There is magic in the sounds of birds, not only for poets, but also for science. Who would have guessed a generation ago that we would learn more from birds about how brains make learning possible than we have ever learned from mammals? Birds vie with frogs and monkeys for pride of place in the wealth of insights into the subtleties of vocal communication in animals. The many ways in which environments shape the evolution of animal signals have never been more vividly displayed than in studies of birdsongs and calls. We have come to marvel at the sophistication of the beautifully-designed vocal apparatus by which birds can utter two exquisitely complex songs simultaneously from different sides of their voice box. All of these stories and many more are related in **Nature's Music**, summarizing fifty years of research in the science of birdsong.

The authors, all leading scientists, all experts in their field, have joined forces to write a book that, while authoritative, keeps professional jargon to a minimum. Every effort has been made to convey to the general reader the sense of creative excitement that pervades the science of birdsong at the dawn of the new millennium. The book is richly illustrated with sounds and figures - spectrograms of songs and calls, many with recordings on an accompanying CD. It is also supplemented by short contributions from fifty leading researchers who have provided one-page illustrated summaries of some of their own current work.

Birdwatchers will find a wealth of new information in **Nature's Music** about the behavior and natural history of birds. Students of all aspects of biology will find [illegible] to catch up on what is happening in one of the most creative and fast [illegible] oral biology.

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