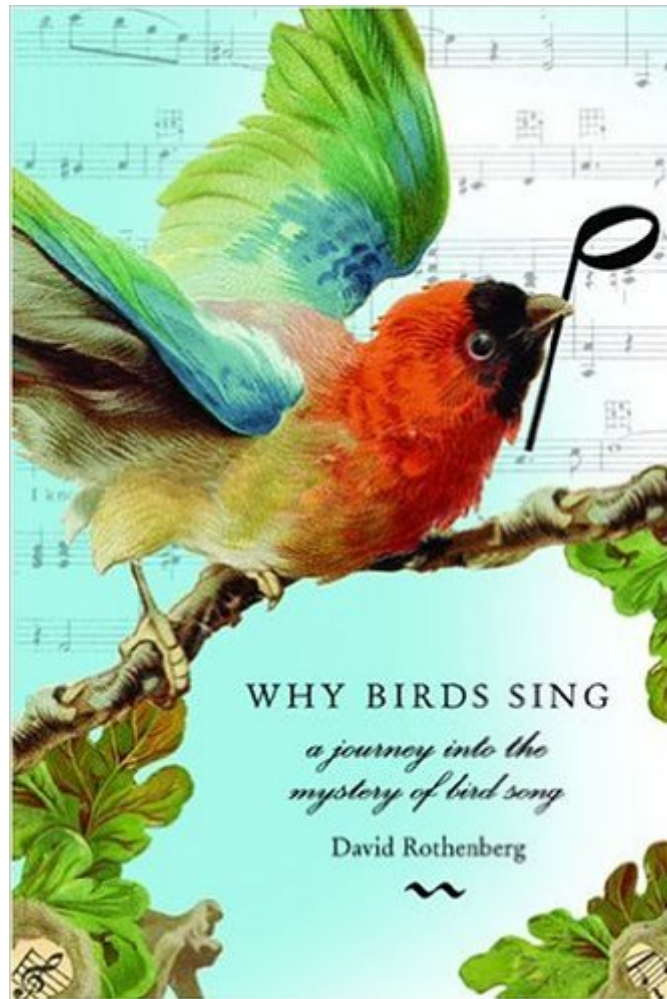


The book was found

# Why Birds Sing: A Journey Into The Mystery Of Bird Song



## Synopsis

The astonishing variety and richness of bird song is both an aesthetic and a scientific mystery. Biologists have never been able to understand why bird song displays are often so inventive and why so many species devote so many hours to singing. The standard explanations, which generally have to do with territoriality and sexual display, don't begin to account for the astonishing variety and energy that the commonest birds exhibit. Is it possible that birds sing because they like to? This seemingly naïve explanation is starting to look more and more like the truth. In the tradition of classic works by Bernd Heinrich, Edward Abbey, and Terry Tempest Williams, *Why Birds Sing* is a lyric exploration of bird song that blends the latest scientific research with a deep understanding of musical beauty and form. Based on conversations with neuroscientists, ecologists, and composers, it is the first book to investigate why birds sing and how, and what effect their music has on other animals—particularly humans. Whether playing the clarinet with the white-crested laughing thrush in Pittsburgh, or jamming in the Australian winter breeding grounds of the Albert's lyrebird, Rothenberg journeys to the heart and soul of bird song. *Why Birds Sing* offers an intimate look at the most lovely of natural phenomena—with surprising insights about the origin of music.

## Book Information

Hardcover: 272 pages

Publisher: Basic Books; export ed edition (April 12, 2005)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 046507135X

ISBN-13: 978-0465071357

Product Dimensions: 9.6 x 6.7 x 1 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.2 pounds

Average Customer Review: 3.2 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (16 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #1,034,228 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #478 in [Books > Science &](#)

[Math > Biological Sciences > Zoology > Ornithology](#) #1748 in [Books > Science & Math >](#)

[Biological Sciences > Animals > Birds & Birdwatching](#) #2841 in [Books > Science & Math >](#)

[Biological Sciences > Ecology](#)

## Customer Reviews

Rothenberg writes with an easy intimacy, but if one takes him at his word, the intimacy that means most to him comes not by means of words but of music, and less by means of music as such than by an improvisatory exchange between, usually, himself on his clarinet, and someone else on

whatever instrument the other person is using. Given this driving urge, it seems inevitable that Rothenberg should want to cross the barrier between those most musical of creatures, the birds, and those with the most productive curiosity, the humans. His own curiosity leads him first to the birds and then to the human experts in birdsong. He gives vivid descriptions of these researchers' extraordinary devotion to their work. I especially enjoyed his description of the ability of the composer Olivier Messiaen to hear, transcribe, and whistle the complex songs of a bird he had never heard before. Although, like a few of the researchers - Donald Kroodsma, for example - Rothenberg believes in the innate pleasure birds take in their song, he checks his intuitive sense of their musicality by carefully summarizing what is scientifically known about their abilities and ways of life. Yet even though he takes to heart the criticism that the romantics "listened to birds and heard only themselves," he recalls that science, too, is fallible, and he plays on the ornithologists' conclusion that not only is each species of birds unique, but so is every individual bird. "Why Birds Sing" ends in the climactic scene in which Rothenberg and a friend go to Australia to hear, see the dance of, and try to enter into a musical dialogue with the lyrebird named George, the only member, he says, of his elusive, musically gifted species who can stomach the sight and sound of human beings.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

Why Birds Sing: A Journey Into the Mystery of Bird Song Sing and Celebrate 2! Sacred Songs for Young Voices: Book/Enhanced CD (with reproducible pages and PDF song charts) Tell Me Why: The Beatles: Album By Album, Song By Song, The Sixties And After If I Were a Bird, You'd be The First Person I'd Shit On: Into the Dark Edition: A Swear Word Adult Coloring Book with Relaxing Designs and Vulgar ... N' Coloring Into the Dark) (Volume 3) The Happiness Project (Revised Edition): Or, Why I Spent a Year Trying to Sing in the Morning, Clean My Closets, Fight Right, Read Aristotle, and Generally Have More Fun New England Bird Lover's Garden: Attracting Birds with Plants and Flowers Bird-Witched!: How Birds Can Change a Life (Mildred Wyatt-Wold Series in Ornithology) The Song of the Bird Bird Song: Biological Themes and Variations Birds from Wood: Making Decoys and Other Birds (Black and White) Birds of the West Indies: A Guide to the species of birds that inhabit the Greater Antilles, Lesser Antilles and Bahama Islands Birds Of The Bahama Islands: Containing Many Birds New To The Islands, And A Number Of Undescribed Winter Plumages Of North American Species Birds of the Pacific Northwest: How to Identify 25 of the Most Popular Backyard Birds Ten Russian Folk Song, Two Russian Folk Song Op. 104 Vocal Score (Shostakovich Complete Edition) The American Song Treasury: 100 Favorites (Dover Song Collections) Three Song Cycles in Vocal Score: Songs of a Wayfarer, Kindertotenlieder and Das

Lied Von Der Erde (Dover Song Collections) On Eagle's Wings (Song Based on Psalm 91) - SAB (S.A.B.) Voices & Keyboard Accompaniment - Choral Sheet Music; Song Composed by Michael Joncas, Choral Setting by Douglas E. Wagner The New Broadway Song Companion: An Annotated Guide to Musical Theatre Literature by Voice Type and Song Style Time Song 1 (Time Walkers: Time Song) Lapwings, Loons and Lousy Jacks: The How and Why of Bird Names

[Dmca](#)