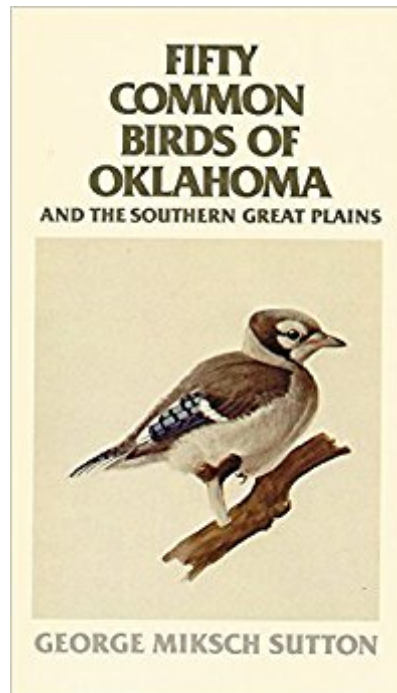




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Fifty Common Birds Of Oklahoma And The Southern Great Plains



Synopsis

"This book aims at informing readers, in a painless way, about fifty species of common birds of Oklahoma and the Southern Great Plains," says Dr. George Miksch Sutton, noted ornithologist, writer and bird painter. A full-page color plate of a Sutton painting of each bird faces the page of text about that bird. The text itself does not describe the shape and color of the birds in great detail-the color plates do that-but accents the seasonal status of each species in Oklahoma, changes in plumage as the individual bird matures, important food habits, and breeding habits, especially of the species that breed in the area. Not all the birds discussed breed in Oklahoma or inhabit the state the year round. A few are found here only during migration or in winter, but these species are common in much of the state. A treasure of entertainment and information, the book is written not for bird students or ornithologists but for the general reader who appreciates the beauty of our common birds and wants to know more about them.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

George Miksch Sutton was a gifted writer, bird artist, teacher, and noted ornithologist. He was for many years Research Professor in Zoology and Curator of Birds at the Stovall Museum in the University of Oklahoma. He is the author of fourteen books and illustrator for fifteen others.

This is a really cool book for those interested in birds. It's not really a field guide, only containing 50 birds. The paintings are more artistic than diagnostic and the text is mainly anecdotes, but written by

a very knowledgeable ornithologist. I found this book particularly interesting since Mr. Sutton told many stories about locations in and around my hometown of Norman, Oklahoma, where he was living at the time.

In spite of being 35 years old, this is a very enjoyable book. It describes 50 birds with drawing and interesting stories.

We have used many many times. Contains large amount of information about large number of birds, with pictures of male & female. Arrived promptly and had no problems.

I wanted to like the book, but was gravely disappointed. I was originally going to rate it two stars--I raised it to three because the author seems such a nice guy! The book consists of fifty sets of two facing pages, each set devoted to a bird. On the right is a painting, usually showing a side view of the bird and nothing else. On the left is a page of text on the bird, usually an anecdote about the author's experience with the species. Most of the stories are very dated, from the 1940s or 1950s. I find the book mildly amusing to leaf through when I'm bored, but it is no use as a reference, didn't challenge or inspire me, and I wouldn't dream of taking it into the field. There are much better uses for your reading dollar.

This book is not meant to be a field guide. Each bird's page is a description of Mr. Sutton's encounter with that bird in the wild. He captures the beauty, wonder, and excitement of birding. I realize there are some that want to make an "extreme sport" out of it, trying to see how many species one can identify in one day, by checking off your list and quickly moving on to the next one. If this is your style, then buy Peterson's. But if you are the sort of birder that can stand for an hour or more, hardly breathing, just watching and listening, then you will find this book a rich experience to savor again and again. I was very happy to find that it is still available.

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