

SCIENCE

The first book to approach ecosystem services from an ornithological perspective, *Why Birds Matter* gathers an international collection of ornithologists, botanists, ecologists, conservation biologists, and environmental economists to explore the role of birds in such important ecological dynamics as scavenging, nutrient cycling, food chains, and plant-animal interactions—all seen through the lens of human well-being. In both elucidating challenges and providing examples of specific ecosystem valuations and guidance for calculation, the contributors show that quantifying avian ecosystem services is crucial when formulating contemporary conservation strategies. *Why Birds Matter* proposes that in order to advance avian conservation, we need to appeal not only to hearts and minds, but also to wallets.

"Such an interesting volume. Authoritative and well-researched, *Why Birds Matter* will appeal to both ornithologists and conservation biologists—I can see myself referring to it frequently in the future. Authors of each chapter are well chosen world leaders on their topics, and the material is well written and cohesive. It will be an exceedingly useful book to those of us who work on bird conservation and want a one-stop summary of what we know about the contributions of birds to ecosystem services."

CHRIS S. ELPHICK, University of Connecticut

"*Why Birds Matter* is a most welcome example of how scientific ornithology undergirds and enriches the pleasure we get from even informal, recreational birdwatching. Birders who read it will come away with a new understanding and appreciation of just what a contribution birds make to our world and to our lives. They'll also be better able to answer the persistent queries of skeptics, likely winning converts to bird appreciation and conservation in the process. And that matters a great deal indeed."

JEFFREY A. GORDON, president,
American Birding Association, from the foreword

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Cover illustration: Black-throated blue warbler (*Setophaga caerulescens*) removing caterpillar (*Pseudoplusia includens*) from coffee plant (*Coffea arabica*). Watercolor by Natasja van Gessel.

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