



# The Cloud Collector's Handbook

*Gavin Pretor-Pinney*

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## **The Cloud Collector's Handbook** Gavin Pretor-Pinney

The perfect incentive for keeping your head in the clouds, The Cloud Collector's Handbook is a whimsical guide to the wonders of the sky. Throughout, author and cloud expert Gavin Pretor-Pinney catalogs a variety of clouds and gives readers points for spotting them and recording their finds. This fun and useful book features gorgeous full-color photographs that showcase a new type of cloud on every spread, from fluffy cumulus to the super rare horseshoe vortex to the wispy noctilucent clouds that hang at the fringes of space. Sure to be a hit with both aspiring and seasoned cloud gazers, this clever handbook will have everyone looking up.

## **The Cloud Collector's Handbook Details**

Date : Published June 11th 2009 by Sceptre

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Author : Gavin Pretor-Pinney

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## From Reader Review The Cloud Collector's Handbook for online ebook

### Camelama says

A very lovely book that I wish I could afford to purchase, instead of get from the library. I say this because the book is set up so that you can keep notes on which clouds you've seen where - collect them, basically! As I am a birder, this aspect of "listing" clouds appeals to me. I can go birdwatching and cloudwatching at the same time! Keep a yard list of clouds, just like I do birds! A ferry list! An airplane list! Travel list! Oooo, cloud twitchers?

I wish there were more photos of each cloud type, and better descriptions of the differences between similar cloud types - side by side photo comparisons, for instance.

But what there is in this slim volume is very good. A few pithy comments scattered here and there liven up the descriptions and made me smile. But not too many of them - just enough.

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### Jenette says

Comprehensive to the point and page turning. Photos are magnificent. I know I will be referring to this book quite frequently as my kids and I are tracking weather phenomena for a year. I like Ganin Pretor-Pinney's writing style and I like the humor he throws in. Covers not just meteorological, but optical, genera, accessory, supplementary, and other. Helps are fantastic and point system is very fun. A great addition to the other books in my meteorological library.

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### Rachel says

I thought this book was really cute and have already started my own personal collection. The handbook has information about various types of clouds and how to identify them. It starts with 10 basic cloud types and then expands to include variations and other atmospheric effects.

Each entry has a description of the cloud and related types, pictures, names and references to similar cloud species and a block to record information about your collection. The collection space has blanks for date, location, and weather condition as well as the file name for your photo of the cloud. It also has a scoring system for tallying up the value of your collection, including bonuses for each type. It sort of reminds me of the scores in the game Pokemon Snap.

I had a copy from the library but am seriously considering a trip to the bookstore to get my own copy.

#### Age Recommendation:

I feel like the book is intended to help adults recapture the fun and relaxation of cloud gazing. However it includes quite a bit of scientific information about how various types of clouds are formed and what kind of weather conditions they are likely to be found in. I think it would be a great book to use for teaching kids weather science. Not only could they collect and identify clouds but also work on trying to predict conditions for finding clouds missing from their collections.

## Becky says

Cloud collecting is my favorite hobby. I've always enjoyed watch the clouds, always considered myself a bit of a wonderbug, and have always had more pictures of clouds than people on my camera. Then one day when I was researching a supernumerary rainbow I had seen I came across the Cloud Appreciation Society, and subsequently, this book. Its forever changed the way I look at clouds. I've learned so much more about the different types, and the acquisition of bonus points for collecting is both fun and hilarious.

The book itself has a great way of presenting information, its both in awe of the clouds and often amusing, while also explaining the scientific facts behind different formations and good clues of how to spot them. The points system is a blast. The pictures are gorgeous.

Its easily worth the money you spend on it and the weight in the backpack.

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## Michelle-Marie says

Especially handy for a trip through the Southwest or out Midwest or out East in the summertime. Amusingly written, less dry than most field guides, and you get to add up points for the clouds you see. Covers the banal cloud ("It feels wrong to devote as much space to the rather drab and featureless Altostratus...few cloudspotters will be seen to punch the air and high-five upon adding this one...") to the breathtaking Stratocumulus Lenticularis.

