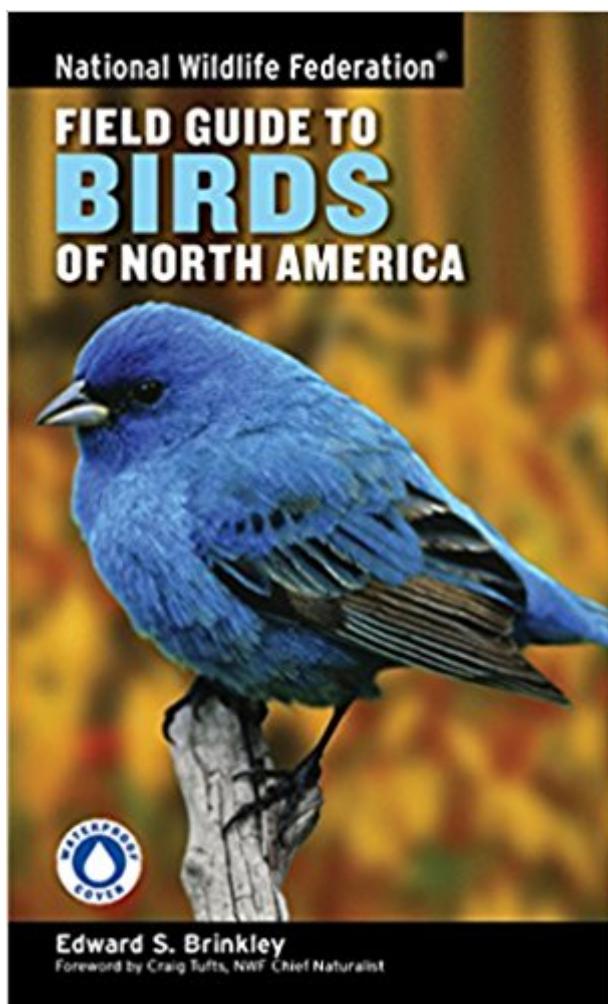


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National Wildlife Federation Field Guide To Birds Of North America



Synopsis

From the National Wildlife Federation® comes the most up-to-date, all-photographic field guide to North American birds. Birders will find it indispensable: this single, portable volume features more than 750 species, along with more than 2,000 stunning images by leading nature photographers showing birds in their natural habitats. Captions highlight important field marks, and comprehensive species accounts describe habitats, behavior, flight, migration, songs, and plumages. Other features include: more than 600 maps showing bird distribution in every season; strategies for watching and identifying birds; a complete species index plus a quick-flip index; a glossary of terms; and a checklist of birds. The guide's unique waterproof cover makes it especially valuable for use in the field.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Edward S. (Ned) Brinkley is the editor of *North American Birds*, the American Birding Association's quarterly journal of ornithological record. A native of Norfolk, Virginia, Ned has birded since age six, his interest sparked by the southern warblers of the Great Dismal Swamp and, later, the seabirds of the Gulf Stream off North Carolina. He holds a Ph.D. in Comparative Literature and Film from Cornell University and was formerly a professor of literature and film at the University of Virginia. Ned currently co-owns a birders' bed-and-breakfast in Cape Charles, Virginia, and guides birding tours to the Caribbean and Central America for Field Guides, Inc.

I have always had an affinity for birds and have been watching them all my life. Most of the time I never knew what kind of bird I was looking at. Recently I have really started studying them and observing more. I was looking for a complete book with good pictures that was easy to use and I have found the perfect one. This book has excellent quality pictures of each bird both close up and far away, great descriptions of the birds habits, migration patterns, songs and differences between the males and females (they have pictures of each.) Each bird also has a color coded map to show their native habitats and migration patterns. The birds are divided up into color coded section by type of bird like (gulls, ducks geese and swans, hawks etc.) I had no idea that many kinds of sparrow and woodpecker existed!! Excellent reference and very well worth it.

