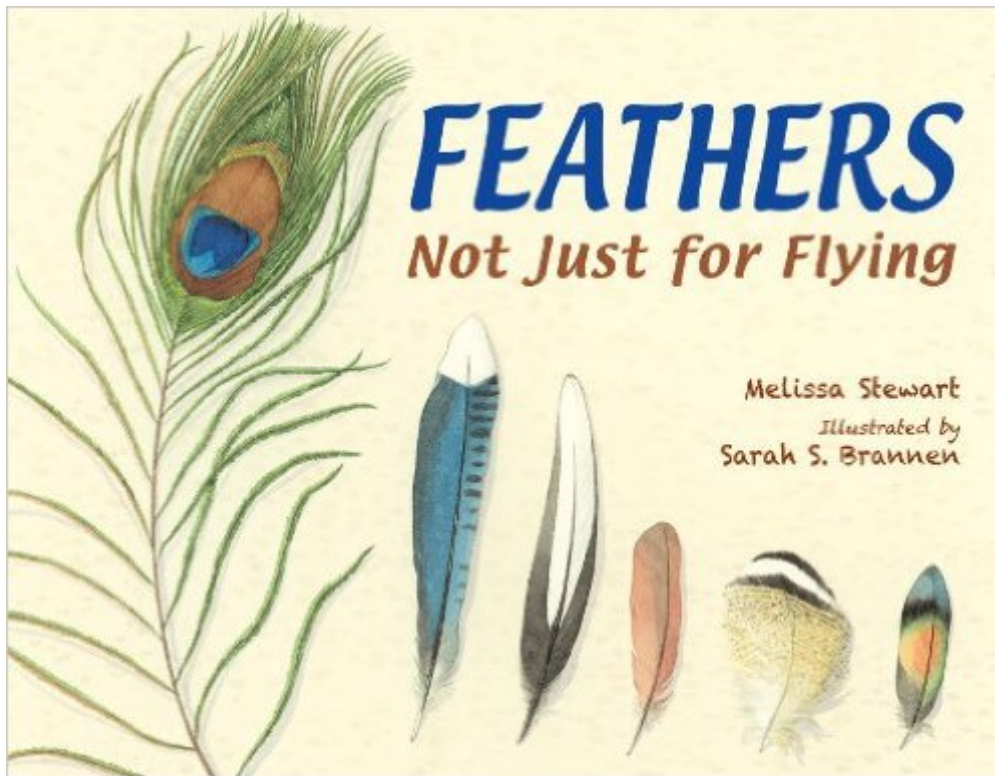


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# Feathers: Not Just For Flying



## Synopsis

Young naturalists meet sixteen birds in this elegant introduction to the many uses of feathers. A concise main text highlights how feathers are not just for flying. More curious readers are invited to explore informative sidebars, which underscore specific ways each bird uses its feathers for a variety of practical purposes. A scrapbook design showcases life-size feather illustrations.

## Book Information

Paperback: 32 pages

Publisher: Charlesbridge (February 25, 2014)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1580894313

ISBN-13: 978-1580894319

Product Dimensions: 11 x 0.1 x 8.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 7 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (23 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #108,182 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #92 in [Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > Science Studies > Zoology](#) #260 in [Books > Children's Books > Animals > Birds](#) #1861 in [Books > Children's Books > Science, Nature & How It Works](#)

Age Range: 6 - 9 years

Grade Level: 1 - 4

## Customer Reviews

Feathers: Not Just for Flying by Melissa Stewart (2014). LOVE THIS BOOK! So many possibilities. Stewart focuses on just birds' feathers and the many different purposes of feathers. Each page or two-page spread has a statement with a simile in large print like "Feathers can shade out sun like an umbrella." Then there is a text box with smaller print describing how one particular bird (like the Tricolored heron, Florida Everglades) uses its feathers in this way. Students 2nd-5th will enjoy listening to this read aloud and then rereading and examining the illustrations in the classroom library. There's even more potential for this text as a mentor for writers. Students, overwhelmed by research, might just focus on one aspect of an animal or multiple animals. Close reading of one description of a bird might help them think about the types of details to include. They can also play around with figurative language, layout and design - using Stewart's book as a model. Check out Stewart's note at the end about her research - she talks about all of the resources she consulted and how she wrote several versions before it went to publication.

Who knew there was so much to know about feathers? This book is great for those curious about birds - children as young as 4 and adult readers of all ages should enjoy it. Kids will love the rosy-faced lovebird in Namibia for how it carries nesting materials in its tail feathers like a forklift! I'm planning the curriculum of a summer naturalist series, and this book is perfect. We have Vermont Nature Guide for our nature hikes. This book can be worked into a game that I learned in summer camp called "Fashion a Fish" that teaches the unique evolutionary traits of fish. This book is beautiful - well written - and chock full of fun facts!

This is a beautiful natural history guide that should delight children and open their eyes to the many varied marvels that feathers accomplish for birds. Melissa Stewart has researched birds of many kinds all over the world and selected a number of them - some familiar, some not -- whose feathers may be used for different purposes: Providing warmth, protection from the sun, allowing them to float or dive in water, attracting a mate, even to dig a cave for their eggs--and, of course, to fly. For each bird she chooses a human tool with the same function to compare with the bird's. Sarah Branen's illustrations are absolutely marvelous: Each bird is shown in its full view and behavior, and the featured feather from each bird is painted in its full natural size and detail. Any child who reads this book will not fail to look at birds with a whole set of new ideas how it lives and why it lives the way it does.

I love it when I discover picture book nonfiction that teaches me something new. While picture book nonfiction is, of course, designed to teach children, I'm always extra impressed when I learn something new as well. To me that means the author and illustrator have done their homework and made the book as good as possible. The author has done a fabulous job sharing information about feathers that I'd never heard before. For example, I had no idea that some birds use some of their feathers to dig out a burrow or that the Club-winged manakin uses some of its feathers to whistle. The comparison of feathers to other objects also makes the book a great teaching tool as well. The illustrations are beautiful and I love the design which makes the book look like a scrapbook. The large text is perfect for reading out loud with younger children while the smaller text adds details for older readers. All in all a fabulous addition to picture book nonfiction in all libraries.

Summary: Did you know birds use their feathers like we use as a blanket, a pillow, a forklift, or an umbrella? Put together like a scrapbook, each two-page of this book compares a feather to

something in our everyday life, then shows how a bird uses its feathers in that way. There are birds from all over the U.S., as well as South America, Asia, and Antarctica. Don't skip the Author's Note, which tells how Melissa Stewart spent over three years researching and writing this simple picture book. Pros: This book would work in many ways in the classroom. It's an interesting, beautifully-illustrated look at an everyday object that kids can easily find outside. It's a study in animal adaptation. It could be a mentor text for kids doing nonfiction writing to focus their topic to something very specific. And the Author's Note lets kids know that good informational writing requires a lot of research, writing, and rewriting. Cons: There should be more great science read-aloud books!

My son and I are avid readers. We usually consume at least 20 books per day. He is 4 years old and perhaps this book is just too old for him but, I can't get him to sit through it. I have tried about 8 times now because, I have never encountered him being so resistant to reading a book with me but we get about two pages into it and he starts asking for another book instead. I feel sad because, the illustrations and theme are so wonderful...to me at least.

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