

AMERICAN BIRDS

incorporating Audubon Field Notes



OCTOBER 1973, VOLUME 27, NUMBER 5

SPECIAL SUPPLEMENTS: BOOKS, CHILDREN'S BOOKS





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A bimonthly journal devoted to the birds of North America

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A basic bird book list for children

The book listings that follow have been compiled for the purpose of providing parents and teachers guidance in the selection of books for youngsters in the field of bird study. It is limited to books aimed at comprehension and reading levels from kindergarten through the sixth grade. Beyond that, (and below it for many children) it is likely that most young people can cope with, and will prefer to use, the general books written for a wider audience that includes adults. Indeed, at almost any age, there are no more useful introductions to birds than the popular field guides now in universal use.

It should be noted that each of the popular children's encyclopedias have major articles on birds which are the equivalent of a 60-80 page introductory book, as well as scores of short articles about individual species and families of birds. All are well illustrated in color. Some have bird book bibliographies. Among them are:

Britannica Junior Encyclopedia for Boys and Girls. Univ. of Chicago. Vol. 3. pp. 195-210. With 42 color pictures, some by Allan Brooks. Comprehensive, well written; slightly younger vocabulary. 10 and up.

Collier's Encyclopedia. Crowell-Collier Educational Corp., New York. Vol. 4. pp. 190-213. Bright, modern format, good text. 12 pages of (poor) color plates by Douglas Howland. 12 and up

Compton's Encyclopedia. Univ. of Chic. Vol. 3 pp. 168-208. Many color photographs. Text good. Slightly simpler vocabulary than Collier's or World Book. 11 and up.

The World Book Encyclopedia. Field Enterprises, Chicago. Vol. 2. pp. 250-290. With many pages of color illustrations. Text by Herbert Friedmann. 12 and up.

The Book of Knowledge, Grolier, New York Vol. 2. pp. 199-249. Aimed at a slightly younger audience than the others. Well-illustrated. 9 and up.

The Student's Encyclopedia. Crowell-Collier Educational Corp., New York. Vol. 3. pp 168-194. With 12 plates in color by Rudolf Freund. 12 and up.

In the list that follows, unfortunately, some of the most highly recommended books are long out of print, but are included because they may often be still found on the shelves of your local library's Children's Room, or at second-hand book shops

The list is divided into three categories. 1. Introductory books on the overall field of bird study, some with field guide features. 2. Books on special aspects of bird study. 3. Factual or fictionalized studies or stories of selected species or groups of birds.

A most useful publication which tells which books are currently in print is the **Science Book List for Children**, published by the American Association for the Advancement of Science, 1515 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W. Washington, D.C. 20005. The latest (1973) edition is priced at \$7.50.

American Birds gratefully acknowledges the assistance of Angelina Moscott, Children's Librarian, Donnell Free Library, New York, and Nancy Manson, Librarian, National Audubon Society.

Comprehension level is indicated in *years of age*.

GENERAL BOOKS

The Bird Book.—Florence S. Winship. Golden Press, 1971. 24 pp. A very first book: 23 species described and pictured in bright colors. 5-8.

The Bird Watchers.—Marjory Barlett Sanger. E. P. Dutton, New York. 1957. 164 pp. How to become a bird watcher; including all aspects of watching and attracting birds. Appendix of useful information. Recommended. 9-12.

Bird Watching.—Audrey Burns. Ill. by Matthew Kalmenoff. Franklin Watts, New York. 1966. 65 pp. An excellent introduction to birdwatching. 10 and up.

The Birds.—Roger Tory Peterson and the editors of Time/Life books. Young reader's edition. 1967. 128 pp. An excellent first book, based on the adult version of 1963. Factual, objective, well illustrated with maps, and color plates. Highly recommended. 10 and up.

Birds; a guide to the most familiar American birds.—Herbert Zim and Ira N. Gabrielson. Golden Press, New York. 1956. 160 pp. With 125 species in color; maps. 10 and up.

FIELD GUIDE TO THE BIRDS OF MEXICO

Ernest P. Edwards, Ph.D.

Details of identification, habitat, behavior, abundance, occurrence, and distribution of *all* 1000 birds found in Mexico. *Also* Spanish description of each bird. 450 birds illustrated in color.

