To enjoy birds, read book first

Timothy Nowicki

nature 🤅

BSERVING wildlife and natural subjects in the field is the best way to appear to be a constant that can compare with the unexpected exertement of a pheasant flushing from under foot, or the imperceptible sensation of a bottereity on your finger.

But to enjoy the natural world even more, it is a good idea to learn about subjects you may see before gaing to the woods.

Booke on natural history provide readers with a consolidation of knowledge that his taken many years and many hours in the field to compile.

FOR INSTANCE, becoming fa-miliar with the various courtship postures of multial ducks is essen-tial before going to your local pond. Many pestures last for only a few seconds. If you are not prepared, it

would be easy to miss or dismiss these ritualized actions.

To help those interested in nature interpretation, Donald Stokes and his wife, Lillian, have written a series of books on several natural lustory top-ies.

Their first book dealt with a sub-ment dealine with the season at hand

Their first book deaft with a sun-pert dealing with the season at hand "A Guide to Nature in Winter." Since then they have published books on bird behavior, wildflowers, insects and mammal tracks. Each volume is illustrated with fine drawings to complement the

text. Detailed sketches are labeled, but technical terms are used spar-

ingly.
Trained as a teacher and naturalist, Donald Stokes has written each book in a popular and readable style for everyone. He has also organized

AS YOU READ the text, it becomes obvious that the authors researched their subjects thoroughly, both from scientific papers and their own field observations. Interesting points are discussed that would be overlooked by the average

person.

If you are looking for a Christmas present for a nature enthusiast, I would recommend any of the Stokes books. They are available in hard cover and paperback at most major book stores.

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