

SUGGESTIONS FOR THE BIRD WATCHERS LIBRARY

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In books, as in art, everyone has his own tastes. This list will reflect mine. There are, however, no poor or useless books in the list, and the bird-watcher who has these on his shelves will, I am sure, use each one frequently.

Identification

Peterson, Roger T. *Field Guide to the Birds*. Houghton-Mifflin Co. This is the *sine qua non* for the bird-watcher, and most of us have worn out several. If you travel, the *Field Guide to Western Birds*, same author and publisher, is highly recommended.

Reference

Allen, A. A. *The Book of Bird Life*. D. VanNostrand Co. Inc. or Wallace, George J. *An introduction to Ornithology*. Macmillan Co. These are the leading textbooks for college courses, and either one will prove useful and interesting.

Chapman, Frank. *Handbook of Birds of Eastern North America*. Second Revised Edition. D. Appleton and Co. A classic, and deservedly so. No ornithological library should be without it. It contains a wealth of information in a small package.

Pettingill, O. S. *A Laboratory and Field Manual of Ornithology*. Burgess Publishing Co., Minneapolis. Though designed for college courses, this large book contains much of general interest, and is particularly good for the abundant references to books, journals, and articles about birds.

Eaton, E. H. *Birds of New York*. 2 vols. New York State Museum, Albany. You'll have to pick this up second hand, if you don't have a copy, and it will probably cost you \$12 to \$15. But no New York State birder can afford to be without it. Try to get the first printing, with the magnificent Fuertes plates printed on double-weight stock.

American Ornithologists' Union. *Check-list of North American Birds*. Fifth Edition. Probably each individual would not need a copy of this, but there should be at least one in each club for reference use.

Pough, Richard H. *Audubon Bird Guide*. 2 vols. Doubleday and Co. Somewhat more inclusive than Peterson's books, these two volumes contain a lot of background information as well as identification data. The plates by Don Eckelberry are beautifully done.

Bent, A. C. *Life Histories of North American Birds*. U. S. Nat'l. Museum. Twenty volumes of this great work are now out. Older ones bring a premium in the used book market, but several have been reprinted. Not every member can afford them, but each club should try to build up a complete set.

Attracting Birds

McKenny, Margaret. *Birds in the Garden and how to attract them*. Univ. of Minnesota Press. There are many other books of this type, but I like this one best. It is attractive as well as functional, and covers the subject pretty thoroughly.

Bird Banding

Lockley, R. M., and Rosemary Russell. *Bird Ringing: the art of Bird Study by Individual Marking*. Crosby Lockwood and Son Lt., London. There are American books on this subject, but I think you'll like this one.

Bird Photography

- Allen, A. A. Stalking birds with color camera. Natl. Geog. Society.
Bailey, A. M. Nature Photography with Miniature Cameras. Mus. Pict. No. 1, Denver Mus. of Natural History.
Shumway, Herbert D. Nature Photography Guide. Greenberg, Publisher.
Yeates, G. K. Bird Photography. Faber and Faber Ltd., London. Each of these books presents a different point of view, but each is well written and illustrated.

Bird Study

- Griscom, Ludlow. Modern Bird Study. Harvard Univ. Press.
Hickey, J. J. A Guide to Bird Watching. Oxford Univ. Press.
Fisher, James. Watching Birds. Penguin Books.
Saunders, A. A. The Lives of Wild Birds. Doubleday and Co. Any of these, and there are others as well, will give a good introduction to modern methods of scientific bird study. It might be well to look them over first, and pick the one which meets your own needs.
Pettingill, O. S. A guide to Bird Finding East of the Mississippi. A guide to Bird Finding West of the Mississippi. Oxford Univ. Press. To organize your bird-watching, and to fit it into your travelling, use these two books. They tell you when and where to look for the most interesting birding spots in each of the 48 states.

Most bird-watchers have interests in nature beyond the bird group. For those, a few semi-popular and popular works of various types are listed here.
Storer, John. The web of life. Devin Adair Co. A popular survey of general ecology.

- Grange, Wallace B. Those of the forest. Flambeau Publ. Co., Babcock, Wisconsin. Written as fiction, but bulging with fact, this book may become a classic of natural history writing. Better give it a try.
Hillcourt, William. Field Book of Nature Activities. G. P. Putnam's Sons, New York. A survey of techniques, ideas for young people's nature study, etc. Not technical, but good.

I'll complete the list with a few personal favorites, which cover ground not included in those already listed.

- Campbell, Bruce. Finding Nests. William Collins Sons and Co., Ltd. The art of nest-finding is not quite lost, and if you want to practice, this will tell you how.
Kortright, F. H. The Ducks, Geese and Swans of North America. American Wildlife Institute. I like this book as much for its illustrations as for its text. It's a beautiful book, and a useful one.
Saunders, A. A. A Guide to Bird Songs. Doubleday and Co., Inc. As a supplement to your bird song records, this little classic will help you remember and recognize unfamiliar songs.

And if you want to know what the professional ornithologists are doing: Wolfson, Albert, Editor. Recent Advances in Avian Biology. Univ. of Illinois Press, Urbana.

Last, just for fun:

- Lorenz, Konrad Z. King Solomon's Ring. Thomas Y. Crowell Co.
Leopold, Aldo. A Sand County Almanac and Sketches here and there. Oxford University Press, N. Y.

Here's to good reading; N. Y. S. College for Teachers, Albany 3