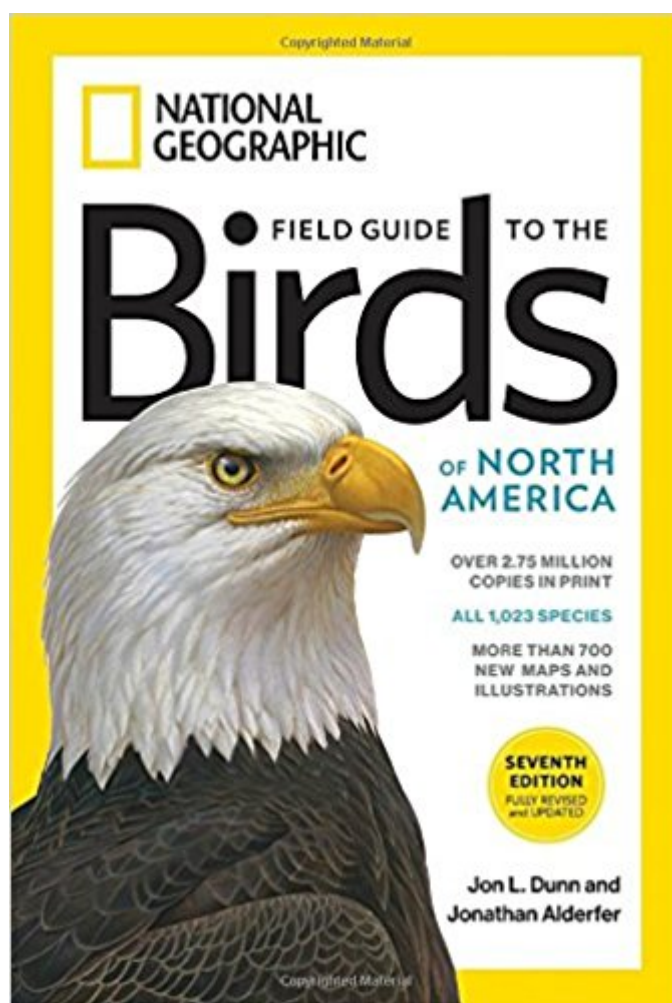


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# National Geographic Field Guide To The Birds Of North America, 7th Edition



## Synopsis

This fully revised edition of the best-selling North American bird field guide is the most up-to-date guide on the market. Perfect for beginning to advanced birders, it is the only book organized to match the latest American Ornithological Society taxonomy. With more than 2.75 million copies in print, this perennial bestseller is the most frequently updated of all North American bird field guides. Filled with hand-painted illustrations from top nature artists (including the ever-popular hummingbird), this latest edition is poised to become an instant must-have for every serious birder in the United States and Canada. The 7th edition includes 37 new species for a total of 1,023 species; 16 new pages allow for 250 fresh illustrations; 80 new maps; and 350 map revisions. With taxonomy revised to reflect the radical new American Ornithological Society taxonomy established in 2016, the addition of standardized banding codes, and text completely vetted by birding experts, this new edition will top of the list of birding field guides for years to come.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

“If you want to become a better birder, get this guide and use it often. The text is thorough and accurate, the plates are a gratifying combination of painterly and precise, and the layout is a tour de force.” — Ted Floyd, editor of *Birding* magazine “National Geographic has packed so much new species, new art, revised maps, subspecies details, updated taxonomy and the latest ID tips into this newest edition of their classic field guide that I suspect it may simply explode.”

“Scott Weidensaul, author of *Living on the Wind*” Updated, upgraded, and indispensable. The illustrations are better than in any other field guide; the fully revised text is detailed, accurate, and well organized; and the maps are unmatched. This is the guide for birders and field ornithologists.”

Dr. J. V. Remsen, Jr., Museum of Natural Sciences, Louisiana State University “A stellar update of this standard-setting field guide. The new edition offers innovative features for all skill and interest levels, from those seeking a basic ID to those who want their field guide to deliver the goods on behavior, taxonomy, and distribution.”

Dr. Terry Chesser, Chair, AOS Committee on Classification and Nomenclature (North and Middle America) “New birds, new knowledge and new art work just made the most essential guide for North American birders even more essential.... You only need to buy one field guide for North America, and the National Geographic is it.”

Neil Hayward, author of *Lost Among the Birds* “[This edition] continues to improve on the already outstanding previous editions. The addition of many new illustrations as well as updated text and range maps make this book the standard for North American field guides.”

Mark W. Lockwood, author of *The TOS Handbook of Texas Birds*

JON L. DUNN is a leading expert on the identification and distribution of North American birds. He is a consultant for *Birding* magazine, and former chair of the American Birding Association’s Checklist Committee. JONATHAN ALDERFER is chief consultant for National Geographic’s Birding Program and a widely published author and field guide illustrator. One of the nation’s foremost birding artists, he is well known for his authority on North American birds and his expertise as a field birdwatcher.

