



National Geographic Field Guide to the Birds of North America

National Geographic Society, John W. Fitzpatrick (Introduction), Mel Baughman (Editor)

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National Geographic Field Guide to the Birds of North America continues to be the most sought-after, the most authoritative, and the easiest to access field guide to birds on the market. Now in its 4th Edition, revisions include 250 updated range maps, and new classification information National Geographic is reissuing the Field Guide to the Birds of North America in the 4th edition, focusing on its accuracy and easy use in the field. This is the ultimate birders field guide - sturdy, easy to carry and use, and featuring the most complete information among bird guides. It features all species known to breed in North America, including those that are regular visitors to our continent or that drop in occasionally - more than 800 in all. The edition is lavishly illustrated with specially commissioned full-colour illustrations, plus newly updated range maps and detailed descriptions. A superb new index allows birders in the field to quickly identify a species.

National Geographic Field Guide to the Birds of North America Details

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From Reader Review National Geographic Field Guide to the Birds of North America for online ebook

Sheri Fresonke Harper says

We use this as a back up guide that is handy for those visiting both coasts of the United States since it contains the birds on both sides of the Rocky Mountains, a divide in the country that has lead to different species of birds like Meadowlarks and Bluebirds. It has good details on the hawks, too.

Greg Brozeit says

Finally finished reading this cover-to-cover after a year of about a page a day plus many reread parts as I tried to identify birds. Anyone in North American interested in finding out more about the birds around them should own this book. Great illustrations, great facts, and great insight to help appreciate the world around us.

Angelo says

This book is about the birds of North America. It talks about how to find, identify, and the age. This book takes you through the world of birds. As you read the book it will tell you where the type of bird lives. Which you way think it is odd because a bird can go any where, but some birds have certain environments that they can only live in. There are some birds that come here from other countries as well. I think the type of people that would really like this book is bird watchers or people that like to become watchers. But, I don't know what kind of birds people would be in to. I would definitely say check out the birds of prey.

Arielle says

This is one of the most amazing books for birdwatchers. I used it for all of my ornithology classes and learned so much about identifying birds by both their markings and behavior. I had this unbelievable teacher, who had been a birdwatcher for all his life, and he went through the guide, page by page, and he showed us slides and talked about each species with a depth of knowledge that was devotional. I learned how to tell all the different gulls apart at Ocean Beach (San Francisco) and saw a red-tailed hawk in Golden Gate Park. To see a Great Blue Heron is humbling and amazing. Some of these species, you'd really think you had entered another world. This guide is thorough, has detailed drawings to help you get to know differentiations to help in identification, and has verbal descriptions as well.

Johann says

While I haven't actually read through this book from cover to cover (I'm using the sixth edition), it has proven itself extremely useful. I spent quite some time reading about the various field guides online and

thought I had decided on the best option. Then I went to our local bookstore to flip through the options they had (including the Sibley, Stokes, Kaufman, and a few other guides), and this one really stood out from the rest. What I love about the book are the quick indexes on the front and back inside covers and the tabs for quick searching. My son and I have been able to identify a few birds in our backyard and it has been really fun to use! The illustrations are also beautiful.

Summer says

I actually have a copy of the 7th Edition of this book.

I am a beginning birder and this volume has proven enormously useful in helping me identify different types of birds that are endemic to my region of the U.S.A. The illustrations are clear and the guide does a really great job at pointing out the subtle differences between species of birds that look very similar, as well as giving seasonal maps of bird migrations. I highly recommend it.

Anne K. says

This is my trusty battered, mud stained bird book and I love it. The pictures are detailed, the descriptions short and concise, and there's enough space in the margins for me to write sighting notations.

Gauri says

I've gotten very interested in birds this past year, and I wanted to pick up an introductory guide to bird-watching and bird-identifying. Since this edition is from 2002, it is obviously not up to date and entirely accurate, but I was able to use this guide to identify some ducks that swim in the pond next to my dorm, which got me excited. This book has inspired me to take up bird-watching as a hobby, and I'm very excited to take some time out this winter break to lure birds in front of my window with birdseed and try to identify them. It's kind of like Pokemon, almost, except you don't catch them forever, but do get to write down that you've seen several species and keep that list your whole life. This is so much fun. I'm going to use binoculars, too, to look at nests in trees!

Chelsea says

This is the field guide that I began birding with and I still use it today, in companion with my Stokes Guide. It's absolutely fantastic. It's well organized, well illustrated, and well written. I could not recommend this book more highly to anyone interested in learning about birds.

Janet C-B says

This is a comprehensive reference book about 800 North American birds. It is heavily illustrated, unlike some of the more condensed field guides. I especially appreciate seeing 3-5 related birds shown on one page.

I also appreciate the pages that show a number of birds in flight within the same family, example shore birds or hawks, because this is often how birds are observed.

I find this reference especially helpful in narrowing the possibilities when trying to identify a bird within a family. It is also helpful for me in identifying birds that might be observed outside the usual range. Because the reference book is heavy at 450+ pages, I do not usually bring it with me when traveling out of state.

Although some bird-id groups prefer a different common field guide, I have found this guide very helpful over the years.

Scott Cox says

The illustrations and information contained in this field guide makes it my favorite for field use. Perhaps Sibley's guide contains more detailed and up-to-date information, but this still remains my favorite guide - it helps of course that it contains all my hand-written notes from 3 years of field ornithology courses.

Suz says

My favorite birding guide book. It has great pictures and descriptions. The blurbs with the range maps is fantastic and it has a lot of incidental species to South Texas (at least) that a lot of guide books lack since they are not "common enough", I guess.

There's a handy checklist in the back if you want to check off species as you see them, but since I'm a much more casual birder, I just write in the white space next to the bird where and when I saw it for the first time.

Sean says

Not my everyday field guide, but the illustrations can be useful for cross-referencing species, and it does cover all of North America so is good for travel outside of my region. I prefer The Sibley Field Guide to Birds of Eastern North America for regular home regional use.

T says

Can't live without this one--it goes everywhere with me. I've since updated and bought the 4th and 5th editions, but all of my birding notes are still in this very worn copy. An excellent field guide, in my opinion. I supplement it with The Sibley Guide to Birds, which stays at home while I drag the Ntl. Geographic guide with me.

Donna says

This reference is great. In past editions it was difficult to find specific birds, but the combination of durable flap index and thumb tabs for the most frequent bird families (hawks, warblers, sparrows, etc.) make it super easy to use.

The written descriptions are fairly brief so the focus is on the drawings. The drawings are detailed and mostly include those of the different races, juveniles, and birds in flight.
