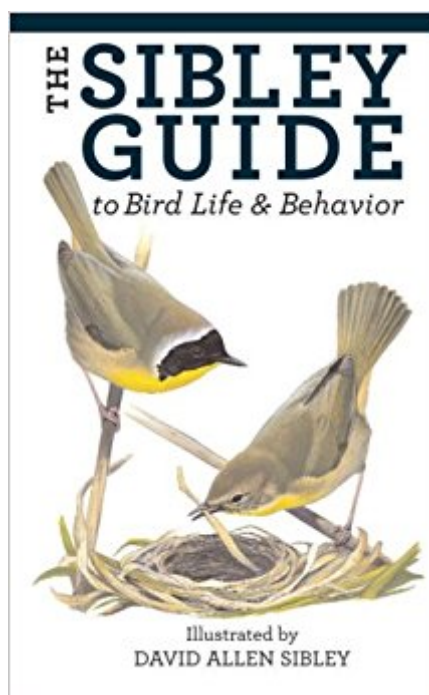


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# The Sibley Guide To Bird Life And Behavior



## Synopsis

From the *New York Times* best selling author of the peerless bird identification guide *The Sibley Guide to Birds*, a landmark exploration of how birds live and what they do. Designed to enhance the birding experience and to enrich the popular study of North American birds, *The Sibley Guide to Bird Life and Behavior* combines more than 795 of Sibley's beautiful full-color illustrations with authoritative text by 48 expert birders and biologists. Introductory essays outline the principles of avian evolution, life cycle, body structure, flight dynamics, and more. The 80 family-by-family chapters describe the amazing range of behavior dictated by birds' biology and environment. Among the subjects covered and illustrated are: molts and plumages --habitats --food and foraging --vocalizations and displays --courtship and breeding --rearing of young --migration and movements --scientific groupings --introduced species --accidental species --anatomy --flight patterns --nests and eggs --conservation --global distribution. Accessibly written, superbly designed and organized, and brilliantly illustrated, *The Sibley Guide to Bird Life and Behavior* is an indispensable source of information on the avian life around us.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

From the creator of the seminal field guide, *The Sibley Guide to Birds*, comes another indispensable book for bird watchers. This veritable bible to the world of birds is the collaborative effort of 48 expert birders and biologists, who combine scientific accuracy and detail with an easily readable and well-organized format. How does a tiny chickadee survive subzero temperatures? How do

flocks of birds synchronize their flights? How can an albatross cross miles of ocean without flapping its wings? Which bird brains are actually intelligent? It's all here in essays giving an overview of avian evolution, biology, and the aerodynamics of flight and in chapters devoted to the 80 bird families of North America, each one detailing taxonomy, habitats, feeding, breeding, vocalizations, migrations, and more. Concerned about declining populations, Sibley also discusses the conservation status of each species and the factors that threaten them. This fascinating source of information is destined to be a well-thumbed companion. -- Lesley Reed --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Not to be confused with standard field guides to birds, this far-reaching companion to last year's *The Sibley Guide to Birds* complements the best of those avian catalogues that birders take along on their quests for more species to add to their "life lists." Here, the editors have compiled essays from leading ornithologists on bird anatomy, ethology and behavior to round out bird-watchers' knowledge. This National Audubon Society publication details the 80 families of birds found in North America, with hundreds of Sibley's acclaimed full-color paintings, maps, charts and illustrations. Topics range from the familiar migration, feeding, mating, nesting to the esoteric, including feather structure, eye configuration, DNA classification, evolution, hybridization and much more. Readers will learn about bird respiration, metabolism, excretion, vocalizations, senses and intelligence, among other subjects. Although the information is as detailed as a textbook, the writing is jargon-free, light and accessible. Well conceived in structure and conducive to easy reference, the volume ends with a detailed glossary, professional biographies of its dozens of scholarly contributors and a convenient species checklist, based upon the American Ornithologists' Union guidelines. Whether one is a serious expeditionary birder or a casual backyard observer of avian life, this book is a must-have reference. 796 full-color paintings. Copyright 2001 Cahners Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

A book for anyone watching birds, even a non-birder like me. Moving into a house with birds like crazy...I bought one bird feeder on . Then another, and a third. I was hooked on sitting on the sofa in the a.m. sipping tea and watching. But why do they do this and that?Library won't help (they want their books back). So I bought my own one volume to cover all my questions, mostly.

I have only recently gotten into birding in the last year or so. This book has been fun toward that end. The first part of the book has a lot of summary chapters written by various ornithologists on bird

behavior, anatomy, and lifestyle, using plain English. There's some science in there, but that is good for any budding birder or wildlife watcher to know. The second half of the book is devoted to specific orders, phyla, and species of birds. It provides descriptors on various species with pictures, but I wouldn't let that replace a good guide like Peterson's. This is more about the how and why birds do what they do, rather than identifying them in the field.

I like it but think it could have been better. Some species get far greater coverage than others; I don't know if that's because we know more about those species or if the publishers just decided what they thought would be most interesting to readers. Sometimes I look something up to find only minimal information. On the other hand, the entries for some species gives far more detail than any standard ID reference. Overall, I have learned from it so would still recommend it.

Get your bird nerd on with this book. If you enjoy flipping through your guidebooks soaking in the brief bird bios and find yourself wanting more, this is your next step. It can be read cover to cover or used as a reference guide. Lots of interesting facts and figures along with helpful and beautiful illustrations. It's a page turner.

I've got several of the basic, but essential, Sibley guides, so this book appeared to me to be a good way to supplement the wide range of Sibley descriptive info with insight into how my avian friend think and act. I wasn't in the least bit disappointed!

If you really love birds, you start wondering about why or how things happen. With this book you get all the information you could possibly want without buying an ornithology book. The pictures/illustrations are great and the reading is easy and enjoyable. Highly recommended!

I have just finished another Sibley's book and I just can't wait to start this one. His books are well written and the illustrations are very helpful. It is a must for bird lovers. When you starts one of his books, it is hard to put it down. There is so much useful information that it probably requires you to read each book at least twice.

If you want to know more about the birds you see, this is a fine book to own. I like to observe wildlife, and that includes birds. So I wonder, what do they eat? Where do they nest? and so on. This is for the curious bird and wildlife watcher. It's one thing to identify them, but it's another to

know a little bit more about them.

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