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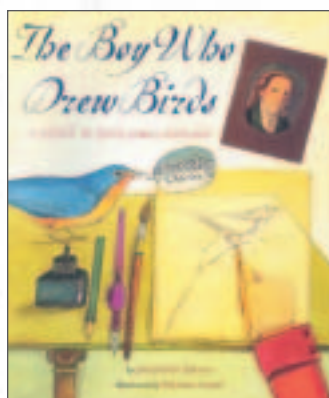
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HOUGHTON MIFFLIN IS PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THE PUBLICATION OF

# *The Boy Who Drew Birds*

A STORY OF JOHN JAMES AUDUBON

Written by **Jacqueline Davies** and illustrated by **Melissa Sweet**



John James Audubon was a boy who loved the out-of-doors more than the in. He was a boy who believed in studying birds in nature, not just from books. And, in the fall of 1804, he was a boy determined to learn if the small birds nesting near his Pennsylvania home really would return in the spring.

For centuries, the disappearance of small birds each fall was a mystery. Did they spend the winter curled up in a ball, hibernating at river bottoms or in hollow logs, as many respected scientists believed? And when they did finally return, did they *really* fly back to the very same nests?

This stunning picture book reveals how one boy's curiosity and youthful experiment led to the practice of bird banding, a technique essential to our understanding of birds. Readers will wonder, and hope, along with young John James Audubon as he hatches his plan to find out where the birds go when the weather turns cold and if they returned as he suspected. Exquisite watercolor illustrations move through the seasons, and Sweet's unique use of collage creates a three-dimensional gallery of nests, bird eggs, and wildlife that leaps off the pages. Capturing the early passion of America's greatest painter of birds, this story will leave young readers listening intently for the call of birds large and small near their own homes.

**Jacqueline Davies** has been listening to and watching for birds since she was young. It was on a guided nature walk at a Massachusetts Audubon Society sanctuary that she saw her first phoebe bird's nest. Intrigued by stories of the bird's faithfulness, she began to research the small gray flycatcher and discovered the bird's link to John James Audubon. Today, she can still be found around her home in Needham, Massachusetts, peering under bridges and searching in the shadows of eaves for the nest of the phoebe bird. This is her first book for Houghton Mifflin. For more information visit [www.jacquelinedavies.com](http://www.jacquelinedavies.com).

**Melissa Sweet**'s maiden name is Vogels, the German word for bird, and she grew up in a family fascinated by birds. She is the talented illustrator of many books, including the award-winning *Girls Think of Everything* and its companion, *The Sky's the Limit*. Her innovative collage and watercolors have been described as a "creative delight." She lives in Rockport, Maine, where she watches a family of chickadees return every year to nest. For more information on Melissa and her work please visit [www.melissasweet.net](http://www.melissasweet.net).



*The Boy Who Drew Birds*



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