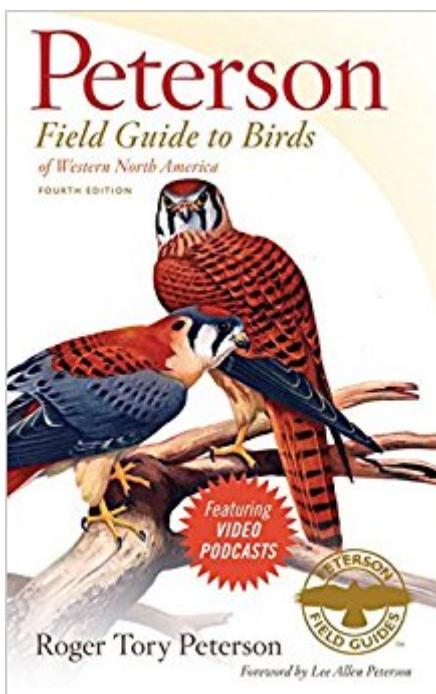


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# Peterson Field Guide To Birds Of Western North America, Fourth Edition (Peterson Field Guides)



## Synopsis

Field Guide to Western Birds

## Book Information

Series: Peterson Field Guides (Book 4)

Paperback: 512 pages

Publisher: Houghton Mifflin Harcourt; 4 edition (March 14, 2010)

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Shipping Weight: 1.7 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 169 customer reviews

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## Customer Reviews

Product Description With all-new range maps, updated text, and 40 new paintings, the completely revised editions of two classic Peterson Field Guides are sure to be valuable additions to any birder's pocket or daypack. At a trim size of 5 x 8, they are portable but also beautifully illustrated. Photographs, while modern looking and colorful, capture just one moment in time. The paintings in these guides, however, show all of a bird's key field marks and use the Peterson Identification System to make bird identification easier for beginning and intermediate bird watchers. A team of professional birders has updated the text, the maps, and the art for these authoritative guides. Expert birders also created 35 entertaining and easy-to-use video podcasts, which are available to download. They make fun and educational viewing on a computer desktop or MP3 player. Last updated in 1990, the Peterson Field Guide to Western Birds covers nearly 600 species on 176 color plates, with 588 comprehensive range maps, now included with the illustrations. Every bird watcher in western North America will want to own this long-awaited, up-to-date fourth edition. A Look Inside Peterson Field Guide to Western Birds(Click on each image below to read about the bird group) Finchlike Birds Grosbeaks Parakeets and Parrots

Based on the Peterson Field Guide to Birds of North America (2008), this new edition of the original regional guide (1990) brings the same improvements and corrections to maps, taxonomy, and paintings. Peterson Field Guides are best for beginning to intermediate birders and are, as always, wonderful for teachers and trip leaders. The 2010 volumes (that is, this title and the sixth edition of Peterson Field Guide to Birds of Eastern and Central North America) are simply subsets of the 2008 comprehensive volume, and as such contain no new information. Highly recommended for all libraries, especially those that do not own the 2008 North American guide. --Jeff Kosokoff

There is a stack of bird books sitting near the window in my living room from which I watch a bird feeder and its visitors every day. I have an ancient 2nd edition of Peterson that really started me watching birds. So, I admit that I have a sentimental attachment to my Peterson Guides. I have hauled Peterson Guides over 4 continents. The National Geographic Guide is a back up for me, when I am trying to compare characteristics of the birds I see. Sibley I keep for comparison and because I love books-and as a general U.S. Guide. But, day-to-day, year-to year, I still carry my Peterson in a knapsack with my maps and snacks and use it as my comfortably dog-eared companion. I also love this new addition. Although it is a bit larger, it is still smaller than my Sibley guide. It also has some of the improvements that made the Sibley guides popular, such as maps on the same page as the bird illustrations. (Another reviewer has complained the maps are not accurate, but I must admit that I only use the maps as a very general reference. The bird migration and shifting populations seem to make the presence of many birds "outside the map" a real possibility where I live). The larger illustrations are a real improvement (much appreciated as my eyes age). The biggest difference for me, after years of birdwatching, is that the Peterson Guide is only one of the sources I consult. Now I carry a field guide but am more likely to take field notes and sketches home to look at more than one source. Perhaps because I studied art when I was young, I prefer the less constrained illustrations by Peterson vs. Sibley. All in all, the Peterson Guide is still the one I will carry with me in the field as the quick reference. I have often heard that Peterson is not for "serious" birders. Well, it has served this amateur well for several decades. The new addition is a delight. It is not perfect, there is no perfect; but if I were to recommend one guide to western birds, this would be the one.

I have several previous editions, but this one is the best ever! Many updates to bird ranges and access to podcasts and other media are nice enhancements.. I like the larger format and the pages and cover are weather resistant materials. Whether you spend a lot of time in the field or just like to

identify birds out in your backyard, this reference won't disappoint.

I can't seem to find enough field guides for birds, and this is the first Peterson's I've had. It's brilliant in ways others are not. For example, the drawings are larger, with the key field mark shown with an arrow. Thank you. The range maps are more detailed than most guides, another key part of a proper ID. That helps a guy like me, notorious for wrong IDs, get a few more right. The size is good for taking in the field, but it's heavier than most field guides. I'm just thrilled to have another quality reference book for bird identification. This one is a key for any collection.

Sure there is lots more competition from other bird books now; but for ID of birds Peterson is still the best! The use of "points of emphasis" drawings to distinguish what makes a species different is still the best technique and biggest help - even for experienced birders (and I fit this category knowing warblers by their song). Do not go with books that use photographs whatever you do - birds just do not look like the photo in real life; as there is significant variation by bird. But a few characteristics are prominent on all birds of the same species - thus, Peterson drawings emphasizing these prominent points are the most helpful approach. Also, do not try to make a reference book with more info into a "field guide" for ID - too much info is bulky and confusing and harder to reference "in the field". RTP is still King and his legacy lives on....

The Peterson field guides do not fail to impress. I live in the East and have always used the Eastern version of this, and so I decided to purchase the western version for a series of Western vacations. I was not disappointed. The bird drawings/paintings are extremely lifelike and are able to point out the best ID points of a bird, unlike select photos used in other guides. The arrows point to the key characteristics that are most helpful in IDing the bird. Overall, my favorite ID guide when it comes to birds. A must-have.

Incredibly illustrated, this book provides detailed visual information about the distinct markings found on the male and female of each species, along with the juvenile stage in many cases. As many species within a group are very similar in appearance, this book provides the necessary information to accurately identify the birds you are encountering. Provides range maps, as well, indicating the winter, summer and year-round ranges of each species. There is a small map inset amongst the paragraph of information, as well as a handy reference number directing you to a larger map in the back of the book. Overall, I regard this book as a must-have for novice and avid bird watchers alike.

Bought this for a friend who lives in the country. She loves it and raves about all the info and the colored illustrations.

I purchased this as a gift for some friends in the Pacific Northwest who spend a lot of time on their boat and expressed an interest in having a book on board that would help them identify the new birds they were seeing on their journeys. They also thought it would make a nice reference to share with their grandchildren when they were on board as well. I chose the Peterson Guide because my husband has a complete collection on many field topics and I've always loved them. They are visual, well organized, with illustrations and photographs, information on regions the birds are typically found in, as well as their mating, hunting, and other survival habits. My friends were DELIGHTED and said it was exactly what they wanted. It was a winning choice!

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