

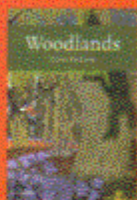
What did we know about birds a thousand years ago, and how has our understanding developed? Which species did we first recognise, when did people begin to record their sightings, and how were the puzzles of bird behaviour and ecology gradually unravelled? *A History of Ornithology* offers a complete history of birdwatching in Britain, a classic for every nature lover's bookshelf.

Today there is a huge interest in birdwatching as a hobby, and over the years amateur birdwatchers have contributed enormously to our understanding of the birds around us. At the same time, ornithology has developed as a science – in the field, in the laboratory, and in the universities – and birds have played their part in pushing forward the frontiers of biological knowledge.

A History of Ornithology is an authoritative and engrossing account, packed full of fascinating stories – not only about the birds but also about the many colourful characters who have studied them through the ages. This beautifully illustrated book will hold great appeal both for the student of ornithology and for the enthusiastic amateur naturalist.

Peter Bircham works in the Department of Pharmacology, University of Cambridge, and is a part-time tutor in ornithology for Cambridge University Institute of Continuing Education. He is the author of *The Birds of Cambridgeshire* and was advisory editor for the *Cambridge Encyclopaedia of Ornithology*.

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