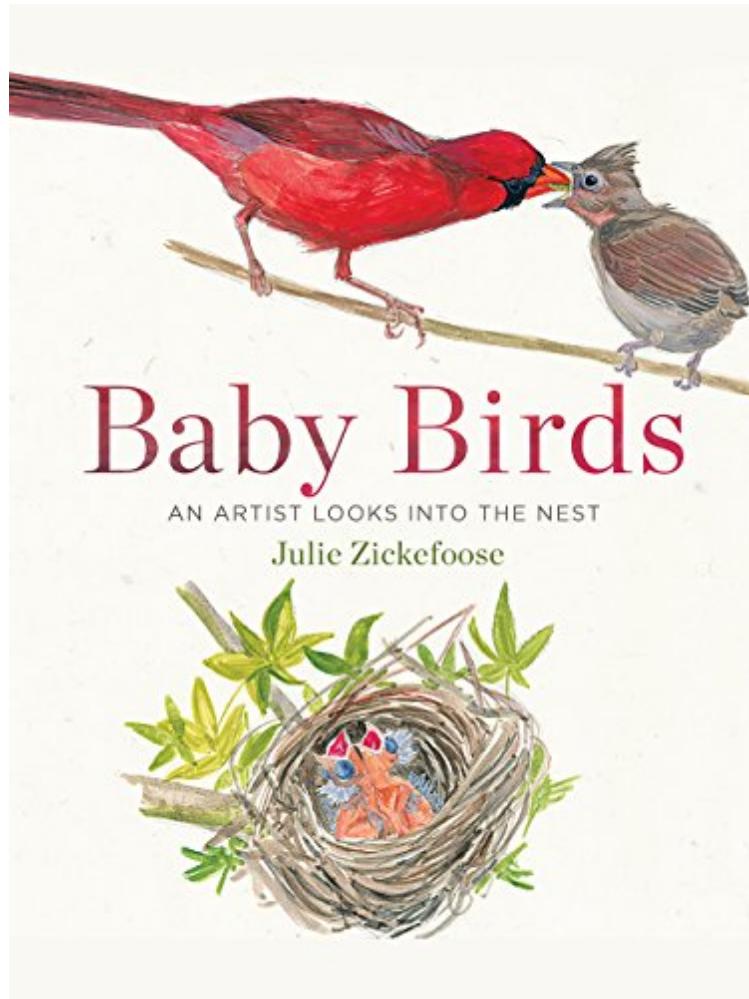


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## Baby Birds: An Artist Looks into the Nest

Julie Zickefoose

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**Julie Zickefoose : Baby Birds: An Artist Looks into the Nest** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Baby Birds: An Artist Looks into the Nest:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Birds Up Close and PersonalBy D.V. BootyThis is perhaps the most amazing illustrated book I've ever owned - it's closest competition might be Rien Poortvliet's Gnomes - but it's all about real, living creatures. The author's passion for her subject matter, and her masterful skill in portraying the intimate lives of our feathered friends, simply captivate the reader, and instill a deeper understanding of the avian world. Absolutely remarkable, and a "must have" addition to any bird-watcher's library.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great gift for bird and nature loversBy Susan D.Wonderful, wonderful book if you like birds. I got this out of the library, bought one for my mother for her birthday and then one for myself. The author sketched multiple types of baby birds from egg to fledgling, writing about her experiences along the way with each bird. Fascinating.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. One of my Favorite Bird BooksBy Tax GuyFor

anyone interested in birds, this is a must-have book. The author is an excellent writer and illustrator, and the book details her extraordinary efforts to chart the development of young birds from hatching to fledge. She has a very personable writing style and quickly draws you into her over-the-top fascination with every aspect of bird life.

If you've ever wondered what goes on in bird nests, or what happens after a fledgling leaves the nest, come along on Julie's sensitive exploration of often-uncharted ornithological ground. This beautiful book is as much an art book as it is a natural history, something readers have come to expect from Julie Zickefoose. More than 400 watercolor paintings show the breathtakingly swift development of seventeen different species of wild birds. Sixteen of those species nest on Julie's wildlife sanctuary, so she knows the birds intimately, and writes about them with authority. To create the bulk of this extraordinary work, Julie would borrow a wild nestling, draw it, then return it to its nest every day until it fledged. Some were orphans she raised by hand, giving the ultimate insider's glimpse into their lives. In sparkling prose, Julie shares a lifetime of insight about bird breeding biology, growth, and cognition. As an artist and wildlife rehabilitator, Julie possesses a unique skill set that includes sketching and painting rapidly from life as well as handling delicate hatchlings. She is uniquely positioned to create such an opus, and in fact, nothing like it has ever been attempted. Julie has many fans, and she will gain many more with this unparalleled work.

"No artist has ever depicted the development of nesting birds until now. In this marvelous new work, wildlife rehabilitator, artist, and author (*The Bluebird Effect*, 2012) Zickefoose rectifies this woeful lack by producing beautifully rendered watercolors and drawings illustrating the enormous changes nestling songbirds undergo every day as they grow up. As Zickefoose says, "the magic in the nest" and the immediacy of her mostly drawn-from-life images will grab readers and immerse them into the nestlings' daily reinvention...Grab this one for the illustrations, then get pulled in by the prose." —Booklist, starred review "Baby Birds is a sweet, beak, tweet, treat. A gorgeous book that takes you intimately into the nest in a lyrical, lovely way. A treasure for all ages." —Jamie Lee Curtis, actress and author "Is there anything Julie Zickefoose won't do for a baby bird? Doubtful. This foster mother carries tiny nestlings against her belly, sings to them, performs emergency microsurgery, scrambles up bug omelets, and blow dries their nascent feathers. It's all done in the interest of figuring them out and capturing their transformation in glorious color, hour by hour, day by day. When Julie peers into the nest, we all learn something important not just about bird life, but about our place in the world." —Melissa Block, NPR Special Correspondent "There is no one I know who draws birds so exquisitely, and writes so touchingly about their lives. In her newest book, Julie Zickefoose details the tiniest nestlings with masterful strokes of her brush, gracing the miracle of their growth until they fledge. The stories that accompany each chapter are equally enchanting. I loved it." —Jane Alexander, actress, author, and conservationist "BABY BIRDS, despite its modest title and informal tone, [is] a breathtaking achievement, one of the most appealing natural-history books I have ever encountered." —Jonathan Rosen, *WSJ*