

The Master List of Bird Books for North American readers

In the first edition of this list (*American Birds*, 25:914, 1971) the Master List was compiled from the selections designated by seven authorities on birds, each of whom was asked to choose his basic list of 25 books. To include those titles mentioned by more than one selector, and to add those that seemed to us important but overlooked, a list of 60 titles finally emerged. This year, the list stands at 65 titles, and it includes 20 titles not present in the first list, some new, some added as a result of further evaluation. Several books listed previously are now in later editions or have had additional volumes added.

Even now, it should be recognized that the total of 65 titles means little, since the average personal library will not need each of the field guides listed, but would surely include one or more regional books recommended in the separate list. Obviously many fine and important books are missing; in some categories we offer merely a sampling of meritorious books. The list could easily be doubled.

This basic library list pays no regard to scarcity

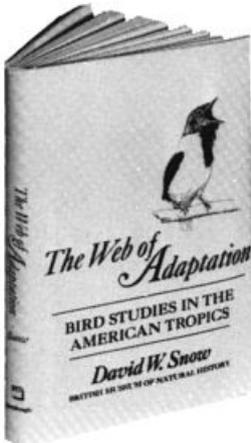
or cost of the books listed; some are out of print but usually obtainable upon search (first try the publisher, then the book dealers, then advertise) and some can only be obtained at "rare book" prices. Books we believe to be out of print are followed by a † (dagger), books previously listed in full by one or more of the five current selectors are followed by an * (asterisk). — R.A.

Field Guides

A selection of these must be in every basic library. Those listed here are the best of those devoted to North and Middle America, as well as those useful in identifying strays to this continent. Fine field guides to many other areas of the world are now available, but do not rightfully belong in a North American master list. Field guides might well come at the end of the basic list, but since the first bird book in almost anyone's library is one of these, we start our list here.

1. A Field Guide to the Birds, Roger T. Peterson. 1947 Houghton Mifflin Co., Boston. Completely new version in work.

"As sound and original as it is charming."*



\$8.95

THE WEB OF ADAPTATION

BIRD STUDIES IN THE AMERICAN TROPICS

By David W. Snow

Available at leading bookstores.



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Enclosed is my check or money order in the amount of \$_____ for _____ copies of *The Web of Adaptation* @ \$8.95 per copy. Add \$.75 per book for postage and handling. N.Y. & Ill. residents add applicable sales tax. If I find the book unsuitable for any reason I may return it within 10 days and the listprice will be refunded.

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"With this fine book, David Snow joins the ranks of the naturalist-writers who counteract the myth that scientists need journalists or ghost-writers to interpret research to the layman."

—Kenneth C. Parkes,
Carnegie Museum of Natural History

*Dean Amadon, *American Museum of Natural History*

- 2 A Field Guide to Western Birds, R. T. Peterson. 1961. Houghton Mifflin Co., Boston. Includes Hawaii.
- 3 A Field Guide to the Birds of Texas, R. T. Peterson. 1960. Houghton Mifflin Co., Boston.
- 4 Audubon Guides, Eastern Land Birds, 1946, Water Birds, 1951, Western Birds, 1957, Richard H. Pough. Eckelberry's plates illustrate many plumages not in other guides. Doubleday, New York.
- 5 Birds of North America, Chandler S. Robbins, Bertel Bruun, H. S. Zim. 1966. Golden Press, New York.
- 6 Birds of Britain and Europe, Richard Fitter, ill. Hermann Heinzel, John Parslow. 1972. J. B. Lippincott, Philadelphia. Includes North Africa and the Middle East. The most complete European guide, useful mainly to Easterners.
- 7 Birds of the Ocean, W. B. Alexander. Rev. ed. 1954. G. P. Putnam's Sons, New York. Primitive, but no other field guide yet covers it.
- 8 Birds of the West Indies, James Bond. 1960. Collins, London.
- 9 A Field Guide to Mexican Birds, R. T. Peterson, Edward Chalif. 1973. Houghton Mifflin Co., Boston. Includes Belize, Guatemala, El Salvador.
- 10 A Guide to the Birds of Panama. Robert S. Ridgely, 1976, Princeton Univ. Press, Princeton. Useful north to Honduras.
- 11 A Guide to the Birds of Trinidad and Tobago, Richard French, ill. John J. O'Neill. Harrowood Books, Valley Forge, Pa.
- 12 A Coloured Key to Wildfowl of the World, Peter Scott. 1957. Scribner's Sons, New York. Handy for those exotic zoo escapees.
- 13 A Field Guide to Birds' Nests. Hal H. Harrison. 1975. Houghton Mifflin Co., Boston. Eastern birds.
- 14 A Guide to Bird-finding East of the Rockies, 2nd ed. (Mid-1977). A Guide to Bird-finding West of the Rockies, 1955 (being revised), O. S. Pettingill, Jr. Houghton Mifflin Co., Boston. In spite of the titles, the Rockies are covered. See Regional List for other bird-finding titles.

General Ornithology Textbooks

- 15 The Life of Birds, 2nd Ed., Joel Carl Welty.*
- 16 The Fundamentals of Ornithology, 2nd ed., J. Van Tyne and A. Berger.*
- 17 An Introduction to Ornithology, 3rd ed., George Wallace and Harold D. Mahan.*
- 18 Ornithology in Laboratory and Field, 4th ed., O. S. Pettingill, Jr.*
- 19 Avian Biology, 5 vols., D. S. Farner and J. R. King, eds.*

Major References

- 20 The New Dictionary of Birds, A. L. Thomson. New printing promised.†*
- 21 The Birds, R. T. Peterson.*
- 22 Living Birds of the World, E. T. Gilliard.*
- 23 Birds of the World, A Survey, O. L. Austin, Jr., and Arthur Singer.*

Checklists

- 24 The A.O.U. Check-list of North American Birds, 5th Ed. With supplements published in *The Auk*.*

25. A Checklist of the World's Birds, Edward S. Gruson, Richard A. Forster. 1976. Quadrangle Books, New York. Or another of the recent world lists; Parkes prefers Edwards'.
26. The Species of Middle American Birds, E. Eisenmann, 1955. Linnaean Society of New York, New York.

