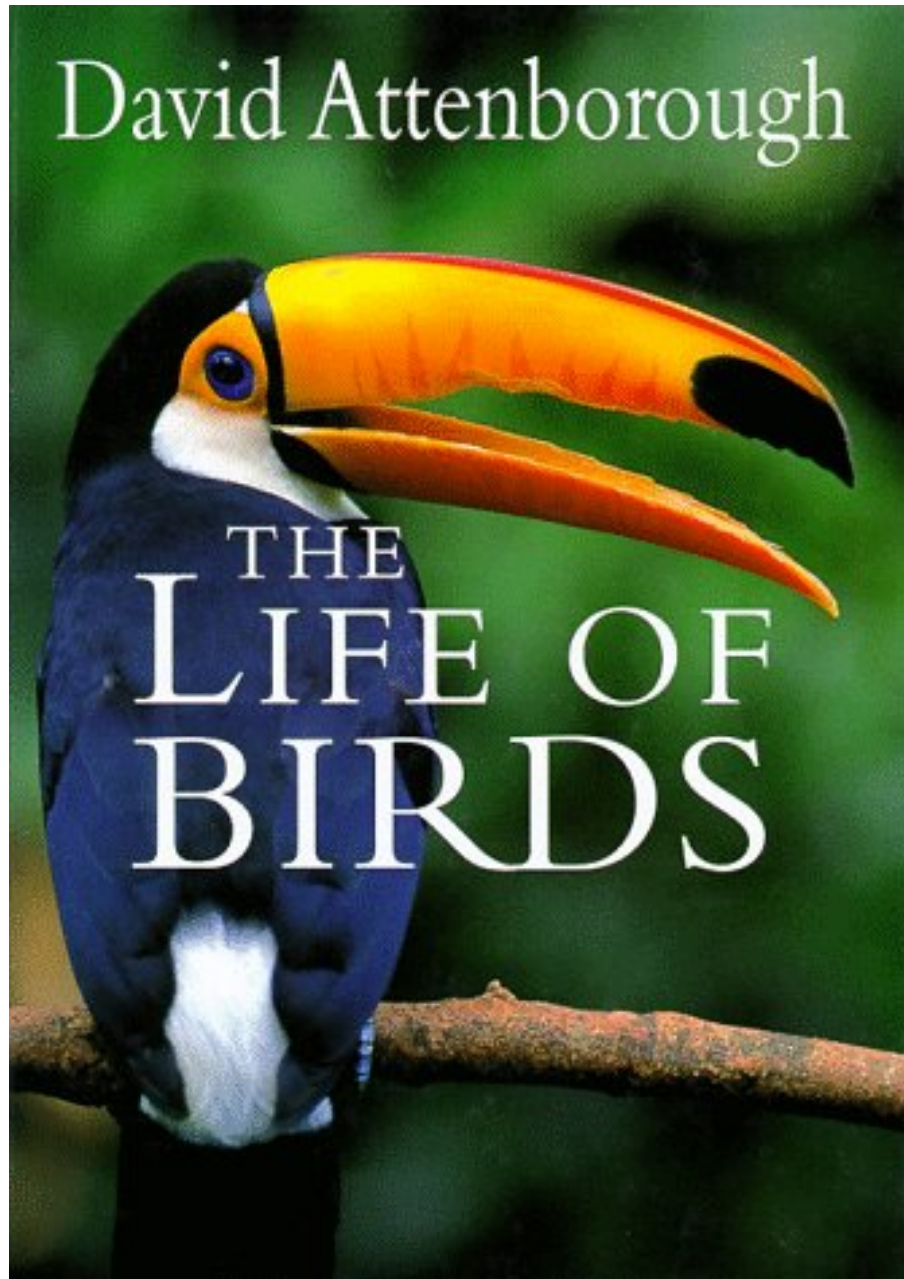


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THE LIFE OF BIRDS BY DAVID ATTENBOROUGH PDF

Based on the spectacular ten-part program on PBS, *The Life of Birds* is David Attenborough at his characteristic best: presenting the drama, beauty, and eccentricities of the natural world with unusual flair and intelligence. The renowned writer and filmmaker treks through rain forests and deserts, through city streets and isolated wilderness, to bring us an illuminating panorama of every aspect of birds' lives--from their songs to their search for food, from their eggs and nests to their mastery of the air. Beautifully illustrated with more than a hundred color photographs, the book will delight and inform both bird lovers and any general reader with an interest in nature.

