

## ESSAYS ON THE SEASONS

*A Season of Birds*. Dion Henderson. Illustrated by Chuck Ripper. 1976. Tamarack Press. Madison, Wisconsin. 87 pages. \$5.95.

Dion Henderson's book is a collection of observations and reflections about common natural experiences viewed mainly from his window overlooking his backyard and bird feeder. *A Season of Birds* consists of 36 one-page essays grouped under the four seasons. They deal with 26 common species of birds and 6 other animals and insects; four reflect on the changing seasons. The observations of the birds describe their actions and his thoughts about them, with brief bits of information about them. Each essay is illustrated by a pen-and-ink drawing.

Dion Henderson is a journalist, sportsman, columnist and bird watcher, who has also written four novels, a book of essays, and a book of short stories. He lives

in suburban Milwaukee. His simple stories were written while he observed the passing seasons and the birds over the top of his typewriter, and they will appeal to others who enjoy watching birds, long-time bird watchers and novices alike.

On the whole his facts seem to be accurate; one exception is his reference to 150 species of warblers on this continent, belonging to 21 genera. There are only 52 species listed in *Birds of North America* by Robbins, Bruun and Zim, and the total number of wood warblers for North and South America is only 125 species as listed in *A Coded List of Birds* by Ernest Edwards.

The illustrations are attractive, and accurately done, but it is too bad they are not all labeled, as some birds are not even mentioned in the text on the facing page.

This book would make a nice gift for someone who enjoys nature.

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