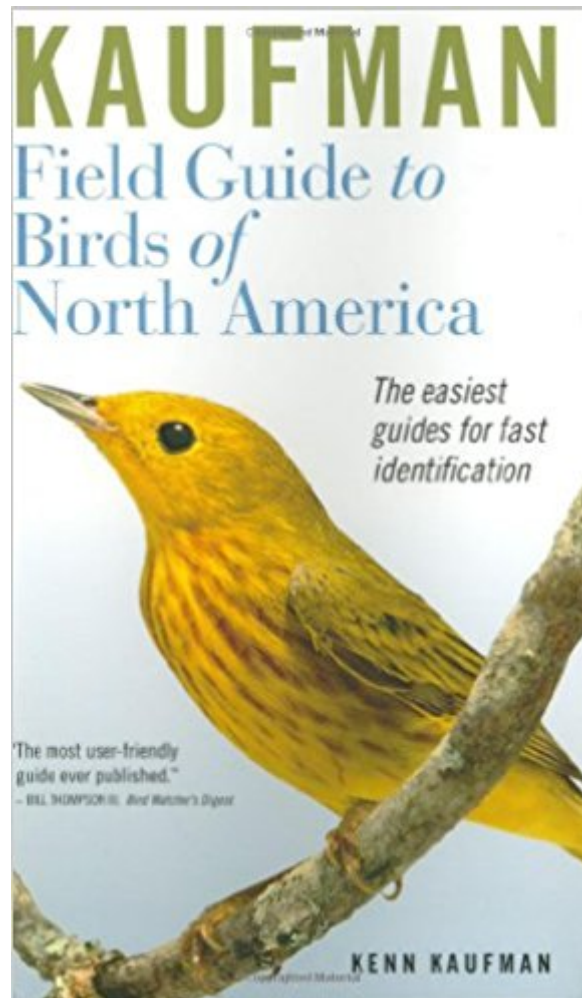


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Kaufman Field Guide To Birds Of North America



Synopsis

In 2000 Houghton Mifflin first published the Kaufman Focus Guide to the Birds of North America. Critically acclaimed for its innovative design, the Kaufman guide began introducing a new generation to birding. In 2005, this new Kaufman Field Guide to Birds of North America is now the most up-to-date field guide, including dozens of changes by the American Ornithologists' Union in official names of birds; the addition of new species to reflect the latest scientific discoveries; and dozens of updated range maps. Additional information helps beginning birdwatchers get started, all in the same compact format that has made this guide the easiest to use for fast identification in the field.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

World-renowned birder Kenn Kaufman addresses a long-running paradox of bird field guides with his Focus Guide. While beginning birdwatchers prefer photographic guides like those by Donald Stokes, the physical traits that make identification easier are more readily discerned in the idealized paintings of illustrative guides like those by Roger Tory Peterson and National Geographic. Kaufman's groundbreaking work combines the best of both approaches by digitally enhancing photographic images to show the characteristics that are sometimes not apparent in photographs. Some other distinguishing features include: The guide is organized by bird family groupings rather than strict taxonomic classification; this is a feature that will appeal especially to beginners. Text descriptions and range maps for each species appear on the page facing the plate of respective

bird images. Important field marks are highlighted. Color-coded tabs identify each grouping of birds (waders, warblers, sparrows, etc.) for quick thumb indexing. Kaufman's efforts follow the auspicious tradition of Roger Tory Peterson, whose portable field guide system was the first of its kind to meet the needs of the average birdwatcher. "It's the guide I've always wanted," says Kaufman, "and I suspect most birders will feel the same way." --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Every spring, tens of thousands of bird-watchers migrate across the country in search of vireos, towhees, and violet-crowned hummingbirds; these birders can be recognized by their binoculars, their respect for nature and their frequent stillness and near-silence. By next spring, many of them will be toting this guide. Author and illustrator Kaufman (*Lives of North American Birds*) has long been one of the birdwatching community's stars. His colorful, practical and very portable book aims to become the new standard in the field. The book is small enough for a big jacket pocket, and can be held in one hand; color-coded tags divide its 16 sections on 16 classes of birds ("Ducks, Geese, Swans," "Chicken-Like Birds," "Medium-Sized Land Birds," "Flycatchers," etc.). Each left-hand page describes three to six related birds, with range maps for each, color-coded for season and frequency; brief phrases give most species' song, voice or call-note. The corresponding right-hand page offers bright, high-resolution color pictures of the same birds, on a perch or in flight. Short inserts help explain, for example, how to distinguish among many similar sparrows. Kaufman's guide is revolutionary in that it's the first to use digitally altered photographs (more than 2,000 of them) rather than unretouched photos or paintings - in practice the computerized images look like extremely detailed paintings. Though he pays more attention to common birds, Kaufman is happy to cover rare visitors and migrants: here are a brace of robins, but also bluet (restricted to northwest Alaska, and "hard to see when not singing"), and 16 kinds of (introduced) parrots. The guide may not be the most comprehensive available, and its laconic descriptions deliberately avoid facts that won't assist identification. But Kaufman makes up for those limits with compactness, great design and ease of use - especially for beginners: an appendix leads new birders to further resources (some of them online). Major ad/promo; 22-city author tour. (Sept. 22) Copyright 2000 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Seems a little "smallish" for a field guide but certainly it's ultra-portable & can fit almost anywhere. Also I'm used to "AOU-order" in field guides & this differs slightly from that, but not in a huge way... Have only had a chance to use it for a week or so; will give more feedback later.

