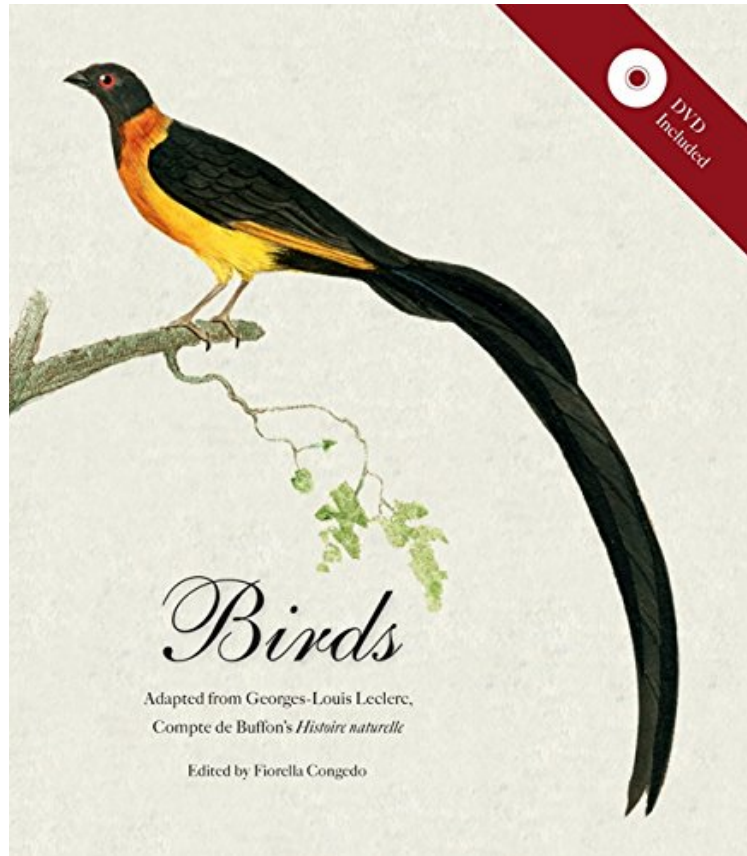


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Birds: Mini Archive with DVD

Georges-Louis Leclerc de Buffon
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Georges-Louis Leclerc de Buffon : Birds: Mini Archive with DVD before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Birds: Mini Archive with DVD:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Clarisse A Limoeiro As expected. 6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Incomplete but still worthwhile By Shauna S. Roberts This book contains reproductions of more than 200 of Buffon's colored bird prints on heavy, good-quality paper. Any bird lover would enjoy looking through this book again and again. I have not tried out the CD yet, but I look forward to being able to use some of these beautiful images in my own projects. My major quibble, which caused me to give this book four stars instead of five, is that the book is incomplete (some birds in the original are missing) and the choice of birds seems arbitrary in some cases. In general, the editors have chosen the most beautiful birds to include. Why, then, is the drab and ordinary sparrow here, while the beautiful Nicobar pigeon has been omitted? Also, the indexing is strange. The reproductions are labeled in French, but the annotated index is alphabetized by English name. Thus, if one wants to learn more about a particular bird shown in a print, one needs to go on the Internet to find out its English name. Once on the Internet, one can learn lots about the bird, rendering the annotated index useless unless one happens to know a bird's English name.

Birds presents the rare and compelling drawings of influential naturalist Georges-Louis Leclerc de Buffon, the founder of the Museum of Natural History in Paris and a man who prefigured John James Audobon, John Gould, and Alexander Wilson as the founding father of ornithology. Only four sets of Buffon's ambitious 36-volume illustrated opus survive to the present day, making this reproduction of his bird drawings from *Histoire Naturelle, Generale et Particuliere* an historical and invaluable endeavor. Collins Designs Mini Archive series brings Buffon's work to the public for the first time in this handsomely illustrated book and its accompanying DVD, delivering an invaluable resource for anyone passionate to embrace the beauty of the natural world.

From the Back Cover This lovely book showcases the delicate copper engravings of birds created by Georges-Louis Leclerc, Comte de Buffon (1707-88), for his masterpiece work *Histoire naturelle, gnrale et particulire*. The glorious birds captured within are original reproductions of Leclerc's art, which depicts the vibrant hues of the birds' feathers, the varying length of their wings, and their wide-eyed expressions as they stand perched, always alert for symbols of danger or other forms of life that might serve as their next meal. Leclerc's original text from *Histoire naturelle* is also faithfully reproduced to provide descriptive information on the birds, such as their living locations and their unique physical characteristics. To bring this lovely book into the 21st century, the paperback format and low price make this rare and significant volume accessible and affordable. A DVD is also included with images of the birds to be used by readers at their discretion.

About the Author Georges-Louis Leclerc, Comte de Buffon (1707-88), was a highly educated and respected French naturalist. He was the author of *Les poques de la Nature* (1778), *Oeuvres Compltes de Buffon* (1853-55), and the book *Birds* is based on the extraordinary 36-volume work *Histoire naturelle, gnrale et particulire*, which was designed to explore nature's three kingdoms, animal, mineral, and vegetable, and to serve as an encyclopedia of the world.