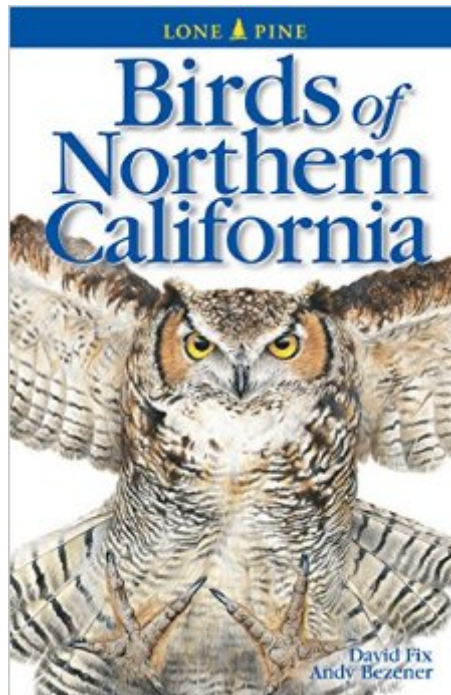


The book was found

Birds Of Northern California (Lone Pine Field Guides)



Synopsis

Learn all about Northern California's top 320 most notable bird species. Full-color illustrations complement detailed accounts, color-coded pages that cover habitat, nesting, feeding, vocal sounds, best sites for viewing, and tips for distinguishing from similar species. Illustrations and photographs make identification easy. Includes appendix of rare and vagrant species, index, bibliography, and glossary. Front of book gives color-coded keys to bird groups.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I am an advanced-amateur birder, and I own four separate bird guides. I live in the Bay Area, and this is by far the guide I use the most. I've owned it for three years, and virtually every bird I've seen has been within its pages. It's very easy to navigate because of its "thumbnails" in the opening pages - you can easily spot your bird there without having to flip through the whole guide. It's also very well written. It is always eloquent, occasionally humorous, and does a wonderful job of capturing the personality and "feel" of each bird. A problem I have with the overrated Audubon guide, and even sometimes with the fine Sibley and Stokes guides, is that they are too consistently technical. They rarely give unusual background or personality information about the birds. By contrast, this Fix-Bezener guide has something pleasurable to read in every entry. Some folks might want to supplement this guide with the Stokes Field Guide, Western Region, because it includes photographs. Or perhaps with a Sibley guide if you really want to get into the details. But for 90% of Northern California birders, this single guide will do just fine.

Unfortunately, the illustrations in this book are of varying quality, with some looking as though they were painted from specimens. Moreover, there are no flight depictions, just static poses. However, the book is useful for focusing your attention on the set of species you need to know in northern California. I recommend using a Sibley identification guide with this book.

Quite good. Like the indexing the most. Very handy for newer birders to the area or people starting with birding in Norcal (highly recommend).3 areas could improve.1- comparison section is good, but does not cover similar looking birds of other families (e.g: compares short billed dowitcher with long billed dowitcher but need this to be clapper rail vs willet vs dowitcher)2- need pictures of both flight and sitting positions for some birds (e.g: different hawks, others like northern mockingbirds)3- a bit smaller size will make this a better field guide

There are many kinds of birds around my workplace - Oracle, in Redwoodshores. I have always been curious what they are. I bought this book and found it very useful. With the help of this book, I've identified several species, including geese, stilts, seagulls, horans, egrets... (you can find the specific name, like Canada Goose, if you read this book.) It's amazed to find that there are so many kinds of birds around Oracle and in the pond in front of it (a.k.a. Lake Larry).One thing I would like to say about this book is its distribution map (in three colors for summer, winter, and all year round) in North California for each kind of bird. It's very useful because by checking that, you can eliminate some candidates if you are trying to figure out what exact kind of bird you saw.In the brief description for each bird, the authors managed to squeeze some interesting points in, like Canada Goose is now a community management problem, and cranes bow before they dance to their mates.If you live in the Bay Area, and want to see water birds, please come to Redwood Shores, go around Oracle green builds (the outer skirt), with this book.

When I moved to the country I saw so many birds that I didn't know a hawk from an eagle. Since I bought this book I now have a set of binoculars and enjoy looking up the species, where they migrate, their sounds and habits. It's fun now knowing the differences instead of "guessing".

As a novice birder, identifying species is the most challenging facet. This book is set up to facilitate rapid identification of the birds you encounter. Thumbnail pictures in the front section allow for rapid scanning of various species' prominent features without paging endlessly through the book. The

data on each bird in subsequent pages is succinct and interesting to the casual or beginning birder. Esoteric information is pleasantly omitted. I use it more than my Sibley guide.

Great field guide, especially for beginning birders, but nice for more experienced ones too. Sorry to see that this has gone out of print as it is a lovely guide with excellent illustrations and lots of information on each bird. It is focused on one area, Northern California, so the authors had the luxury of space. The distribution maps are good, too, and I have learned a lot from this book.

As an amateur birder I have a library of 8-10 field guides but I depend on this book far more than any of the others as long as I'm in NorCal. I like to give it as a gift to people that ask me to help them identify a bird because it's so easy to use.

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