This was described to me as a good guide for beginning birders. There are plenty of photos and descriptions of the birds, as well as range maps showing where the birds are likely to be found at different times of year. The maps are color-coded: red for summer, blue for winter and gray for migrating. Purple means the birds stay in one location year-round. Similar species are grouped together, with photos on one page and descriptions on the facing page. There are tips for identifying birds, including their calls, and on choosing and using binoculars. This is a detailed guide for the novice birder. Its compact size makes it easy to take along on birding expeditions.

bought our own copy after borrowing this from the library. fun for novice birders!

My 7 year old has recently become fascinated with birds. We had a little backyard guide, but it just wasn't enough. I went to the bookstore to look at the different guides available & really loved the way this book is indexed. In the front, you see pictures of groups of birds, the name of the group & a color band--the book section has the matching color band. It's really easy for my daughter to see a bird, glance over the first groups of pictures in the front index, pick the group that it looks like, then find the colored section in the book & find the exact bird! There isn't a ton of info on the birds, mostly just region info, food, call, etc--but pictures include males, females & juveniles--which is very nice--the maps are also very clear, so it's easy to see if it might be in your area. We love this book & highly recommend it to beginners who don't know much about birds & their groups, etc! For further information on the birds, we also bought the DK (Dorling Kindersley) Guide to Birds of North America--we bought the Eastern, but they also make a Western. It's 24.99 at the book store, but you can get it for less than 10 here on --it goes into great detail about each bird, has tons of color pictures of the birds, their nests, eggs, babies, etc--very educational--we will use it to learn more about the birds once we spot them in our Kaufman guide. We also ordered, on a whim & because it was only 83 cents on , The Complete Birdhouse Book--The Easy Guide to Attracting Nesting Birds by Donald & Lillian Stokes. When it arrived I was overjoyed with how wonderful this book is--it is full color, talks in-depth about the bird life-cycle with full color pictures & specifically what different birds need in a home--and thus, how to construct it! What beginner ever knew the hole size, hole to floor measurement & inside dimensions & total height were so important--not to mention where it is placed & what type of things to leave in your yard for nesting material! Also, how to control predators & pests & other useful information. Full color pictures again & highly educational---a good companion for anyone wanting to attract birds to their yard!

Exactly as advertised. Will purchase more.

I am a professional bird photographer (GoldFeatherPhoto [dot] com) and this is my primary go to guide for bird identification. Each of the major guide books (e.g., Kaufman, Sibley, National Geographic) -- I own all of them -- but I find Kaufman to have the best organization, the best information to aid in identification, and I find it easiest to identify based on photos rather than drawings. It is always good to confirm identifications with a second (or third) source as there are a lot of subtleties in the identification in many of the bird species; for this I usually use the Sibley guides. I don't like Sibley as much for my primary source for two reasons: 1) the drawings lack the detail of the images in Kaufman, and 2) there is a East and West edition of Sibley and since my time is divided between the East and West coasts I have to lug two books around rather than the single Kaufman that covers the entire US. Another very useful bird identification tool is [...] as well as the iPhone iBird family of apps (I am one of the staff photographers for these latter guides).

Easy to find the bird you are looking for. Great pictures. Easy to see their seasonal locations!

The Yolo Audubon Society (Davis, CA) settled on Kaufman's for our education program. We found that the size and detail offered is very appropriate for 5th graders. I also use it on our general public field trips and it seems to appeal to adults new to birdwatching. The inclusion of typical habit in the text for the birds is helpful, as are the clear illustrations. For example, look up Hutton's Vireo and a picture of the Ruby-crowned Kinglet is provided that helps the kids notice the difference between the two birds.

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