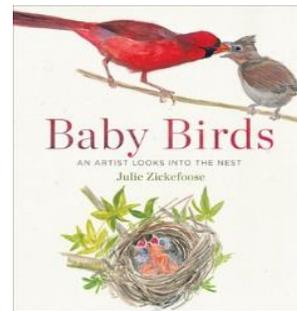


June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2016

*Spotlight on Books:*

*Baby Birds: An Artist Looks Into The Nest* by Julie Zickefoose



Over the past thirteen years, wild bird rehabilitator and artist Julie Zickefoose has painted seventeen different species of birds painstakingly documenting their evolution from hatchling through fledgling stages and beyond. Her amazing sketches and paintings together with her insightful chronicle about bird development have been collected into a book that will delight both birders and the lay reader.

It all began with a bluebird hatchling (Zickefoose is a bluebird nest landlord) which the author took daily from its nest to sketch over a period of eleven days thereby charting the dizzying rate of development of baby birds as compared with human infants. Text and art combine into an organic whole in *Baby Birds* and the author deftly refutes a variety of myths about birds that are just not true as, for example, that mother birds will reject babies that are removed and handled and returned to the nest.

Zickefoose is a renowned authority on birds – she even leads birding tours! - and her stories about these creatures abound with startling information such as the fact that father birds will feed females first. (How do they know!?) The author describes herself as an “intensive bird rancher” and her stories of rehabilitative intervention are fascinating as, for example, when she had to remove an ash twig from a baby bird’s throat with a pair of tweezers.

*Baby Birds: An Artist Looks into the Nest* can be enjoyed as an art book as well as a work of natural history. Yellowknife abounds with returning and nesting birds right now and Zickefoose’s gorgeous book is a perfect pairing for this season. Check it out from Yellowknife Public Library’s *Staff Picks* display.

- *Review prepared by Deborah Bruser*