



Birdsongs

Betsy Franco , Steve Jenkins (Illustrator)

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The sky is quiet.

The yard is quiet.

The creek is quietly gurgling.

Then...*tat, tat, tat, tat, tat, tat, tat, tat, tat, tat!* A red-capped woodpecker starts his rap for the day. Next comes nine soft coos from the mourning doves, followed by the chipping of a flurry of sparrows. And on go the birdsongs throughout the day.

Celebrate neighborhood birds in this poetic picture book, and count their sounds backward from ten to one, until all is quiet in the yard again.

Birdsongs Details

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Author : Betsy Franco , Steve Jenkins (Illustrator)

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From Reader Review Birdsongs for online ebook

Peacegal says

A delightful celebration of the world of backyard birds, featuring Jenkins's instantly recognizable illustration style. Theme include bird recognition, sounds, and counting.

Hannah says

A really fun book about birds and the songs they sing!

Sarah Sammis says

Birdsongs by Betty Franco and illustrated by Steve Jenkins is a delightful children's book that's takes a typical counting book and mixes with with some basic ornithology along with the story of an approaching storm.

Each page marks the passage of time with a new bird and a new bird song. There are crows, chickadees, morning doves, sea gulls and a humming bird among others. Harriet loves the way different birdsongs are counted all the way down to the single humming bird zzzt. She likes the make the different birdsongs and point out the birds.

Sean meanwhile likes Steve Jenkins's illustrations. Jenkins builds each illustration with carefully cut and layered bits of paper. These collages have a nice sense of texture and depth.

Birdsongs is a perfect bedtime story. It's soothing and rhythmic and easy to read. It keeps the attention of both my two-year-old and my six-year-old which is crucial for our nightly routine.

Erin says

This is one of our favorite books of late. It's a reverse counting book, and it's the best kind of counting book because neither parent nor child really notices the counting. The book begins at dawn, and page by page all the birds wake up and make their bird noises (10 woodpecker taps, 9 dove coos, etc). The cut paper illustrations are beautiful and very accurate: my 4 year old delights in recognizing birds outside that he's seen in the book. We also have a great time making the bird sounds together which, thank goodness, are phonetic. A white gull goes "eeyah!" and the hummingbird does a high pitched "tzik." Belly laughs at the end when the mockingbird makes all the sounds and we go crazy trying to outdo each other. Thumbs up!

Kimberly Campbell says

My boys love animals and read this in the car eating our CFA one day.

KC says

Birds and their sounds.

Ashley Saunders says

Franco, B. (2007) Birdsongs. New York, NY: Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing

Counting Book

Publishers Weekly Starred Review

This book takes the reader through a day with various types of birds while learning to count backwards. The book counts out how many calls each individual bird makes throughout the day as each of the species communicates with one another. Not only does this book teach students how to count backwards but it also provides information about each bird to expand their learning experience. The images are beautifully done by Steve Jenkins. From the appearance it looks as though the pictures are made from different paper pictures glued to a background scene. I would use this book to show students how you can count backwards in various ways. For instance this book counts through bird calls. I think it would be a fun idea to have students voice the bird calls while counting on their fingers.

Karen says

This is a very good book about birds and their song. Not too over whelming for the beginner bird watcher. We thoroughly enjoyed it. Ellie read this to us during morning time...krb 10/30/17

Clara Dowling says

Loved this book, 4 month old child enjoyed hearing the different bird calls. Sweet children's book.

Janet says

Nice way to introduce a day of birding and introduce eleven common bird species. It was good to end with the mockingbird which often sings in the evening. Steve Jenkins always does good to excellent illustrations and those in this title are collages. However, the tabby cat stalking some birds didn't look much like a tabby in my eyes.

Mely says

my little one loves all things having to do with animals and nature so this was perfect. she loved imitating all the sounds of each bird and even remembered them as we went back through the book to read again. It was fun teaching her the names of each bird.

Bree says

Notes:

not a fan of the counting aspect of this book -- we read it without the numbers and liked it better; gorgeous art; fun ending with the mockingbird

Megan Phillips says

This book does an excellent job of showing students how to use their writing voice in order to display sound effects. All of the bird's noises are written in large words in order to display how loud they actually are. This book could be used in a writing workshop that focuses upon how writers can use voice in their writing to display different types of noises or words that need to be read loudly while reading.

This book could be used as an introductory tool to teach more about birds because it introduces many different types. This could be used at the beginning of a bird unit in order to get students excited about learning about different types of birds. I would use this more often with students that are in the younger grades because it is an easier book to understand, and it would be an excellent tool for those younger students that have not heard of many kinds of birds before. This book could also be used to introduce the topic of the sun rising and setting because at the beginning of the book, the sun is rising. At the end of the book, the sun is setting.

This book could also be used for math in the younger grades because it counts down from ten. It counts how many times the bird says its sound. The numbers count down until the sun goes down. This book could be used when getting students to think about counting backwards and forwards, especially when this is a new concept for students.

Benjamin Elliott says

Counting book, cycle of the day book, introduction to different birds and their calls.

Diana Thomsen says

Hmmm...not sure why I didn't like this one. On the surface, it had all the elements to be a good storytime choice for my unit on birds, but it didn't work for me at all. The story itself was minimal but fine, and the counting element was a good inclusion. I think part of the issue for me might have been the presentation of

the bird songs. The calls aren't all very easy to pronounce, and they aren't spaced well within the text, so it's awkward to figure out when to say them. Not a bad book, really. It just didn't work for me.
