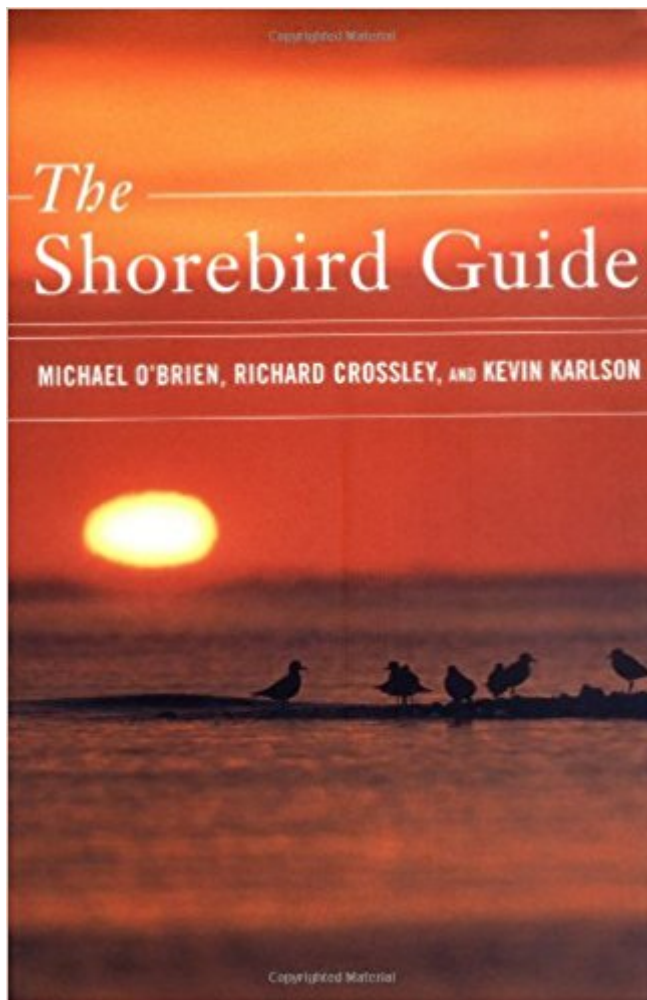




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The Shorebird Guide



Synopsis

An all-new holistic approach to identifying shorebirds. Join the experts in birding by impression, a revolutionary approach to bird identification. Experienced birders use the most easily observed characteristics — size, structure, behavior, and general color patterns — to identify birds even before looking carefully at plumage details. Now birders at all levels can learn how to identify shorebirds quickly and simply. This guide includes more than 870 stunning color photographs, starting with a general impression of the species and progressing to more detailed images of the bird throughout its life cycle. Quiz questions in the captions will engage and challenge all birders and help them benefit from this simplified, commonsense approach to identification.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This book came highly recommended to me by my birding teacher who will be teaching a class on shorebirds soon. I have only browsed through this book & become familiar with its structure, & already I know it's a winner. The first thing that struck me were the pictures in real life settings at different times of day and in mixed flocks which is often the case. They include flight photos w/ common flight calls, feeding behaviors, preferred habitats, and photos of the life cycle from juvenile through adult plumages. It left me with a general impression of the bird. Then I noticed the excellent captions describing plumage, age, behaviors with comparison photographs of similar birds in similar circumstances. So helpful! Next, I looked at the "How to Use This Guide" section which recommended you read the introduction to get you familiar with the different families of shorebirds. The detail and organization of this book beg me to read it!

In birding one of the big challenges is and will always be, the identification of shorebirds. I live in the caribbean where all kinds of shorebirds pass in all kinds of plumages , including unexpected birds. This guide has helped me numerous times after a birding trip to settle on a bird ID that was not clear in the field. The book is a beautiful edition with many beautiful and clear pictures and apt descriptions of the birds a lot of attention to the smaller determining details

This book is packed full information on shorebirds, their life cycles, migration, feeding habits and much more. I particularly like the summary pages in the rear of the book that gave statistical data on species population and trends. Each species has numerous photos and captions that either shows the bird individually or side-by-side with commonly confused species leading to misidentification in the field. I mainly use this guide after a trip to assist in photo review for ID purposes. The guide is limited on information for rare migrants that could be found in North America. The only down side about this guide is that when it comes to similar species the photo comparisons could be placed in a little more of an orderly fashion to show the fine features in both basic and alternate plumage (Western Sandpiper vs Semipalmated and Dowitchers species).

The Shorebird Guide is a different kind of bird guide. It tackles a traditionally difficult subject in a unique way that makes identifying Shorebirds seem (almost) easy. The book is split into two sections: the first is a color photographic guide to each species; the second is a text write-up of standard field-guide information as well as behavioral details and such for each species. Each species gets several pages of beautiful color photographs. Each photograph shows the species under discussion in a real world setting and has a short but info packed caption. The photographs progress from juvenile birds through adults (breeding and non-breeding). Many of the photographs contain more than one bird and more than one species. Some of the captions pose questions to the reader (answers in the back). Working out the answers to these questions is a good test of your skills. The philosophy behind this book is that of GISS (general impression of size and shape) or gestalt. This means that the identification of a bird is worked out, not by plumage details or colorations as with a typical field guide, but instead by the overall impression of the bird. This is an especially useful tool with Shorebirds. In conclusion, this is an amazing bird book and one that every birder needs to have in their library. It will definitely make you a better birder.

Since this is the specie of birds that I have the most trouble with I decided to purchase this book as

an addition to my reference books. I loved the pictures and I found the descriptions easy to understand. I especially liked the different angles the author used in the pictures. Finally, I found that he used more than one specie in a pictures and took the time to inform the reader of all species in the pictures. I will take this book with me into the field often.

Eleven families of shorebirds are included in this book, and shorebirds comprise more families than that. Thus, if your interest is limited to gulls and terns (Family Laridae) you will need to consult another book. But you will need to look long and hard for another book that describes those eleven families so completely as this book. The photographs are superior, as are the many diagrams and anatomical illustrations. Highly recommended for both birders and professionals.

Just what I was looking for to help me understand shorebirds better.

Excelente

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