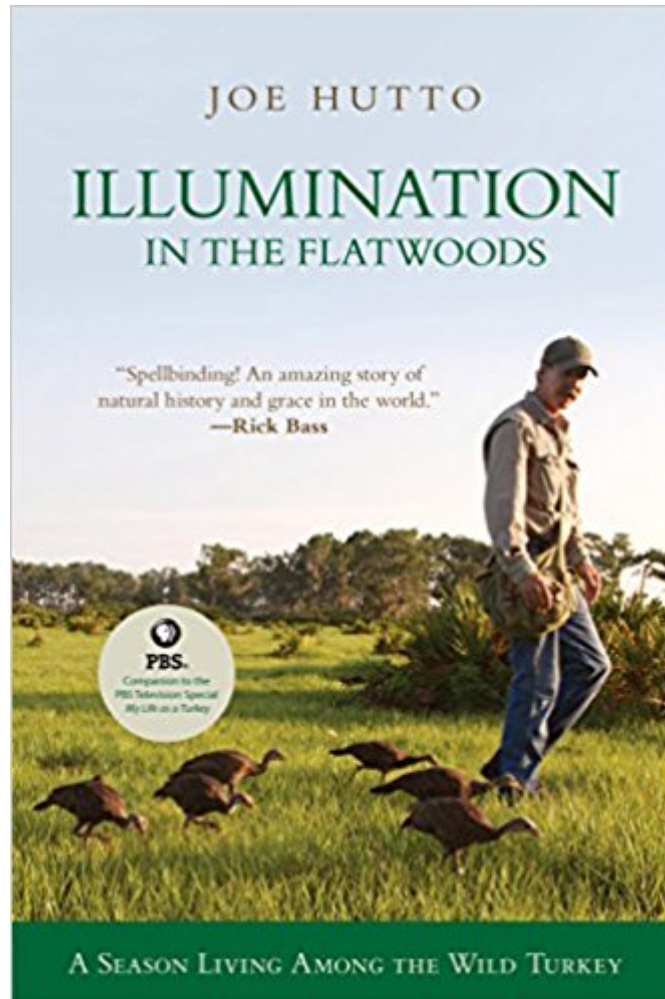


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# Illumination In The Flatwoods: A Season With The Wild Turkey



## Synopsis

An unforgettable story about the fascinating behavior of the most elusive of wild game birds.

## Book Information

Paperback: 256 pages

Publisher: Lyons Press (October 31, 2006)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1599211971

ISBN-13: 978-1599211978

Product Dimensions: 6.3 x 0.6 x 9.1 inches

Shipping Weight: 13.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.9 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (141 customer reviews)

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## Customer Reviews

My review is not unbiased because Joe Hutto, author of "Illumination in the Flatwoods," and I have been friends for almost 25 years. Joe is the most humble man I've ever known. I am honored that he brought me the original manuscript to read. It was so beautiful I could have cried. With the same graceful writing skills used by conservationists Aldo Leopold ("Sand County Almanac") and Herbert Stoddard ("Memoirs of a Naturalist"), Joe gives a masterful mix of documentary-style nature reporting and heartfelt thoughts on the meaning of life. As dramatic as that sounds, I think most readers will agree that "Illumination in the Flatwoods" is a life-changing book. You will never regret the dollars you spend to buy this book nor the time it takes you to read it. . .Kathy McCord Cooley

Hutto's book transcends its subject. Through an account of his relationship with a flock of wild turkeys, Hutto better defines the human qualities of understanding, respect, and decency. I began reading this book because I have always been interested in wild turkeys. I finished it because I felt its sincerity and character were exceptional. The respect that Hutto shows for all creatures, down to the snake that ingests one of his beloved poults, gives us insight to the relevance of all creatures. Hutto seems to have a rare quality that allows him to avoid judgement, and to achieve a level of peace and acceptance that seems so foreign in today's society. Yes, this book is about the wild turkey. But, if you follow Hutto's responses to the events into which the turkeys lead him, you find

a much richer story that tells us more about ourselves than the turkeys Hutto follows.

This is an incredibly beautifully written book. I never thought I would find it so interesting and spellbinding. I was doubtful when first beginning the book that the author would be able to maintain his observer status, but he did so remarkably well, raising the turkeys to be real wild turkeys. As I read the final line in the book, I felt I was closing a chapter in my life in which I had personally been involved with the turkeys and the author. I was impressed with Mr. Hutto's dedication to these remarkable birds, his keen observations, and also with his obvious "connection" to them. I hope he will write again in the future.

I knew turkeys (domestic)are really cool animals but these wild ones of Joe Hutto's are something else.Easily the best book I've read in 2009, maybe even a decade and I read a LOT of books. I'm puzzled it hasn't made a bigger splash and become more well known; I think it's a sure classic; right now it's still underground. I think "Desert Solitaire" took a while to get noticed too. Yes, I put this book in that elite category. Eagerly awaiting Hutto's new book "The Light In High Places"(sorry, forgot how to italicize...)The down side is I don't know how I can eat turkey again and it was always my favorite

Beautifully written and truly amazing feat accomplished by Mr. Hutto. Many can raise wild turkeys in their own world, however, it took a man with great conviction and love for the bird and it's environment to reverse the process and let the poults raise him. I couldn't put this book down and fell in love with the characters. In closing, I truly admire Mr. Hutto for his dedication and am thankful I don't hunt anywhere near TurkeyBoy's range as I don't believe I could pull the trigger on a bird that has survived the perils he has faced throughout his life.

I admit that I grinned and chuckled when a friend - whose taste I trust - offered to lend this book. Was she serious? She was indeed and and she was so right to urge me to give it a chance. It's wonderful. HOWEVER, the newest edition (2006) does not have the color photographs from the two earlier editions and that's a shame. You need to see Turkeyboy, et al. I'll be the only reviewer rating Illumination in the Flatwoods fewer than 5 stars and I hope this captures the attention of potential buyers. Get an older edition.

This is a profound book in subtle ways and should change anybody's views of the relationship

between 'wildlife' and human life. It can be read by anyone who has the slightest empathy with pets but perhaps not with animals otherwise, so don't be put off by the subject. It is perhaps people who think they are not interested in turkeys or animals in general who would find the book most inspiring.

This book made me laugh at times, at times touched me deeply with awe at the complexity of this creature, and its joy in life, as clearly revealed by the author. Makes me wonder how much we just don't know about the wild life around us, and yet how wonderous it all is. The pictures speak volumes, showing their intense curiosity. One of my favorite books in my library now.

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