Attenborough begins at the beginning: reviewing ideas about how and when creatures first took to the air--and why ostriches, kiwis, and other flightless birds later returned to the ground. He introduces us to the marvels of flight. We encounter the albatross, which can soar for hours without flapping its wings; hummingbirds that beat their wings two hundred times a minute; and the swift, which eats, sleeps, and mates in mid-air. We read about birds' extraordinary methods of hunting and gathering--about crows that use twigs and leaves to hook and harpoon insects, and eagles that can stamp venomous snakes to death. Attenborough explains why and how birds sing and why many have such dazzling plumage. He reviews courtship and mating strategies, including the extravagant dances of cranes and the bizarre and ornate pavilions that male bowerbirds build to attract females. We learn how birds defend their young against predators. Attenborough explains how birds have colonized the globe more effectively than any other vertebrates, adapting to Antarctic winters and African summers, to vast oceans and the densest, most polluted cities. He also outlines the threat that humans pose to many species, showing how we have already driven many to extinction.

The book presents birds in all their complexity and glory, revealing in clear and elegant prose Attenborough's infectious sense of wonder about the rich variety of life on Earth.

- Sales Rank: #380511 in Books
- Brand: Brand: Princeton University Press
- Published on: 1998-09-28
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 10.26" h x 1.16" w x 7.19" l, 2.46 pounds
- Binding: Hardcover
- 320 pages

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By Catherine C. Payne

How can anyone not like something...anything, by David Attenborough? He makes even the marabou stork, engorged and blood spattered at a lion's kill (p.109), look like a charmer.

Many of the hundreds of photos are in full page splendor, many more are half page spreads, though even the half or split page photos are magnificent in composition, detail, and colour. Among my favourites is a close up of a peacock's tail feather (p.159). Another is a delightful bird's eye view (literally) of young whooping crane chicks and sandhill cranes, flying in formation behind Idaho farmer, Kent Clegg in his micro lite aircraft (p. 308-309). Perhaps my favourite photo is a stunningly beautiful shot of chinstrap penguins clustered on a unbelievably crisp blue iceberg. Breathtaking! (p. 46-47).

Used as a study guide, a handy reference, or for an enjoyable afternoon of perusing truly luscious wildlife photos, you can never go wrong with anything by David Attenborough.

6 of 6 people found the following review helpful.

Everything I've never found anywhere else is in this book!

By A Customer

LOVE IT! This book is not merely a supplement to the phenomenally interesting and educational TV series (available on DVD or VHS and worth every penny and then some), it stands on its own. EVERYTHING a bird lover, casual or professional, might ever have wondered about when observing these graceful creatures is in this book: how birds evolved; how they adapted and often specialized depending on their habitat of choice; evolution of color and "male fashion"; mating rituals; and breeding details. The reader learns not only HOW birds do certain things, but also WHY they do them. The How is fascinating: how birds sing, how an egg is formed, etc.; but the WHY is just as interesting and often mind-boggling, i.e., why birds sing at dawn... You can't get such detailed information anywhere else that I know of. (Bird identification guides do not cover these topics because that's not their purpose.) Sir David Attenborough has a style all his own, and his voice jumps off every single page. I didn't merely READ this book, I ABSORBED it! Although scientific in nature, this book is so entertainingly written that the reader hardly notices how much knowledge is conveyed upon him. I am a devoted fan of Sir David Attenborough and am presently reading some of his earlier books which are just as beautifully written and presented. I also just received his latest books (Blue Planet and Life Of Mammals) and am eagerly looking forward to reading them as well!

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Another terrific book

By Reader and

My son bought the Life of Mammals and read it faster than fast. He loved everything about the book: the descriptions, the new animals that he didn't know about as well as interesting facts about them, the incredible pictures, etc. He couldn't wait to buy the Life of Birds and he was not disappointed in this book either. For him, it was a page turner. My other 2 sons have started reading both books as well and they love them as much as my first son. These books are engaging and frankly, are coffee table worthy as well!

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