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Special combination offer—the above *Field Guide* in paper cover, and its companion book, *Finding Birds in Mexico* (a detailed guide to bird-finding in all parts of Mexico, by Ernest P. Edwards) in hard cover—\$14.75. (If bought separately—\$16.45 total.)

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My Hobby's Bird Watching.—Mary P. Pettit Hart Book Co. New York. 1955. 128 pp. A well-organized, well-written introduction, with lots of "how to." Good references. Highly recommended. 9 and up.

Tony's Birds.—Millicent E. Selsam. Harper & Row, 1961. 64 pp. Illus. Learning to identify birds, to use bird guides and binoculars. A first book. 5-8.

The Giant Golden Book of Birds—Robert P. Allen. Golden Press, New York. 1962. Unpaged. An illustrated introduction to ornithology, with notes on the principal groups of birds. A useful first book. 9 and up.

How to know the birds.—Roger Tory Peterson 2nd Edition. Houghton Mifflin, Boston. 1962. 168 pages. A good first field guide, with 400 drawings, 70 in color, many flight silhouettes, good text. 10 and up.

Introducing our Eastern Birds.—Mathew F Vessel and Herbert H. Wong. Illustrated by Ron King. Fearon Publishing Co., Palo Alto, Calif., 1970. 76 pp. An excellent first book on the basics of bird study, with about 100 species in color. 10 and up. Highly recommended.

Introducing our Western Birds.—Mathew F Vessel and Herbert H. Wong. Illus. Ron King Fearon Publishing Co., Palo Alto, Calif. 68 pp. The Western version of the above, with Western species in color. 10 and up. Recommendation same.

An introduction to birds.—John Kieran. Illustrated by Donald R. Eckelberry. Doubleday, New York. 1967. 77 pp. Another introductory book, with about 100 different species shown in color. 10 and up.

SPECIAL ASPECTS OF BIRD STUDY

Birds and their beaks. Olive L. Earle. Morrow, New York, 1965. 64 pp. An interesting discussion with 46 illustrations of birds with specialized beaks. Worthwhile. 9 and up.

Birds and their nests.—Olive L. Earle. Morrow, New York. 1952. 64 pp. Discussion of nest building, with drawings of the nests of 42 species of birds, from tree cavities to baskets. 9 and up.

Birds at Night.—Roma Gans Crowell, New York, 1968. 33 pp. The story of how birds spend the hours of dark. Beautifully illustrated. Recommended. 5-8.

Birds in Flight.—John Kaufman. Morrow, New York, 1970. 96 pp. A book on bird flight wing and feather structure, gliding, soaring, speed, mechanics. Drawings by the author. Recommended. 10 and up.

Birds that Stopped Flying.—Elizabeth S. Austin Random House, New York, 1969. 82 pp. Present and extinct flightless birds, and how they got that way. Well-written. Recommended. 10-12.

Birds Will Come To You.—Charles Philip Fox. Relly and Lee, Chicago, 1963. 86 pp. Ill. with photos, diagrams. A first book of bird attracting. 10 and up.

Birds With Bracelets, the Story of Bird-Banding. Susan F. Welty. Ill. by John Kaufman. Prentice-Hall, Englewood Cliffs, N.J. 1955. 72 pp. Primer on bird-banding. 9 and up.

The Changing World of Birds.—John M. Anderson, Holt, Rinehart and Winston, New York, 1973. 119 pp. A book about bird behavior, habitats, and conservation, by the Nat'l. Audubon Society's Sanctuaries and Research Director. Well-written. 10 and up.

Curious Ways of Common Birds.—Robert H. Wright. Lothrop, Lee & Shepard, New York, 1971. Photos by the author. A basic book on bird behavior, with some sequences showing broken wing act, feeding, etc. 8-12.

Egg to Chick.—Millicent E. Selsan. Ill. Barbara Wolff. Harper and Row, New York, 1970. 64 pp. Embryology for the very young. Well done. 5-8.

Feathers Plain and Fancy.—Hilda Simon. Ill. by the author. Viking Press, New York, 1969. 126 pp. Beautifully illustrated and written treatise on feathers. Recommended. 12 and up.

