

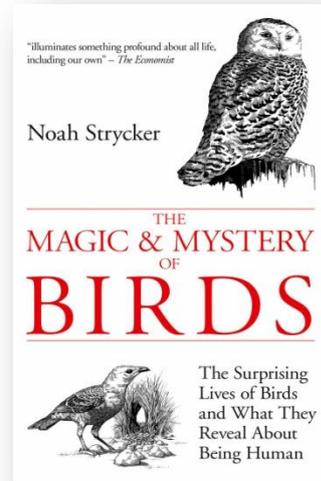
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PRESS RELEASE

# THE MAGIC AND MYSTERY OF BIRDS

The Surprising Lives of Birds and  
What They Reveal About Being Human  
By Noah Strycker

**Published by Souvenir Press, 18 September, £18, Hb**



Do humans have more in common with birds than we previously thought? According to a new book, **THE MAGIC AND MYSTERY OF BIRDS**, the more we study birds and their behaviour the more similarities can be found between ourselves and our feathered friends. And, not only are there characteristics in common but they can be used to teach us more about humanity.

In **THE MAGIC AND MYSTERY OF BIRDS** leading ornithologist, Noah Strycker, provides an entertaining and perceptive account of the lives of birds and the intriguing parallels with our own world. From traditionally human characteristics such as demonstrating a sense of self to the creation of art, and even love and romance, the author guides us through a range of behaviours that have also been seen in birds. He shows how lessons can be learnt from studying bird feats such as the extraordinary memory skills of the nutcracker, the dazzling speed of the hummingbird, and the co-operative nesting in fairy-wrens.

Strycker also looks at the behaviours which don't seemingly apply to humans to see if anything can be learnt including the magnetic sense that guides homing pigeons, and the ability of densely packed starling flocks to fly at speed without colliding. Even the common chicken can teach us something about natural pecking orders.

The ability of vultures to digest food laden with germs may hold clues to combating serious infections, while the study of parrots and other birds that mimic sounds are providing clues to understanding why musical ability has been such an integral part of human culture.

Drawing on the latest research, and the author's own personal experience, **THE MAGIC AND MYSTERY OF BIRDS**, is a fascinating look at the world of birds and what they can reveal about our own lives.

**About the Author:** Noah Strycker is a photographer, writer, and associate editor of *Birding* magazine. Named 'Young Birder of the Year' in 2004 by the American Birding Association he travels the world birdwatching. For more details contact Jane Beaton at Kew Publicity on 07802 433471, email [janebeaton@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:janebeaton@tiscali.co.uk).