

The Bedside Book of Birds – An Avian Miscellany – edited by Graeme Gibson.  
Bloomsbury 2005.

The Bedside Book of Birds is a cornucopia of delights for the ornithologist, but also for those who love art and fine literature. Graeme Gibson, the acclaimed Canadian author, has combined his literary talents with a new found love for watching birds to present a collection of poems and prose all about birds, accompanied by some wonderful and varied art.

The Miscellany is divided into 9 sections: Oh, the birds..., In the beginning, Death comes as a rooster, Odin's ravens, A bird in the house, remembering is not seeing, A bird in the hand, Then the birds attacked, and Some blessed hope. These intriguing titles draw the reader in and the material that follows is never disappointing.

The Bedside Book of Birds is aptly named, for this is the kind of work which one comes back to repeatedly and which never fails to delight. It deserves to be a very popular gift for the forthcoming holiday season.

Rabbi Dr Charles H Middleburgh