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Book Reviews

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Endangered and Disappearing Birds of the Midwest [book review]

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In this colorful and easy-to-read book, Matt Williams highlights forty species of birds that winter, breed, or migrate in the Midwest, and are in trouble because of small numbers or exhibit significant population declines. The species chosen are a representative sample of some of the most beautiful or interesting birds in decline. Each species account is about five pages in length and contains 2-3 beautiful, detailed color photographs, along with a colored range map, and a brief information discussing habitat, ecology, identification, vocalizations, nesting information and reasons for the species' decline. This book does offer a five page works cited page, but does not provide references within the species descriptions. Much of the background information for species came from "The Birds of North America" and "All about Birds", websites of the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology. The hard part is providing a proper recommendation for this work. It's too small, and doesn't offer enough pictures to be a proper coffee table book, and lacks completeness to serve as an official guide to the endangered or disappearing birds of the Midwest. It seems most appropriate for public libraries or those individuals who enjoy watching birds at their backyard feeders.