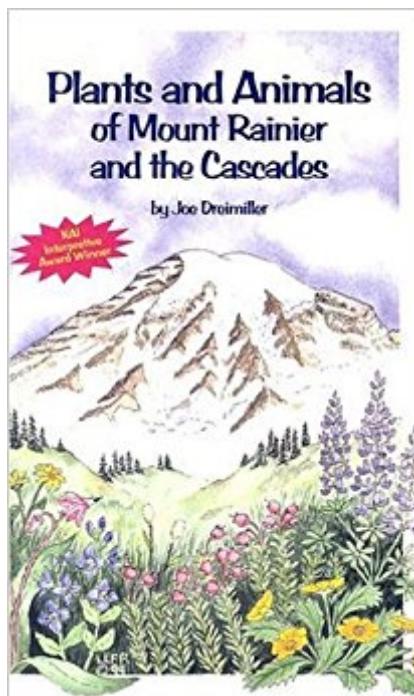


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# A Pocket Field Guide To The Plants And Animals Of Mount Rainier



## **Synopsis**

The wonder of Mount Rainier is not limited to the majesty of the mountain. The variety of animals and wildflowers also adds to its awe-inspiring beauty. Created by a naturalist and 2 former rangers, A Pocket Field Guide to the Plants and Animals of Mount Rainier is an ideal, compact guide to help identify common plants and animals found in the Park. Unique color illustrations (100+) with easy to follow text makes this book an excellent resource for Park enthusiasts of all ages. The book is divided into several sections: Amphibians, Reptiles, Birds, Mammals, Lower Forest Plants, Subalpine Plants, Trees, Vocabulary, Common and Scientific Names and info about the artist/author. Each page has a colored illustration, simple field marks for easy identification and some natural history notes. This is the only book of its kind that deals with just the plants and animals of Mount Rainier.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

The book was awarded 3rd Place in the National Association of Interpretation's Book Media Competition 11/2000

Joe Dreimiller is a former National Park Service Ranger from Mt. Rainier. Joe has worked throughout the United States as an outdoor educator/wilderness trip leader teaching natural history lessons. He came to Mount Rainier in 1988 and spent several seasons at Paradise. He has worked as a Meadow Restoration Ranger, Paradise Meadow Ranger, Climbing Ranger and Law Enforcement Ranger. He has also worked as a ranger at North Cascades N.P. and Blake Island St.

Park. He currently is a ranger for the City of Everett. This book has been his dream for several years. He has wanted to create a simple pocket sized book to be used by all ages for easy identification of the plants and animals at Mount Rainier National Park.

The problem with most field guides is that they've forgotten they are field guides and not coffee-table art books. Not so with Joe Dreimiller's **POCKET GUIDE TO THE PLANTS AND ANIMALS OF MOUNT RAINIER!** Sure, this book has plenty of pretty color pictures made by its three illustrators, but they are diagnostic illustrations, just like Roger Tory Peterson emphasized in his bird books. So, you have something pretty to look at but you also have something that will help you identify the common plants and animals to be seen in Mt Rainier National Park. Pictures are nice, but after you've used the illustrations to identify an Elephant-head pedicularis, Golden-mantled ground squirrel, a Varied thrush, or a Mountain hemlock, Dreimiller tells you the field marks so you'll know what makes these things different from their closest relatives. That way, if you don't have his book next time, you've learned what distinguishes each plant or animal from every other plant or animal. And the help you get from this little gem doesn't stop there. Let's say you've used this pocket guide to identify a False hellebore [*Veratrum viride*]. Next time you're in the Park, hiking with a friend, and you spot it, you can say, "Oh! Look at that False hellebore! Did you know its botanic name means 'green plant with the black roots?'" And so you look at the roots and, "Wow! They're black." For all the organisms in this book, there are not only field marks but an extensive list of notes to help you remember why each is so important to know. Not only that, but there are descriptions of all the groups so you'll learn why mammals are different from birds which are different from amphibians. There is an extensive bird list for the Park including accidentals. And, unusual for this kind of book, there is a mammal list too. And to top off the list category, each habitat has a list of common plants as well as suggestions for places to walk. Did I mention that Dreimiller's book is also pocket sized? How many field guides have you bought in recent years that don't even fit in the pocket of your daypack? I also liked the short reference list at the end of the book, referring me to other helpful resources. The index is short, but complete. Evidently Dreimiller worked as a ranger at Mount Rainier for a number of years and it shows. He knows his plants and his animals. All in all, I would recommend this little gem to anybody who wants to know more about what they see while in the Park. And the best thing about this field guide is that it teaches you things that can be used elsewhere in the Cascades. I write for a number of newspapers in the Seattle area and I'm pretty sensitive to writers who wastes my time trying to copy the prose of Muir, Leopold, Pyle, and all the other good nature writers. I liked this book because it tells me what I need to know without the usual

cumbersome "awesome beauty of nature" rhetoric that encumbers so many field guides. Leave the literature for the coffee table. Take Dreimiller's book into the field.

Like a good naturalist or interpreter, this guide provides not only a concise way to identify the most common flora and fauna, but adds interesting facts and folklore. It will surely make the living things in and around Rainier very accessible, and provide even the most knowledgeable biologist/naturalist with enjoyable new information. Illustrations are detailed and beautiful, and the general information and references are an added bonus. And it all fits into your pocket! Great!

An excellent guidebook to the Mount Rainier area. As a former Mount Rainier Ranger, I would recommend this book to anyone considering a visit to Mount Rainier National Park. The illustrations are beautifully rendered and the accompanying text is accurate and insightful. The book is small enough to fit in a daypack or take it along for a backpack along the Wonderland Trail.

Excellent field guide with great illustrations

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