

mentioned his name. During the next 10 years we became friends, and we were frequent birding companions. He was Roger Tory Peterson.

It's possible that for every hour he spent in the field, Milton B. Trautman spent another hour in the collections of a research museum, poring over the specimens, many of which he had collected himself. For Trautman, work in the field informed work in the museum, and work in the museum, in turn, informed and improved his identification skills in the field. In the late 1930s, after studying northern goshawks in the field in Michigan, and then looking at a large series of museum specimens, he came to the conclusion that he had probably misidentified a number of immature Cooper's hawks in the 1920s by claiming they were immature northern goshawks.

He applied a similar logic built around a combination of field and museum work to the identification of difficult species groups such as western and semipalmated sandpipers, short- and long-billed dowitchers, *Empidonax* flycatchers, and the Thayer's/Iceland gull complex. Trautman's impatience with birders who weren't as experienced in specimen study as he is especially evident in the section of the book on flycatchers, where he complains that he knew birders who were confidently identifying birds as yellow-bellied flycatchers in the field, but who were unable to correctly identify in the hand specimens of yellow-bellied flycatchers, or any of the other empids for that matter.

I wonder what Trautman would think of the state of bird identification today, particularly as it pertains to gulls, shorebirds, and *Empidonax* flycatchers?

Birds of Western Lake Erie, though incomplete in a literal sense, does provide a fairly robust sense of what Milton B. Trautman thought and knew of the birds of the region. Its strengths are clearly those of Trautman himself: obsession with detail, love of the subject, and an impressive accumulation of knowledge about the birds and natural history of the western Lake Erie region. The book is illustrated with a number of clean line drawings, black-and-white photos, and detailed maps of the counties covered in the text. The index is easy to use and seems to be thorough and accurate: birds are listed under their common names. People and places mentioned in the text are also indexed.

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Gulls Of Lake Erie



Little gulls show varied intermediate characters in their second winter. Note the underwing shows a patchy version of the full adult's sooty look, and the black markings remaining on the tips of two primaries on the left wing. The black skullcap is pronounced on this bird. Photo by John Pogacnik 6 Feb at E. 72nd St.



Three other gull species accompany this adult California gull, photographed by John Pogacnik on 30 Dec at E 72nd St in Cleveland.



There's something jarring about this photo—a laughing gull in immaculate breeding array standing on the ice at Lorain Harbor. John Pogacnik caught this image there 25 Feb



This less than fully adult bird, while its underwing looks much sootier overall, shows obvious signs of immaturity in two primaries of the left upperwing. Its skullcap is noticeably paler, and the dark "scarf" on the neck is more pronounced than normal. Photo by John Pogacnik 22 Jan at E. 72nd St.



Photographed by Sean Zadar on New Year's Day in Cleveland, this young Iceland gull shows the "gentler" look of the species, with a dove-like head profile and more delicate bill; note also the darker markings on the tertials.

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