First off, I am a novice birder so take that into account when reading my opinion of this book. I have recently gotten into birding and decided to purchase this book as one of my choices (the other was the Sibley Western/Eastern North America which I will compare to in this review.) The layout of the book is very easy to navigate; photos on one side, text on the other. The thumbtabs also make it easy to reach a particular section of the book within seconds as does the quick-find index on the back flap of the book. The illustrations are very detailed and have more of a ‘bolder’ look to them making identification easier. The Sibley illustrations are a bit lighter and have a simple look to them. Too many details can sometimes end up confusing you so the simplicity of the Sibley is useful. For many of the birds, the National Geographic contains several illustrations showing juvenile, adult, and winter plumage (as does the Sibley.) General description is very good in the National Geographic book; the Sibley is better at identifying key areas via the illustrations. A feature I like on the National Geographic is full pages of all the different hawks, raptors, shorebirds, etc. in flight. You

can easily scan a lot of the birds on a couple pages and identify certain aspects of their form without having to switch back and forth multiple pages. Range maps are easy to 'read' on both books. Overall, I go to the National Geographic first when identifying birds and use the Sibley as a backup to double check my IDs. I would highly recommend this as a first book, but in actuality, it's always better to have a couple books.

This is a very useful book. I like it a lot, and use it in conjunction with a couple of other field guides to birds. It helps to complete the picture of whatever bird I'm trying to identify. In my opinion there is no one field guide to birds that is so complete and perfect that it can be used alone. Every guide has a different approach, and it's that combination of approaches that cements identification. I appreciate the information it supplies; it has been very helpful.

We are avid birders in Tucson, Arizona. We have about 10 field guides to the Birds of North America. The National Geographic Fifth Edition is our favorite and most comprehensive. Enjoying life in southeast Arizona, we see the occasional avian visitor from Mexico, and often drive to San Carlos and Alamos, in Sonora. We always carry the National Geographic for several reasons: 1. It identifies those avian border crossers 2. Easy to find thumb tabs make for faster finding 3. Excellent descriptions and color drawings 4. Up-to-date and accurate range maps (Over 700) 5. More comprehensive than our other field guides (over 967 species) 6. Describes bird vocalizations We buy this guide for all family and friends who are catching on to the Bird Watching Fever we have. It is perfect for beginners and professionals alike. If we have any complaints at all, it would be that the construction of the binding and cover are not as durable or rugged as we would like. We have already had to purchase a new copy, because our first one (purchased in 2007) has worn out.

This is a must-have field guide for birding throughout the U.S. It may be better to buy either the E or W version, which I somewhat wish I had. I own the E version but recently moved out to CO. While all those species will be in this version, the W will be smaller and have more details on the recorded species.

I had already known I was in for a good book when I ordered this. I had recently bought two other National Geographic books about birds and they are fabulous. I didn't order them over though, so I was a little apprehensive about ordering this one. I had done a lot of research for the best price and came up. I also had a gift card so I got the book for a good price. I was so excited to get this too!

And it came in no time, about 3 days. As for the book and the quality, i am very happy. The cover and the pages are heavy duty-- good for taking along hiking or to the river where the possibility of getting wet is high. The book is also very informational and i find myself going through it all the time and learning even more things out about the birds of North America. I love National Geographic and i am very happy that i made the decision to buy this book. also made it a very easy transaction.

In my opinion, this is THE book for birding in North America. It's compact, yet comprehensive. The new edition has tabs and up-to-date range maps and species information. The pictures show a variety of plumages, and the maps are clearly displayed across from the birds pictured. And there are several similar birds on each page. The book is organized taxonomically, but if you don't know your bird families, there is a quick-reference guide on the back flip-cover. I love everything about this book. Of course, the best one is the new 6th edition. And yes, you need the new one if you want correct range maps showing that the Eurasian collared dove does in fact live in (all over) the Northwest.

I spend a lot of time in the field doing bird (and other) photography. Another photographer friend of mine who, I often go with on photo albums has carried this guide with him for years. Very handy to have in such a setting. After telling myself that I need to get one for myself, I finally did. The illustrations are clear and accurate identification of birds is easy. Add to that, supplemental info on bird migration and other habits, my identification of my birds has greatly improved. Not that I'm trying to become a bird expert. That is not the point of the book. The point is I want to be able to quickly find a bird's picture and info in the book while I'm looking at the live one. It does that very well. Bound solidly it looks to hold up through a lot of use. My friend's copy though a little dog eared by now is still in one piece. Mine is just a later edition. :-)

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