



Better Birding: Tips, Tools, and Concepts for the Field

By George L. Armistead, Brian L. Sullivan

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Better Birding reveals the techniques expert birders use to identify a wide array of bird species in the field--quickly and easily. Featuring hundreds of stunning photos and composite plates throughout, this book simplifies identification by organizing the birds you see into groupings and offering strategies specifically tailored to each group. Skill building focuses not just on traditional elements such as plumage, but also on creating a context around each bird, including habitat, behavior, and taxonomy--parts so integral to every bird's identity but often glossed over by typical field guides. Critical background information is provided for each group, enabling you to approach bird identification with a wide-angle view, using your eyes, brain, and binoculars more strategically, resulting in a more organized approach to learning birds.

Better Birding puts the thrill of expert bird identification within your reach.

- Reveals the techniques used by expert birders for quick and easy identification
- Simplifies identification with strategies tailored to different groupings of birds
- Features hundreds of photos and composite plates that illustrate the different techniques
- Fosters a wide-angle approach to field birding
- Provides a foundation for building stronger birding skills

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Editorial Review

Review

One of Audubon's 12 Best Bird Books of 2015

One of *The London Free Press*' "Great flock of birding books 2015"

"[A] serious, immensely informative book. . . . The book is like an expertly guided tour--one that visits wetlands, open country, waterways, forests, shores, and other habitats from Alaska and the Pacific coast to Florida's Dry Tortugas and the Gulf Stream waters off Cape Hatteras, making clear, along the way, what members of each group have in common and how they differ, and, indeed, why each bird is."--*BirdWatching Magazine*

"This book, written by George Armistead and Brian Sullivan, is a refreshed approach to species identification. While most field guides focus primarily on plumage, this approach is 'wide angled' and more holistic with habitat, behavior, and other contextual elements coming into play."--*London Free Press*

"The book covers some water birds and hawks, wrens, flycatchers, swifts and more, but wisely confines itself to groups of birds involving relatively few species. Each section includes numerous photographs and in some cases composite photo illustrations for comparisons. The accounts also include distribution maps."--**Tom Palmer, *Lakeland Ledger***

"It comes as no surprise that *Better Birding* is unashamedly directed towards a North American audience. Yet because the book is devoted to better ID techniques of bird families shared across the Northern Hemisphere or vagrant species which show up on either side of the Atlantic Ocean, many of the chapters contain pages of undoubted interest to a UK audience. . . . The authors should be congratulated in sticking to their chosen parameters and not falling into the trap of producing yet another full field guide to North American birds but instead focusing on/singling out a number of bird groups worthy of special mention."--*Another Bird Blog*

"The first 27 pages of *Better Birding* should be required reading for students of Birding 101. . . . The writing is clear, concise, and witty when it needs to be. The photographs couldn't be any better. In short, I can't think of a good reason not to have this book."--**Kirby Adams, *National Parks Traveler***

"An excellent book. . . . Sullivan and Armistead are two of the best birders in the country, each advancing the ways we understand and enjoy birds. . . . The introductory material . . . is particularly strong. . . . The book is richly illustrated with stunning photographs accompanied by concise and informative captions."--**Christopher Wood, Program Leader for ebird at Cornell Lab of Ornithology**

"The writing is . . . accessible but full of new observations about birds whose identification I haven't thought about thoroughly or critically enough in many cases. . . . This latest addition to the arsenal combines not just the finer points of identification (many of these original or obscure) but also a fresh way to look at some really wonderful sets of birds. . . . The approach is a holistic one, a very fresh and modern one, and it's the closest book I've seen that hints at how hardcore birders approach a day's birding in terms of hopes and expectations as well as identifications. In the end, it's the sharp photography that sells this book. Mouthwatering images."--**Edward S. Brinkley, author of *National Wildlife Federation Guide to Birds of North America***

"This book is extremely well conceptualized. As you read the text it becomes obvious it is written by two experts in the field, and the plates showing side-by-side comparisons of similar-looking species are brilliantly laid out. Since I am a raptor enthusiast, I read the accipiter section first, and was impressed with the level of detail geared towards field ID written in an easy to understand way!"--**Jerry Liguori, author of *Hawks from Every Angle and Hawks at a Distance***

