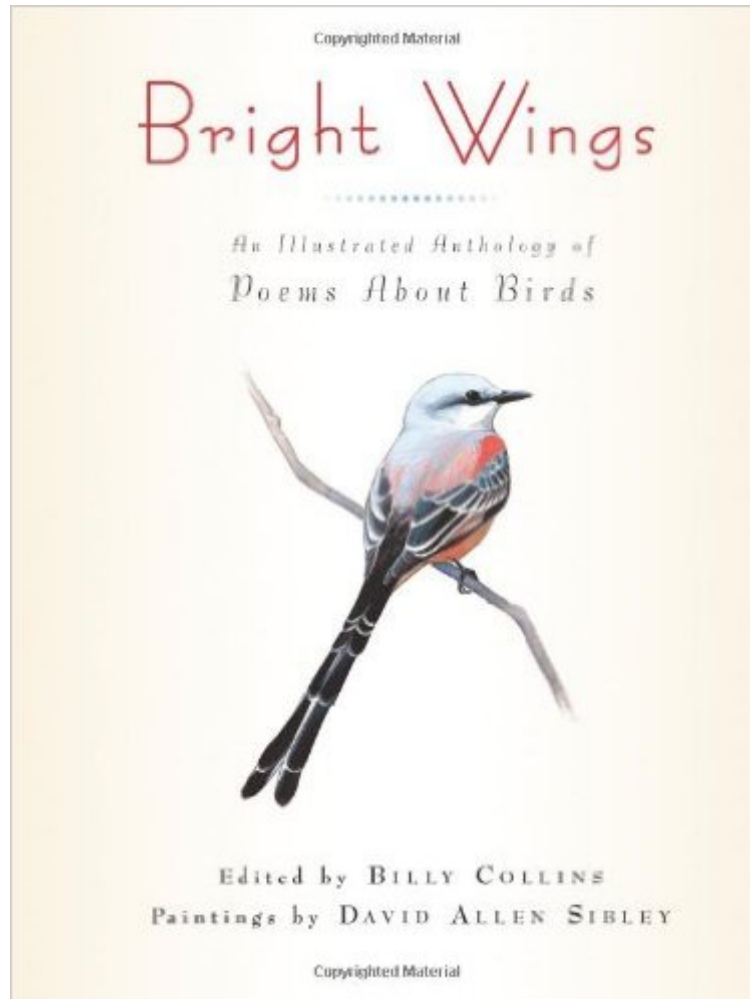


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# Bright Wings: An Illustrated Anthology Of Poems About Birds



## Synopsis

In this beautiful collection of poems and paintings, Billy Collins, former U.S. poet laureate, joins with David Allen Sibley, America's foremost bird illustrator, to celebrate the winged creatures that have inspired so many poets to sing for centuries. From Catullus and Chaucer to Robert Browning and James Wright, poets have long treated birds as powerful metaphors for beauty, escape, transcendence, and divine expression. Here, in this substantial anthology, more than one hundred contemporary and classic poems are paired with close to sixty original, ornithologically precise illustrations. Part poetry collection, part field guide, part art book, *Bright Wings* presents verbal and visual interpretations of the natural world and reminds us of our intimate connection to the "bright wings" around us. Each in their own way, these poems and pictures honor the enchanting creatures that have been, and continue to be, longtime collaborators with the poet's and painter's art. Poet and bird pairings include: Wallace Stevens and the Blackbird; Emily Dickinson and the Robin; Marianne Moore and the Frigate Pelican; Thomas Hardy and the Goldfinch; Sylvia Plath and the Pheasant; John Updike and the Seagull; Walt Whitman and the Eagle; Billy Collins and the Sparrow.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

As a birder when I look at my large collection of bird books and guides, I frequently swear I'm not buying another book on birds, about birds, or to view birds! Then along comes a book like *Bright Wings: An Illustrated Anthology of Poems About Birds* and my resolutions not to add another birding book to the shelf is forgotten as I view the poetry and wonderful art work. Billy Collins, a former US

Poet Laureate choose over 100 poems to include in this lovely little volume about birds. David Allen Sibley of the Sibley bird guides is the illustrator. That winning combination alone would make this wonderful volume of bird-related poetry and art a must for a birder! The book contains both classical and modern poems by poets/writers as diverse as Keats, Plath, Nemerov, and Thoreau. Sixty or so illustrations lovingly picture birds along side the poetry. Best of all, the book will inspire you to look at birds, even the every day ones like the Grackle with new eyes. You may even feel the muse of poetry or art fall upon you and you'll be inspired to pick up your pencil and try your hand at writing poetry or sketching the birds you see in your back yard!

Everything about this book is appropriate to the fleeting beauty of the subject. The poems are lovely, the images true, and the overall effect warming to the heart. Its appeal is not limited to either poetry lovers or birdwatchers; anyone who loves a beautiful book will enjoy it.

I received this book as a gift since I love birds. I expected I would just browse the poetry, look at the pretty pictures and keep it on my coffee table. Instead, after being pulled in by the engaging introduction, I read it nearly cover-to-cover, which is unusual for a book of poetry! There's a wide and interesting variety without too many "old standards." Rather than gloss over half the poems, I was intrigued by how each one fit into the broader work. The pictures are more than merely beautiful: for me, the visual complemented and enhanced the metaphorical. This is a highly recommended book and a lovely gift!

My husband and I are both avid birdwatchers and poetry readers. This finely illustrated volume is a dependable treat for us. The Sibley pictures combine with poets from Dickinson and Whitman, back to Chaucer and on to more contemporary writers such as one of our favorites, Mary Oliver. We highly recommend this book, which is beautifully printed in the USA on permanent and durable acid-free paper.

As a birder i love the book,as a latent poet i love the book.No more to say

I loved this book! As an admirer of David Allen Sibley's bird books and a lover of poetry I couldn't imagine a more perfect combination. The artwork is lovely and many of the poems chosen by Billy Collins I had not read before. He wisely avoided the more obvious and well known poems about birds and selected engaging poems by lesser known poets. Thank you, Billy.

Billy Collins is himself a fine poet but his collection of others' poems about birds is delightful. It is fun to sit at a window and watch your birds and read this collection.

Bought as a gift for my painter brother, who loves Billy Collins, this volume was hard to part with. A heavy tome, for a paperback, the book feels wonderful to hold. Gorgeously illustrated, with beautiful text/poetry, you can't miss when you decide to take it home.

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