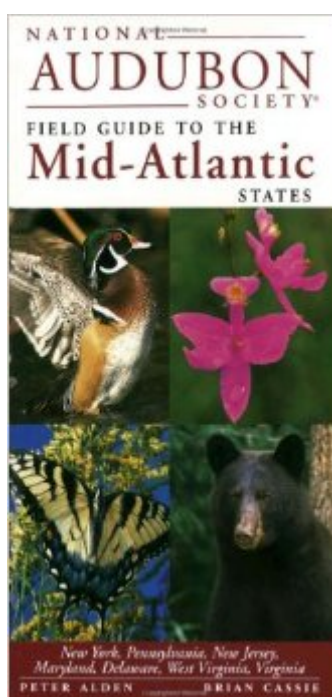


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National Audubon Society Field Guide To The Mid-Atlantic States: New York, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Maryland, Delaware, West Virginia, Virginia



Synopsis

Filled with concise descriptions and stunning photographs, the National Audubon Society Field Guide to the Mid-Atlantic States belongs in the home of every Mid-Atlantic resident and in the suitcase or backpack of every visitor. This compact volume contains: An easy-to-use field guide for identifying 1,000 of the state's wildflowers, trees, mushrooms, mosses, fishes, amphibians, reptiles, birds, butterflies, mammals, and much more; A complete overview of the Mid-Atlantic region's natural history, covering geology, wildlife habitats, ecology, fossils, rocks and minerals, clouds and weather patterns, and the night sky; An extensive sampling of the area's best parks, preserves, beaches, forests, islands, and wildlife sanctuaries, with detailed descriptions and visitor information for 50 sites and notes on dozens of others. The guide is packed with visual information -- the 1,500 full-color images include more than 1,300 photographs, 18 maps, and 16 night-sky charts, as well as more than 100 drawings explaining everything from geological processes to the basic features of different plants and animals. For everyone who lives or spends time in Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia, or Washington, D.C., there can be no finer guide to the area's natural surroundings than the National Audubon Society Field Guide to the Mid-Atlantic States.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This series has answered a long outstanding need ... an one volume field guide that you can actually carry into the field. As a birder, I still carry a more detailed bird guide such as National Geographic or Peterson's. But I'm always running across a flower or tree or animal I'm curious

about. This guide is the ideal second volume carry with you since it explains the the most common things you'll run across in areas other than your primary interest. Another valuable use is for leaders of youth groups, such as Scout leaders. As a Scout leader myself, I'm always being asked by the boys to help them identify a salamander or other animal. This guide allows you to do this in the field without having to carry a whole library of field guides in your pack. In addition, by being regional guides they eliminate the things you won't find in an area, such as saguaro cactus in New Jersey. In sum, the appropriate book from this series is a good reference to carry with you as you explore the outdoors in your part of the USA.

This book is a good introductory field guide to the region. As expected from an Audobon Society book, the photographs are top-notch. Sections on topography, habitats, the night sky, and area parks and preserves are particularly helpful. The flora and fauna identification sections don't go into a lot of detail, but will allow you to identify most common plants and animals. I can see where this would be helpful to scouts and young adults in particular. However, I was disappointed that the book wasn't a bit more comprehensive. Obviously, as a portable field guide, it can't cover every single species. But in our area (northern Virginia) we have so many more butterflies and other insects that this book simply does not include. In some cases, I had to refer to the Audobon Field Guide for *Florida* to find a particular species. And with crayfish all over the creekbeds of this area, their omission under the crustacean section just seems strange. That said, I would still recommend this book as a basic field guide. It does provide good background information on the area, and the photos are spectacular. Just don't expect to identify everything you see with it -- you'll need to do further research on your own.

The strength of this guide is definitely its breadth, not its depth. This is an asset for curious people who don't want to lug around 10 separate identification books for plants, insects, snakes, etc. It also makes it more readable than your average single-subject field guide; my husband has read it cover-to-cover! We discovered this book on a friend's bookshelf and after we gave it back we kept finding ourselves wishing we had it along on hikes. Although we are fairly knowledgeable, outdoorsy people, but there's always something new we want to look up. Now that we have our own copy, we pack this book when we want to travel light, and it has been surprising how many times we could find what we were looking for, or come close enough to greatly speed further research when we got home.

This is a field guide that's fun to read. It covers everything from trees to mammals. I got it when my son was a preschooler and he had a great time leafing through it. He learned a surprising amount. Obviously it's not for serious birders or someone who wants to identify insects, but that leaves a lot of us. The binding is unfortunately rather fragile; don't expect it to hold up to years of heavy usage. If you're interested in wildlife, go ahead and enjoy this book. You can get something more durable and focused later on, once your interests have developed.

I always loved the vivid pictures in these books. This is a great resource for most of your major plants and animals of the Mid-Atlantic. However, when it comes to plants, it only covers the major species, for which I have to knock off at least a star. It is not all inclusive to say the least and it can lead one to incorrectly identify a plant. Like most all of these type books, it must be used as a reference in concert with other books as it is not a stand alone guide. It also is not good that useful for plant identification in the winter. I do like the layout, maps with geographical range, and the fact it includes extra information such as warnings for toxic plants as well as notes on edibility.

As an fan of the outdoors, I often end up carrying several field guides with me to identify wildflowers, trees, and animal tracks. This compact guide provides a resource for all of the above plus stars in the night sky, birds, insects, snakes, spiders, butterflies, reptiles, and just about every other type of living thing you can expect to find in the region. While it isn't as exhaustive as my more specific field guides, it's breadth of topics covered make it an invaluable addition to any outdoor enthusiast's backpack.

This is a nice little reference book to stick in the backpack or into the storage ottoman (where I keep it). We have birdfeeders outside the den windows and I have been able to identify some migratory birds I have never seen before. It does not give in depth information, but you can identify most things you might be looking for while you are "in the field" and consult the internet later.

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