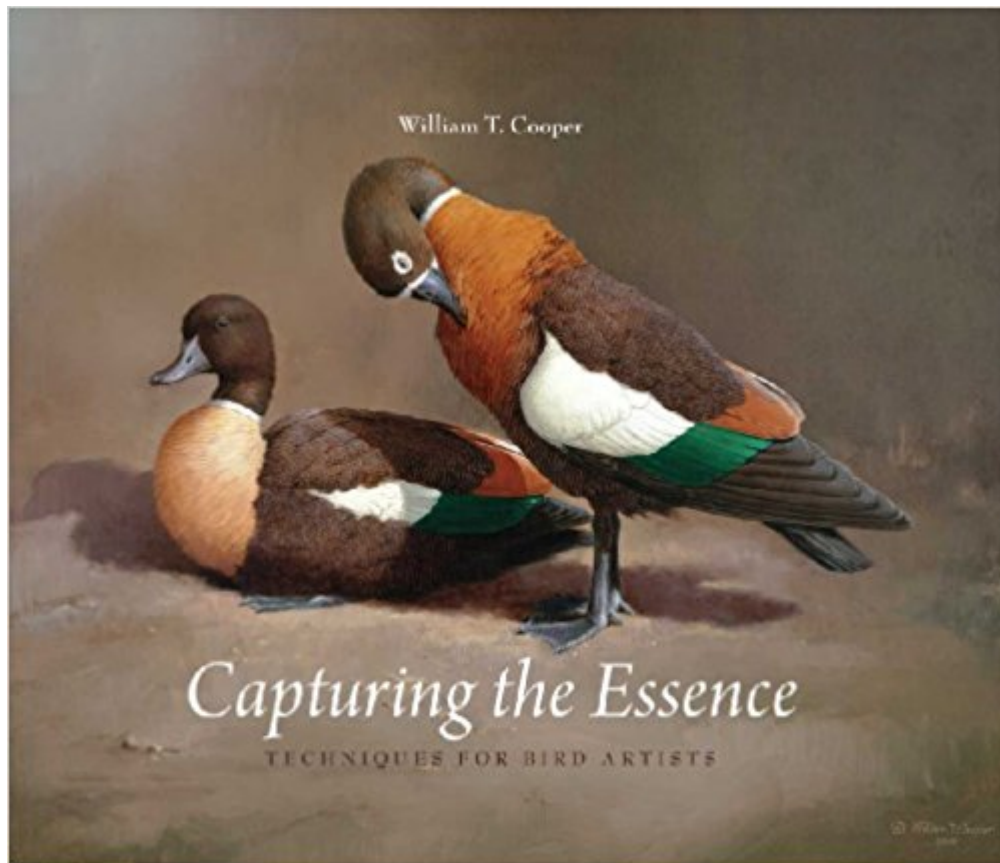




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# Capturing The Essence: Techniques For Bird Artists



## Synopsis

In this stunningly beautiful book, bird artist William T. Cooper explores and demonstrates all aspects of drawing and painting birds. Renowned for his gorgeous and accurate wildlife renderings, Cooper here explains in detail how to create a true impression of a bird's appearance. The author describes his own experiences among birds in the wild, discusses bird anatomy, and lays out the essential principles of realistic painting. He guides both seasoned artists and enthusiastic beginners through all the techniques and processes involved in depicting birds anywhere in the world. In the first part of the book, Cooper covers materials, bird anatomy, methods of working from captive birds (in zoos, for example), and methods for working in the field. He places special emphasis on the artist's understanding of the subject and how this knowledge can be transformed into drawings and paintings. The second part of the book deals with watercolors, acrylics, and oil paints, explaining for each medium the step-by-step processes leading from beginning sketches to finished work.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

William T. Cooper is a freelance artist specializing in birds. For over forty years he has illustrated wildlife books and exhibited artworks to international acclaim. He lives in Queensland, Australia.

Artist WT Cooper gives the benefit of his years of experience here in this accessible and delightfully presented beginners guide. He gives details of materials and how best to use them, he recommends useful techniques and habits of observation that will sharpen your skills and awareness. At all times

his chatty writing style is engaging and easy to follow. My only criticism is that I was hoping for more tips on the best ways with gouache, and also that it seems some of the information would either be common sense or come naturally to any practising artist. All in all though it's a very good starting point for anyone interested in bird illustration.

Fantastic book for any bird lover, birder, a beginner in drawing, an artist. The treatment of how to master shadows, is great. Also, how to achieve a 3D effect with simple measures. Thank you W. Cooper

This book, though not as good as Law's book for anyone who wants to learn to draw and paint birds, is a fine supplement to his book and worth having if one can afford the price. The weakness of this book is it does not go into the same level of detail as Law but it does cover some aspects lacking in Law's book. The aspiring artist may wish to review the book on his own to determine if he will find it useful.

This is one of the most beautiful how to draw books on the market from the recently deceased Bill Cooper, world class wildlife artist.

Lovely book, very easy to read and so inspirational. Well worth buying!

As a gift to a friend who works on illustration, it was perfect.

There are many books available on the subject of drawing birds, but very few are written by someone whose status in the practical field of bird art and illustration approaches that of William T Cooper. In the Fine Art area of avian representation only the likes of Bateman, Brenders, and Lars Johnsson can bring a similar imprimatur to the subject. However when it comes to illustration, in particular the kind of scientifically accurate illustration found in monographic works, Bill Cooper has no living equal. Even Audubon and Gould could not provide the level of life and accuracy found in Cooper's work, although this was largely because they worked in an age when photographic reference was not available, and when Muybridge had not yet produced his seminal studies of animal locomotion which forever revolutionised the portrayal of lifelike animals. Cooper's most famous works testify to his qualification in the field, and there would be very few natural history illustrators who aren't familiar with these, particularly the great volumes dealing with the world's

Parrots, written by Joseph M. ForshawÂ Parrots of the World. Other monographs containing Coopers best work areÂ The birds of paradise and bower birds, Kingfishers & Related Birds Vol. 1: Alcedinidae (Kingfishers) - Ceryle to CitturaÂ and more recently the stunningÂ Turacos: A Natural History of the Musophagidae. In these monolithic volumes one can follow Coopers style from the 1970's to the current decade in hundreds of spectacular illustrations, and I don't know of anyone who can put so much art into an illustration and still maintain scientific accuracy like Cooper can. "Capturing the Essence" is quite a departure for Cooper, and an absolute must-have for anyone interested in any kind of portrayal of birds. The reader is treated not only to some of Cooper's stunning fine art paintings, but will also find a plethora of concepts, hints, insights, and tips on subjects ranging from sketching both wild & captive birds, to materials, techniques, and composition. The section on anatomy is particularly thorough, and everything is lavishly illustrated with dozens of gorgeous sketches, finished drawings, and watercolour paintings, the bulk of which appear to have been done especially for this volume. As a professional bird illustrator I have been amazed at how much I learned from "Capturing the Essence". Bill Cooper's 40 plus years in the field shine through from page 1, and each finished painting one finds reminds us just how good this master of Avian Art really is. Whether you are a rank beginner, a talented amateur, or a seasoned professional, you will learn a lot from this book, in fact the more you know the more surprised you will be at how much you didn't. Even those who harbour no desire to create art will find plenty to admire; the illustrations alone are well worth the price of admission, as is the opportunity to peek behind the curtain and watch a true modern master at work.

Thank you very much for the prompt postage and the very reasonable price of this wonderful and hard to come by book

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