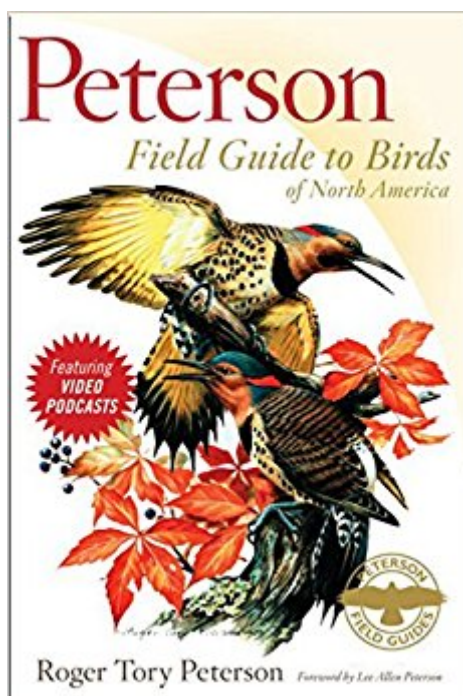


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Peterson Field Guide To Birds Of North America (Peterson Field Guides)



Synopsis

Peterson Field Guide Birds Na

Book Information

Series: Peterson Field Guides

Paperback: 544 pages

Publisher: Houghton Mifflin Harcourt; 1 edition (August 1, 2008)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0618966145

ISBN-13: 978-0618966141

Product Dimensions: 6 x 1.1 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 2.6 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars 191 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #60,604 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #46 in [Books > Science & Math > Biological Sciences > Animals > Mammals](#) #53 in [Books > Science & Math > Biological Sciences > Animals > Birds & Birdwatching](#) #258 in [Books > Science & Math > Nature & Ecology > Fauna](#)

Customer Reviews

Product Description In celebration of the centennial of Roger Tory Peterson's birth comes a historic collaboration among renowned birding experts and artists to preserve and enhance the Peterson legacy. This new book combines the Peterson Field Guide to Eastern Birds and Peterson Field Guide to Western Birds into one volume, filled with accessible, concise information and including almost three hours of video podcasts to make bird watching even easier.
• 40 new paintings
• Digital updates to Peterson's original paintings, reflecting the latest knowledge of bird identification
• All new maps for the most up-to-date range information available
• Text rewritten to cover the U.S. and Canada in one guide
• Larger trim size accommodates range maps on every spread
• Contributors include: Michael DiGiorgio, Jeff Gordon, Paul Lehman, Michael O'Brien, Larry Rosche, and Bill Thompson III
• Includes URL to register for access to video podcasts
Excerpts from Peterson Field Guide to Birds of North America Click on each image below to see a larger view
Colorful songbirds with heavy, seed-crushing bills, cardinals and grosbeaks are popular at feeders. In North America, the Orchard and Baltimore Orioles are fairly widespread in the East; Bullock's is widespread in the West; and the Spot-breasted Oriole is limited to South Florida.
Peterson sometimes painted over figures on a plate and

sometimes even cut them out. Canyon Wren was missing from the original art. Michael O'Brien painted a new Canyon Wren for inclusion in the new field guide. The Orange Bishop is native to Africa but has been introduced in California. Peterson had not painted this bird for his field guides, so Michael O'Brien painted this one. Thumbnail maps help you determine at a glance if a bird is likely to be in your region. Large maps in back give detailed range information.

As new or revised field guides are published, they are getting too big to carry in a pocket. This one is no exception. It is larger and heavier than earlier Peterson Field Guides and combines the Peterson Field Guide to Eastern Birds (1992) and the Peterson Field Guide to Western Birds (1992) in a single volume. The new features include a more conversational text, online access to video podcasts, and small range maps with the plates as well as the usual range-maps section at the end. The text covers both Canada and the U.S., so it is more inclusive than many guides. When his first edition was published some 75 years ago, Peterson's system for identifying field marks became the gold standard for birders worldwide. This updated edition has corrections to the taxonomy (name changes and specie identifications). Every effort has been made to present the most current information. Peterson's paintings have been digitized, and 40 new paintings in his style are included where needed. The contributors who worked on this guide are well-known and respected birders, illustrators, and writers and have maintained the high standards that Peterson set. Birding field-trip leaders will want to make room in their backpacks for this guide because the large illustrations will be very useful in teaching while birding. Libraries of all types will also want this volume marking the 100th anniversary of Peterson's birth because of its concise, accurate information and large illustrations. --Linda Scarth

Roger Tory Peterson...great ornithologist, great conservationist, great artist. This book was everything I expected, and it's nice to know that the publishers took the trouble to update some of the late Mr. Peterson's information. I live in the Midwest and am a rank amateur as far as bird watching is concerned. Luckily, Chicago is on a flyway, and a lot of migrants funnel down to our lakeshore during fall migration. We also have great variety in habitat. So having a book that gives a thorough treatment of all species I will see in the vicinity is great. It's also detailed enough that, as I get better at identifying birds, some of the more nuanced field marks will come in handy. The book is kind of big--I had to choose between the entire North America guide and the Eastern North America guide. I got the more inclusive book because I want to have something to refer to when I travel West. But because of the weight/size (and frankly, because it is such a beautiful book) I will

probably not drag it into the field with me. I have other guides I can use and write notes in, so this will be my at-home go-to reference if there's an unusual (to my eyes) wing bar or color morph.

