



**"LISTEN TO THE BIRDS** (Norton Young Readers)

elicited a true shout of joy from me when I first used the accompanying Birdie Memory app to bring the pages to life. Through the app, each species featured in the book sings and moves right on the page.

Donald Kroodsma, a veteran birdsong authority, teamed up with the artist, Léna Mazilu, and the augmented reality specialist, Yoann Guény, to develop a picture book and app that I have not seen

the likes of before. The story guides the reader through a bird walk in eastern North America and another hike in western North America while highlighting species throughout specific habitats. Each spread of birds in habitats such as a “park on the edge of town” or “scrubby brush” is followed by delightful descriptions of the songs, calls, and other noises each species makes. You can see Kroodsma’s mastery in these paragraphs; without even hearing the bird’s song, you can feel it through his careful explanations, such as how a Hermit Thrush “whirls and twirls through his fluty ending” and how a Carolina Wren “pumps himself up with air until he is close to busting, and only then does the song explode from his beak.” This book will be treasured by both little ones and adult birdsong aficionados alike."