

# RESOURCES FOR BIRDING

**\*Highly Recommended for Beginning Birders**

## **Field guides (printed) and associated websites/APPS: (\*indicates really good for new birders)**

### **\*Kaufman Focus Guide: *Birds of North America* by Kenn Kaufman**

The hallmark of all of the Kaufman Field Guides is that they are designed for ease of use. The number one goal is to make the books accessible and understandable for beginners, so that newcomers to natural history will be able to take their first steps with confidence. The original bird guide was published in 2000; it was updated in 2005 and Spanish version was also made available. The Kaufman bird guide uses computer edited photographs to illustrate the species and features a pictorial table of contents that helps beginning birders locate the correct family of birds in the guide. <http://www.kknature.com/>

### ***National Geographic Field Guide to the Birds of North America, Seventh edition***

This guide, published in 2017, illustrates every North American species—more than 1,000, including a new section on accidental birds—classified according to the latest official American Ornithologists' Union checklist. The range maps were updated and subspecies maps were added for selected species; a new durable cover was added for added protection against adverse weather, plus informative quick-reference flaps that double as place markers; a visual index of bird families is found on each inside cover flap. It also includes reader-friendly features like thumb tabs that make locating key sections faster and easier, and a quick-find index to direct users straight to the information they need. **APP:** *National Geo. Handheld Birds*.

### ***The Sibley Field Guide to Birds Second Edition* by David Allen Sibley**

The Sibley Guides series began with the publication of *The Sibley Guide to Birds* in 2000, and since then has expanded to include four additional books on birds. Now there is a completely revised Second Edition published in March 2014. *The Sibley Guide to Bird Life and Behavior* (2001), which was conceived as a companion guide to the *Guide to Birds*, provides a wealth of detail about the nesting, mating, and other behavior is also a good addition to a birding library.

### ***Peterson Field Guide to Birds of North America (2008 edition)* by Roger Tory Peterson**

Published in celebration of the centennial of Roger Tory Peterson's birth (the man who started it all in the field of user-friendly birding field guides in 1934), this historic edition combines the *Peterson Field Guide to Eastern Birds* and the *Peterson Field Guide to Western Birds* in one volume. It is filled with accessible, concise information, updated paintings, all new range maps, and a rewritten text to cover the United States and Canada in one guide. In addition, almost three hours of video podcasts (covering bird families, bird ID, information on individual species, and a biography of Roger Tory Peterson) can be accessed on the Peterson Field Guide website: [www.petersonfieldguides.com](http://www.petersonfieldguides.com). **APP:** *Peterson Backyard Birds*.

### ***The Crossley Guide to Eastern Birds* by Richard Crossley**

Acclaimed birder and photographer Richard Crossley provides the first real-life approach to bird identification in a guide that features large, lifelike scenes for each species rather than isolated individual photographs. These compositions convey size, structure, shape, behavior, habitat, and color patterns and reinforces them with accurate, concise text. This approach will make bird identification easier, more accurate, and more fun than ever before for the beginner, expert, or anywhere in between birder. <https://crossleybooks.com/books/>

## **Field guides (computer, including APPS and online):**

**\*APP: Audubon Birds FREE** <http://www.audubonguides.com/field-guides/bird-identification-app.html>

**APP: iBirdPro** <http://ibird.com/app/iphone/ibird-pro-guide-to-birds/> **\$14.99**

**APP: Sibley Guide to NA Birds** <http://www.sibleyguides.com/events-and-products/> **\$19.99**

## **From Cornell Lab of Ornithology:**

### **\*All About Birds (The Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Cornell University)**

This great website not only offers a free online birding guide, it also features a great tutorial on birding basics, and tips on how to attract birds and to photograph them.

<http://www.allaboutbirds.org/NetCommunity/Page.aspx?pid=1200>

**\*Merlin Bird ID App:** Answer five simple questions about a bird you are trying to identify and Merlin will come up with a list of possible matches. Merlin offers quick identification help for beginning and intermediate bird watchers to learn about North America's most common birds.

[https://merlin.allaboutbirds.org/#\\_ga=2.90334490.1481662598.1588108165-1256780417.1588108165](https://merlin.allaboutbirds.org/#_ga=2.90334490.1481662598.1588108165-1256780417.1588108165)

**\*eBird—A New World of Birding:** A joint project by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and Audubon, eBird is a **FREE** online program that allows birders to track their sightings, submit their data for use by other birders and ornithologists, and explore bird species and birding locations worldwide. To the modern birder, "If it's not on eBird, it doesn't count." <https://ebird.org/>

**\*eBird Mobile:** Easy data entry from the field, even when offline. All your lists and stats in your pocket. Wherever you go, eBird is there. Available in 27 languages on iOS and Android, all for **FREE**.

**\*eBird Essentials: FREE** How-To Guide for eBird guides you through how to get the most out of your eBirding experiences and invites you to become a part of this worldwide project.

<https://academy.allaboutbirds.org/product/ebird-essentials/>

**\*BirdNET—The Easiest Way to Identify Birds by Sound: FREE** Built on the Cornell Lab's industry-leading bioacoustics science, this app is by far the most accurate available for identifying bird sounds. BirdNET is a citizen science platform as well as an analysis software for audio collections. It provides innovative tools for conservationists, biologists, and birders alike.

<https://birdnet.cornell.edu/>

### **"How To" Birding Books (printed):**

**NOTE:** Many of the websites for the printed birding guides also include tips and techniques for getting started in birding.

**\*Peterson Guide to Bird Identification—In 12 Steps (2018) by Steve Howell and Brian Sullivan**

A big part of the fun of birding is putting a name to the bird you are watching. This book uses twelve steps, starting with the basics, things that many people don't think about or simply take for granted, and building logically into a manageable framework that can help anyone in his or her goal to identify and appreciate birds. This book is intended for all levels of birders: from beginners to more advanced.

**\*Finding Your Wings by Burton Guttman (2008)**

This is a workbook for beginning bird watchers in the **Peterson Field Guide** series that features activities and quizzes based on the **Peterson Bird Guides for Eastern and Western North America** designed to help users look at birds, categorize birds, recognize common birds, and enjoy bird watching. AND the answers ARE in the back of the book!

**National Geographic Birding Essentials by Jonathan Alderfer and Jon L. Dunn (2007)**

According to the cover this book is "comprehensive and authoritative, yet supremely user-friendly, striking the perfect balance of essential, practical information and easy-to-follow style." The book is illustrated with hundreds of full-color photographs and will help birders to build and/or fine-tune their observation skills and make sense of what they see. The book gives all the tools, techniques, and tips you need to begin and become a better birder.

**Sibley's Birding Basics by David Allen Sibley (2002)**

David Allen Sibley describes the book in his own words: "I wrote and illustrated this book to help every inquisitive birder, from novice to expert. Whether you can identify six birds or six hundred, you'll be a better birder if you have a grounding in the real nuts and bolts of what birds look like, and your skills will be even sharper if you know exactly what to look for and how to record what you saw." To create this book, Sibley thought through all the skills that enable him to identify a bird in the few instants it is visible to him. He shares that information by integrating an explanation of the identification process with many painted and drawn images of bird details or general concepts.

**Bird Watching for Beginners (2019) by Eli Leander**

The subtitle says it all: A Beginner's Guide to the Basics of Birding so that You can Pick the Right Tools and Go Out and Find and Identify Remarkable Birds or Attract Them to Your Own Yard.