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## Cathy Cole says

I've never been accused of having my head in the clouds, but I should have been because it's one of my favorite things to do-- especially during the summer here in the Sonoran Desert. I knew all the different types of clouds had names, but didn't know them past cumulus and cirrus. When I stumbled across The Cloud Collector's Handbook, I knew I had to have a copy; I'm the type of person who likes to know the names of things.

This little hardcover is broken into five basic chapters: Ten Main Cloud Types, Notable Species and Varieties, Accessory Clouds and Supplementary Features, Other Clouds, and Cloud Optical Effects. It also contains handy indexes of technical terms, images and more in the back.

The book is filled with gorgeous photographs of all the more recognizable types of clouds, and author Gavin Pretor-Pinney tells readers what causes them to form and under what conditions they may be seen. If you're the type of person who likes to keep lists or to score yourself on how many different types of clouds you've seen, you can keep track with this book.

I loved examining all the photographs, and I learned a great deal from reading the text. The next time I look up at the sky, I'm going to be much better informed, and The Cloud Collector's Handbook is now an important addition to my reference shelf.

## Julia says

I was meant to find and buy this book.

I've been a cloud/sky appreciator for years, but it never crossed my mind that there is a Cloud Appreciation Society, a book about clouds and even different genera of clouds!

*A Fallstreak hole, with a Circumhorizon arc*

*Mountain with a pink "cap"*

It was great to find out a bit more about my hobby and it is a book I can re-read again and again.

Besides, there is now a guide that can help me identify the beautiful clouds I see and photograph.

Definitely recommend to everybody who likes clouds, even if you only notice them at sunrise/sunset!

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## Stephen says

Few people can geek out like my good man Gavin Pretor-Pinney, and I am for sure thankful that for every book that he puts out. His book on waves (traffic waves, ocean waves, light waves, all kinds of waves) is one of my favorite books of all time. And his previous book on clouds shows the art available to every human being on the earth –clouds! This is a companion piece, and light as it is, it can travel with us everywhere there are clouds – which is everywhere.

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## Gerda Leek says

Informational; good photographs

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## Ms. Arca says

4.5.

I've already got 3 clouds collected and counting ! This one is staying in my bag. I'm officially on my way to becoming a cloud nerd (this book is perfectly compact, informative, and fun.. to me anyways;). I do wish they provided a few more pictures of examples of each type of cloud (like the different species within one cloud type), as well as a little more information about the cloud types.. but mostly, that's if I was being openly picky. Great concept and the new book that's always with me.

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### **Katharine says**

Tried from the library. 6 year old loves it and brings it everywhere. We're ordering a copy! It's great fun to spot different clouds - like looking for ever-changing constellations during the day!

The book is small, hardbound, "pocket" sized.

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### **Post Defiance says**

Originally posted at <http://postdefiance.com/literary-gift...>, written by Sweet Pea Flaherty.

This book is filled with every magical thing a cloud has ever done. Nature-lovers of all ages will become cloud connoisseurs and have a place to transcribe every wonder discovered.

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### **Stasia says**

Awesome! This is definitely not the kind of book you'd read straight through, but it's a great reference for when you're looking in the sky and wondering what you're looking at. I keep bringing it out to get some background info about the amazing fall clouds we're seeing in Portland right now.

The pictures are amazing, and it gives you a lot of information in a very accessible way. I have NO background knowledge about sky or weather patterns or anything, but the book all makes sense to me. Pretor-Pinney also does a great job cross-referencing different parts of the book (for example, the "don't confuse this cloud with this other cloud on page 24," for example, sections). I feel like I'm learning a lot.

I'm psyched about it!

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### **Rinko says**

everyone should have something they enjoy doing. it can be observing a bird, clouds, or nature. it's much more cheaper and healthier than collecting physical things. no matter how simple it is, just enjoy yourself!

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### **Arminzerella says**

This handy little guide offers a fun way to look at the heavens - clouds. With photographs of different cloud formations to help you identify types of clouds, this field guide will have you searching the sky for each kind. (Gavin Pretor-Pinney assigns point values to each of the cloud types/species, so you can rack up a nice score as you collect.) Cool concept. Wish there was an app available that you could use to id cloud types (i.e. take a photo and have it tell you what you're looking at). Since I'm not an expert on clouds, I had trouble distinguishing between some of the varieties. I guess it's something you get better at with practice.

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