

Birds Britannica by Mark Cocker and Richard Mabey.
Chatto and Windus 2005.

Birds Britannica is a sumptuous companion to Flora Britannica that will bring its readers similar pleasure to that engendered by the former volume. It is a large book, replete with illustrations and photographs, about the birds of the British Isles, classified according to family.

Each entry is accompanied by an informative and intriguing text that not only gives ornithological detail about the bird in question but which also sets it in a much wider cultural and historical context.

From its size and glossy photographs Birds Britannica might easily be dismissed by some as a 'mere coffee table book' but this would be a gross and unjustifiable mistake.

Birds Britannica is an anthology of the birds of the British Isles in all their diversity, in photograph, art, literature and music, with a peerless accompanying text that will delight both the serious and amateur ornithologist and inform anyone interested in the rich avian culture of Britain.

Rabbi Dr Charles H Middleburgh