It's Nesting Time.—Roma Gans. Crowell, New York, 1964. 33 pp. A very first book about birds' nests. Illustrated. 5-7.

John James Audubon, Bird Artist.—James Sterling Ayars. Garrard, Champaign, Ill. 80 pp. Illustrated. The Audubon story, 7-9.

A Vanishing Thunder; extinct and threatened American birds.—Adrien Stoutenburgh. Natural History Press, New York, 1967. 142 pp. Discusses six species as examples of man's hand in bird extinction: Passenger Pigeon, Ivory-billed Woodpecker, Great Auk, California Condor, Great Egret (?) and Whooping Crane. Illustrated. 10 and up.

Why Birds Migrate.—Julian May. Holiday House, New York, 1970. A first book on the origins and mechanics of migration. Maps, drawings. 6-8.

Wings, Sun and Stars.—John Kaufman. The story of Bird Migration. Wm. Morrow & Co., New York, 1969. 160 pp. Excellent text, with maps, beautifully illustrated by the author. Highly recommended. 10 and up.

BOOKS ABOUT SPECIAL GROUPS OR SPECIES

Beach Bird.—Carol and Donald Carrick. Dial Press, New York, 1973. A day in the life of a Herring Gull. Not seen.

Bird of the Farallons.—Harriet M. Luger. Addison-Wesley, New York, 1971. 61 pp. Illustrated. Fictionalized story of a Common Murre set off the California coast. 12 and up.

Birds in the Street, the City Pigeon Book.—Winifred and Cecil Lubell. Parents, New York, 64 pp. An introduction to city wildlife observation, with a discussion of overpopulation. 6-9.

Birds of Prey.—Dorothy Childs Hogner. Ill. Nils Hogner. Crowell, N.Y. 1969. 132 pp. A book about vultures, hawks, and owls, by species. Drawings poor. 10 and up.

The Blue Heron Tree.—Edith Thatcher Hurd Ill. by Clement Hurd. Viking Press, New York, 1968. 66 pp. Attractive account of a heron family and colony. 9 and up.

Chimney Swifts.—Robert Kaufman. Morrow, New York, 1971. Ill. by author. Another competent book by this prolific author. 7-9.

Diving Birds.—Charles L. Ripper. Illus. by the author. Morrow, New York, 1967. 63 pp. Loons, grebes, cormorants, anhingas of the northern hemisphere. 8-12.

Flamingo, Bird of Flame.—William M Stephens and Peggy Stephens. Color illus. by Matthew Kalmenoff. The life of one individual. A Life-Cycle Book. Holiday House, New York. 1973. 48 pp. 7-11. Holiday House has other similar Life-Cycle Books, about Barn Swallow, Bobwhite, and Downy Woodpecker.

Gift from the Sky.—Lorus and Margery Milne. Atheneum, New York. 1967. 143 pp. Illus. Well-written and interesting book devoted to the swans. 9-12.

Ground Birds.—Charles L. Ripper. Illus. by the author. Morrow, 1960. 64 pp. Am. Woodcock, Ovenbird, Roadrunner, Burrowing Owl, Snow Bunting, Whip-poor-will and Bobwhite, their lives and habits. 8-11.

Gulls.—Sarel Eimerl. Simon and Schuster, New York. 1969. 64 pp. A straightforward account of the lives of gulls. Illus. with photographs. 8-11.

Hawk in the Sky.—Franklin Russell. Illus. by Fredric Sweney. Holt, Rinehart Winston, New York. 1965. 64 pp. Fictionalized story of a Red-tailed Hawk. 10 and up.

House Sparrows—Ragamuffins of the City.—J. J. McCoy. Drawings by Jean Zallinger. Seabury Press, New York, 1968. 126 pp. Shows how a familiar bird can be a rewarding subject for study. 9-12.

The Last Trumpeters.—Ross E. Hutchins. Rand McNally, New York. 1967. Illustrated, map. 64 pp. The story of the swan's fate from pre-Columbian days to the present. 8-12.

Otus, the Story of a Screech Owl.—Robert M. McClung. Ill. by Lloyd Sanford. 48 pp. Fictionalized story of an owl. 7-9.