I carry this in my car with me so I can use it whenever I'm out and about. I usually supplement with an iPhone app such as Merlin Bird ID until I get more familiar with local birds and where to find them in the book. It can be overwhelming to a new beginner such as myself to solely rely on a book. I use it as a reference once I've identified the most likely species from my phone app.

Bought this for my bird-watching granddaughter who is 8. She loves it. Especially likes the life list in the back so she can record sightings of birds. She also likes quizzing herself with the bird silhouettes. It's a fabulous book. (Grammy has one too!)

Great book and excellent reference. I use it a lot to identify birds and it has great pictures and descriptions that make identifying a bird easy and fun. Gave one as a gift too.

This is on the verge of being too large to be a field guide. It does have beautiful illustrations of every bird. There are range maps next to each entry but there is a large portion at the end of the book dedicated to range maps for subspecies. I believe that this may be where the book becomes a little large. It does have a checklist at the end where you can put a check next to each species you've seen. Overall, it is comprehensive and includes a lot of info but may be too large to carry with you on certain outings.

I am well aware that I hold in my hands a national treasure, the product of a life well-lived, the "Peterson Field Guide to Birds of North America." Its vinyl cover, its glossy pages filled with portraits of birds, not ordinary birds, but perfect birds, simply makes one catch her breath in awe. A celebrated illustrator, writer, ornithologist, and educator, Peterson directly followed Audubon's footsteps in depicting the birds of North America, but with two differences: his book is a field guide in identifying birds and he didn't kill them to paint them. Peterson worked by memory and sometimes the hull of an old dead bird or a photograph or two. His son Lee writes in the Foreword: "He was able to piece together an image of the bird as it should have been. Not just any [bird], but all [birds]" (x). The first thing I learned about birds when I began this new study is that they are the bellwethers of our environment. Peterson also "hoped to shift our relationship to our surroundings from one of exploitation to one of stewardship" (xi). As for content, Peterson goes into much greater detail in

teaching how to identify birds than he does in his First Guides, designed for beginners. So, the list for bird identification: Size, shape, wing shape, bill shape, tail shape, Behavior, tree climber?, flight behavior, Wade? Swim? Field marks (one of Peterson's best bets for identification) Tail, rump, eye, wing markings Songs and calls Nests Ranges Habitats Of course, I looked up my Cormorants and thought for a second my special species wasn't there, but, aha! turn one more page and there he is with wings outspread--my Double-crested Cormorant who winters every January with all his buddies in my huge cypress tree standing alone in the bayou behind my house. Actually, now I feel honored that this big beautiful bird spends time at my house, so to speak. Oh, get this: he is similar in species with the loon who produces my favorite bird call. Just how detailed is Peterson's Guide? In paging through the book I stopped at the Wren, described by Peterson as "mostly small, energetic, brown birds; stumpy, with slim, slightly curved bill; tail often cocked" (304). Here are six apparently quite similar birds, but Peterson's field guide arrows show us distinct differences: House Wren: longish tail, white spotted underbody Winter Wren: very short tail, completely colored and striped underbody Bewick's Wren: white line over his eye and spotted lines underneath; solid white underbody Carolina Wren: white line over eye but almost solid brown underneath, with faintly striped underbody Sedge Wren: Stripes down top of head and eye and back Marsh Wren: Solid brown on top of head with white stripe above eye and the most clear white stripes down his back Even though the life history of each bird shows its range, there is a section in the back half of the book that provides more detail. The book closes with a Life list of all families under each of the 19 orders with blanks next to each one so that the birder and owner of the book can check off all birds spotted. Silhouettes of birds of the water, flight, and roadside conclude this guide; however, a photograph and short biographical sketch of Roger Tory Peterson looks over those silhouettes.

I moved to Minnesota from NJ and I felt I needed a book that covered the entire US (even if the Eastern volume does cover almost any bird one will see in Minnesota). I purchased this a few days ago, and was not sure what to expect. I have rated this 5 stars because it is much better than expected. The price is very low for the quality of reproduction. My edition of Peterson was a 10 year old reprint of the 4th edition. The maps in that one were not that good at the time and after 30 years in print, they are out of date. The new combined edition has slightly larger pictures. The new maps are much better, including them on the bird pages is a plus. This edition keeps the map section in the back of the book so you can look at ranges of entire groups of birds at a time. This edition was designed, I am sure, to compete with Sibley's book. This book has borrowed some of the best of Sibley without losing the best of Peterson. If Sibley has a weakness it is in the somewhat muted

colors of some birds. This works well for experienced birders but beginners will have problems. I feel Peterson's colors are a bit more accurate. Given the great praise for the Sibley book, one needs to remember that Peterson is just as good, just a bit different. This edition is completely updated. Any inexperienced birder would probably do better with the new Peterson. I have both books and use both books and I recommend both books.

Great service and excellent quality product. Highly recommended!

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