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REVIEWS

The peacocks of Baboquivari.-Erma J. Fisk. 1983. New York, New York: W. W. Norton and Company, 284 pp, \$14.95 hardcover.-From mid-December 1978 through early May 1979 "Jonnie" Fisk lived on a Nature Conservancy ranch in Thomas Canyon, Pima County, Arizona. Living alone in this isolated locale she did extensive mist netting of birds, thrived under somewhat primitive living conditions, communed with nature, kept notes, wrote letters, and put up with the cats and local peacocks (and thus the title). This is a thoroughly enjoyable "autobiography," written by a lady who many of us have enjoyed and benefitted in many ways over the years from knowing. You may learn more about Jonnie from reading this book than about Arizona and its wildlife. If you have not been priviledged to receive a Jonnie Fisk letter in person, read this book and learn that she is: breathless, inquisitive, warm, contrite, helter-skelterish, caring, full of vigor and excitement. You will also learn about having a positive attitude toward life while getting a hearty dose of ornithology, natural history, bird watching and bird watchers, peacocks, conservation ethic, bird banding and bird banders, dealing with people, being dedicated, the benefits of a full life as a "doer". We need more people like Jonnie who can express themselves this sagely, are willing to try new activities, and not be afraid to be themselves and what they are. Thanks for writing this entertaining, useful book! The black and white line drawings by Louise Russell are a valuable adjunct. "The peacocks of Baboquivari" is a fine, fun read.--Ralph W. Schreiber, Natural History Museum, 900 Exposition Blvd., Los Angeles, California 90007.

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