Important Regional Books

27. Life Histories of North American Birds, 23 vols., A C Bent *et al*.
28. Handbook of North American Birds, 3 vols., R S Palmer, ed.*
29. The Audubon Illustrated Handbook of Birds, E M Reilly.*
30. The Birds of Canada, W. Earl Godfrey, 1967 National Museum of Canada, Ottawa.
31. A Guide to the Birds of South America, R M deSchauensee, 1971. Livingston (now from Harrowood Books, Valley Forge, Pa.)
32. The Handbook of British Birds, H. F. Witherby *et al*.*†
33. The Birds of North and Middle America, R. Ridgway and H. Friedmann.†*

In addition, every library should include one or more state, provincial, or regional books, including that of the home area. See Regional List.

Specialized Subjects

34. The Migration of Birds, J. Dorst.*
35. Bird Migration, D. R. Griffin.*
36. Bird Song, E. A. Armstrong.*
37. Bird-song, W. H. Thorpe.*
38. The Flight of Birds, J. H. Storer.*†
39. Bird Navigation, 2nd Ed., G. V. T. Matthews.*

There are books on everything from avian energetics and radar ornithology to avian parasites and evolution; your choice depends on your special interests.

Behavior

40. The Herring Gull's World, N. Tinbergen.*
41. Studies in the Life History of the Song Sparrow, M.M. Nice.*
42. Bird Display and Behavior, E. A. Armstrong.*
43. The Life of the Robin, D. Lack.*
44. Parent Birds and Their Young, A. F. Skutch.*

Conservation

The multitude of titles in this field makes it impossible to include a representative list here. The following are specifically concerned with problems of bird survival:

45. The Passenger Pigeon, A. W. Schorger.
46. Peregrine Falcon Populations, their biology and decline. J. J. Hickey, ed., 1969. Univ. of Wisconsin Press, Madison.
47. Extinct and Vanishing Birds of the World, James C Greenway, Jr., 1967. Dover Press, N.Y.
48. Red Data Book, Vol. 2, Aves. 1971 et sqq.*

Books on special groups of birds

More of these books are appearing each year. Here are three good ones, the last two classics.

- 49 The Owls of North America, A. E. Eckert, and K. E. Karalus. 1974. Doubleday, New York.
- 50 Eagles, Hawks and Falcons of the World, L. Brown and D. Amadon.*
- 51 Oceanic Birds of South America, 2 vols., R. C. Murphy.*

Books with fine illustrations

- 52 The Shorebirds of North America, G. D. Stout *et al.**
The best showcase in print of the art of Robert Verity Clem.
- 53 Hummingbirds, Crawford H. Greenwalt.*†
- 54 Parrots of the World, Joseph M. Forshaw. 1974. Doubleday, New York.
- 55 Frances Lee Jaques, Artist of the Wilderness World, Florence Page Jaques. 1973. Doubleday, New York.
- 56 Louis Agazzis Fuertes and the Singular Beauty of Birds, F. G. Marsham, ed. 1971. Harper & Row, New York.
- 57 Portraits of Mexican Birds: Fifty Selected Paintings, George Miksh Sutton. 1975. Univ. of Oklahoma Press, Norman.

- 58. The Audubon Society Book of Wild Birds, Les Line 1976. Harry N. Abrams, New York. Bird photography as art.

Bird Watching

- 59. A Guide to Bird Watching, J. J. Hickey.*
- 60. Watching Birds, James Fisher. 1941, 1951. Pelican Books, Hammondswoth, England. A fine brief introduction.

Good Reading

Many of the books listed above are good reading; the two books listed here are anthologies.

- 61. The Bird Watcher's Anthology, R. T. Peterson, ed.*
- 62. A Treasury of Bird Lore, Joseph Wood Krutch and Paul Eriksson, eds. 1962. Doubleday, New York.†

History

- 63. Ornithology, from Aristotle to the Present. Erwin Stresemann.*

Attracting Birds

- 64. Songbirds in Your Garden, John K. Terres, 1968 Crowell, New York.
- 65. The New Handbook of Attracting Birds, Thomas McElroy, Jr. 1961. rev. Knopf, New York.

An Annotated Selection of Regional Bird Books

In updating this listing of regional works, brief comment has been added on most of the titles. It is strongly advised, because many of these books are major investments, that before buying, one reviews the prospective purchase at a library. Inclusion on this list does not imply that the works are of equal quality. In general we have not included bird-finding guides although many regional books incorporate such a section. Unless a reference is of classical stature, nothing published prior to 1940 is included. — S.R.D.

United States

Alabama

- Imhof, Thomas A. 1976. *Alabama Birds*. Second

(revised) Edition. University of Alabama Press, University, Alabama.

Exhaustive in scope and treatment. Covers abundance, distributions, migration, nesting, past and present status of each species, and incorporates discussions of habitat and seasonality of Alabama birds. Reviewed p. 1006.

Alaska

Gabrielson, Ira N. and Frederick C. Lincoln. 1959. *The Birds of Alaska*. Stackpole Co., Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, and The Wildlife Management Institute, Washington, D.C.

A thorough state reference containing: history of Alaskan ornithology, species range in Alaska, abundant records and field notes, list of specimens in Russian collections, 'habits and haunts' discussion, gazetteer,