Almost too much info to deal with, probably easy to use for an experienced birder. I'm a beginner birder, although a long a time bird watcher and appreciator, and while this book seems well organized, sometimes its organization can be confusing in that it presumes you know what grouping, type or family a particular bird belongs to. It starts with a grouping of 8 different kinds of water birds, including shore, sea, marsh, etc., but then moves into game birds like quails & turkeys, followed by raptors. Each group has a different color bar printed across the top of each page to show you're in a different type of bird group, but to a newbie, there doesn't seem to be any reason for how the book is ordered. It does present huge amounts of information, so beginners can learn the basics and still find the book useful as they advance in knowledge and birding skill - if they don't just get overwhelmed! The beginning chapters of the book explain birds and how to identify them! Their physical shapes, sizes, how they look in flight, plumage coloring and types of feathers, body parts, seasonal and age differences within bird types, habitats, songs, ranges, and more. Lots of pictures, charts, maps. In the back, it also provides info on accessing other birding resources, reporting your own sightings, glossary, lists of vagrant, rare endangered and threatened species in North America, and a species checklist and a species index. Each group is introduced with text and one or more photos, explaining the grouping ("pigeons & doves") with commonalities and some background details of the birds within that group; for example, the intro to the "tanagers, cardinals & kin" section shows the various types of female tanagers in a group of photos to make it easier to identify them. Then, individual species or varieties are presented in listings with info text, range maps (which also give info on seasonal aspects of ranges), sometimes a bit of history, and photos with tags for gender, age, etc. It usually gives songs and calls info for each type of bird, so you can use what you hear to help identify the birds.. The best part is the photos. I have books with drawings, but somehow, I can't always tell the birds apart from drawings, no matter how beautiful. The photos

here are plentiful, varied, informative, showing male and female of most species, and often immature or breeding plumage. So if you know you found a small woodland bird or a large white shorebird, you can't start your identification by using the groupings and searching through the photos to find your bird. Along the way, you'll end up learning more about similar birds, so each time, it's easier to figure out what bird you've seen. This is really too big to be a field guide, more like a campsite or back-home reference than a carry-along ID book; you'd probably be better off bookmarking an ID website to use on your phone in the field, and then using the book later to make sure of your identification, or to find birds not in the online resource you used. But this guide is fun just to look through, reading sections of interest as you browse, looking at the photos to see what differentiates one similar bird from another. And expert birders can even learn something, too.

For the money, this is a wonderful field guide. Just having the photos instead of drawings would make it a hit for me, but there is so much information in the book all presented in a clear and logical manner. This is head and shoulders above any field guide I own for birds, wildlife, flowers and trees. I love it so much I have given two of them as gifts to now happy friends. Great product!

I always love bird books and since moving to the south where there is lots of them, i have had to purchase a few books. this being one of them, it has great pictures and I am able to use it to identify quite a few birds. This is what i wanted and what i got. The only reason I give it a four is that all birds aren't in it, and ive had to buy other books, but it is good overall directory of birds.

This is my main bird book. It has wonderful pictures/illustrations and is extremely informative. My girlfriend and I whom are big birders call it our "bird bible." The checklist in the back is a wonderful feature and that's the main way that we keep track of what we have seen throughout our years of bird watching. If you are in need of a bird book look no further!

If you are as ignorant of birds as I am this book will more than correct your deficiency. The pictures are not drawing, they are real photography of the birds which gives you the opportunity to identifying the birds perched or flying. I recommend it to anyone who want to learn more about the birds around them wherever they go in North America.

This book is well-made: sturdy spine & pages, feels like it's not going to fall apart for a while. It is well organized, with similar-looking birds grouped together and descriptions that note key

differences between species and sub-species. Highlighted maps indicate birds' summer, winter, and migratory ranges to help narrow down which bird you are most likely looking at, given your geographical location. Summaries of bird descriptions identify birds, male & female markings, bird call/songs, habits, and often describe differences in appearance for juveniles vs. mature birds. This book uses photos, not illustrations, which works best for me since I am an amateur bird watcher and can pretty much only say, "I'll know when I see it". I have been using post-it notes to mark the pages and seasons of the birds I recognize around my feeders and in town, hoping to start noticing some trends and just learn to call my new friends by their proper names. Great hobbyist book.

I am obsessed with this field guide. Love the check of record in the back of the book. It is a great gift. Mine is kept by the window and everyone at some point will look up a bird. The detail and photos about the birds are wonderful, so informative. Well worth the purchase.

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