The Pelicans.—George Laycock. Natural History Press, N.Y. 1970. 59 pp. Illustrated with action photos. Life history of the Brown Pelican. 8-12.

The Penguin Book.—Margaret Rau. Hawthorn Books, New York. 1968. Illustrated. Factual, with good black-and-white illustrations of 12 penguin species. 9-12.

Penguins, The Birds With Flippers.—Elizabeth S. Austin. Random House, New York. 1968. 82 pp. with map. The life histories of the major species. Factual, informative. Illus. with photographs. 10 and up.

Pinion, the Golden Eagle.—Leslie Whitten. Illus. by William Bartlett. D. Van Nostrand Princeton, Toronto. 1968. 117 pp. Fictionalized story of eagles and their current problems. 9-12

Redbird, the story of a Cardinal.—Robert M McClung. Ill. by the author. 47 pp. The activities of one Cardinal family through the year. 6-9

Rubythroat, the story of a hummingbird.—Robert M. McClung. Illus. by the author 48 pp. Fictionalized story of a hummingbird 7-9.

Sandpipers.—Edith Thatcher Hurd. Ill. by Lucienne Bloch. Crowell, New York. 1961. 33 pp. Good illustrations. Sandpipers on a northern beach, then flying south. 5-7.

Swans.—J. J. McCoy. Lothrop, Lee and Shepard, New York. 1967. Comprehensive, factual book on the swan group. 10 and up.

Vanishing Wings.—Griffing Bancroft. Watts, 1972. 160 pp. \$5.95. The lives of an eagle, osprey, and falcon, battling for survival. Set in the future, a plea for preservation. 12 and up.

Wonders of Hummingbirds.—Hilda Simon Dodd Mead, New York, 1964. Illustrated, maps. Hummers of the United States and Canada

Snowy, the story of an Egret. Griffing Bancroft. Illus. by Mel Hunter. McCall, New York. 1970. 149 pp. Fictionalized story of an egret, with good life history development. 10 and up.

Starlings.—Wilfrid S. Bronson. Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, New York. 1973. New edition: Illustrated. 77 pp. Illus. by the author. Birdlore of the Starling; very good. 6-9.

Swallows.—Charles L. Ripper. Wm. Morrow, New York. 1964. 64 pp. Illustrated. Good text and illustrations—all about swallows. 6-9.

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BOOKS

RARE, Antiquarian, and Out-of-print books on Ornithology and Natural History. World-wide search service. Libraries, small collections, and single volumes purchased. RUDOLPH WM. SABBOT. NATURAL HISTORY BOOKS, BOX 772, Woodland Hills, CA 91364.

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"HUMMINGBIRDS—Attract & Feed" booklet 35 ¢ includes Newsletter—Gift Brochure. Photo illustrated. WOODSWORLD, 600AB Olive Springs, Santa Cruz, California 95065.

1972 ANNUAL BIRD REPORT FOR SOUTHERN VANCOUVER ISLAND. 75 pages, 11 photographs, 246 species. \$1.75 payable to "Annual Bird Report", c/o J. B. Tatum, Physics Dept, University of Victoria, Victoria, B.C.

REPRINTS AVAILABLE

The Audubon Winter Bird-Population Study, by Haven Kolb, 25¢; Breeding-Bird-Censuses—Why and How, by George A. Hall, 25¢; Breeding-Bird Census Instructions, by Willet T. Van Velzen, 25¢; An Appraisal of the Winter Bird-Population Study Technique, by Chandler S. Robbins, 25¢; A Quantitative Method of Habitat Description, by Frances C. James and Henry H. Shugart, Jr., 35¢; A Program for the Preservation of Documentary Photographs, by Richard L. Plunkett and Chandler S. Robbins, 10¢; On the Art of Estimating Numbers, by Robert Arbib, 25¢. Order from American Birds, 950 Third Avenue, New York, NY 10022.

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COVER PHOTOGRAPH—Portrait of a Wood Sandpiper, *Tringa glareola*, taken on Attu Island, Aleutians, June 23, 1973 by Gerald Maisel. Downy young were found and photographed, providing the third breeding record (the other two on Amchitka Island 1969, 1973) for North America