"*Better Birding* . . . fills a niche, presenting detailed discussions of bird groups that are not 'sexy' enough to have their own guides, often falling through the cracks of avian publishing, but which pose identification puzzles in the field for even the most experienced birders. . . . The writing style is friendly, expansive, scientifically informed, and draws distinctive pictures of each species."--**Donna Schulman, 10,000 Birds blog**

"Want to be a real birder but don't know how to sharpen your skills? This book will teach you how to identify birds with ease and speed. George Armistead and Brian Sullivan share expert techniques for ID-ing different groups of birds. The book also shows how habitat and behavior can be used as crucial tools for birding."--**Emily Silber, Audubon.com**

"I'm hoping there's a sequel. . . . The writing is clear, concise, and witty when it needs to be. The photographs couldn't be any better. In short, I can't think of a good reason not to have this book."--**Kirby Adams, National Parks Traveler**

"The very readable text is dense and replete with species information and advice on what one can see by taking a wider perspective while birding. . . . [T]his is a well-produced reference for the novice and expert birder alike."--**Booklist**

"So will *Better Birding* actually help you to be a better birder? Yes, it certainly can. Intermediate birders, especially, will find it extremely useful. And anyone, experts included, should get it if it covers a group you'd like help with."--**Birders Library blog**

"Crisp photography, with side-by-side composite comparisons of similar species accompany detailed, easy-to-read text. The hundreds of photos are nearly worth the price of the book on their own. Above all, *Better Birding* was a fun read. Engaging, text hits the mark of being specific, but not overly technical. Photos bring birds to life, and show salient identification points described in the text."--**Carolina Bird Club Newsletter**

"*Better Birding* provides readers with the ability to confidently identify what they are see. Through clear descriptions and by presenting each bird with a history, learning about them through their life story makes the study enjoyable. *Better Birding* inspires us to make sound identification through the clarity of its descriptions and compelling profiles. This book makes keeping my resolution to be a better birder something I know I can do in the year ahead."--**Constantly Explore blog**

"Providing a foundation to improve readers' birdwatching abilities, the authors furthermore explain why birding is cool. Recommended for all readers who wish to become better birders."--**Library Journal**

"Before I go any further let me mention the gorgeous photographs in this book (e.g. check out the breeding plumage Pacific Loon on page 28. Wow!). As a person who loves to look at beautiful birds, I enjoy this element of the book greatly. If you do nothing else but read the Introduction to tile book, you will learn things to help you identify more birds."--**William Saur, The Passionate Birder Blog**

"Aimed at advanced birders, the book offers new ways to think about identifying selected groups of species. .

. . This is a lovely book; it is profusely illustrated with color photographs, a number of which show various views of similar bird species in flight on two-page spreads."--*Choice*

"The authors have written a book that provides a new avenue of exploration for the fine-tuning of our birding skills. . . . A valuable addition to the library of the birder, ornithologist, and natural history student."--

Howard O. Clark, Jr., *Western North American Naturalist*

"I have read the volume with an appetite I can't quite satisfy. Tips and techniques to becoming a better birder abound as photos and text combine to paint clear pictures of what it takes to improve your birding skills. A great read full of great info!"--*North Durham Nature Newsletter*

"This richly illustrated volume provides numerous insights into enhancing one's experience of birding. . . . Any library with readers interested in birds and birding should certainly acquire this volume, priced incredibly low for a work full of color photography. Academic libraries supporting programs in zoology or ornithology should also consider it."--**Mark Schumacher, *ARBA***

From the Back Cover

"This guide is an outstanding reference and a valuable contribution for birders at all levels. The format is reader friendly and the illustrations are stunning."--**Wayne Petersen, director of Mass Audubon's**

Important Bird Area Program

About the Author

George L. Armistead is events coordinator at the American Birding Association and a research associate in the Ornithology Department at the Academy of Natural Sciences of Drexel University. He has led birding tours on all seven continents. **Brian L. Sullivan** is eBird program codirector and photographic editor for Birds of North America Online at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. He is the author of numerous papers on bird identification and the coauthor of *The Crossley ID Guide: Raptors* and *Offshore Sea Life ID Guide: West Coast* (both Princeton).

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Gayle Oconnell:

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Meredith Butler:

Precisely why? Because this *Better Birding: Tips, Tools, and Concepts for the Field* is an unordinary book that the inside of the publication waiting for you to snap the item but latter it will jolt you with the secret this inside. Reading this book close to it was fantastic author who also write the book in such remarkable way makes the content inside easier to understand, entertaining method but still convey the meaning thoroughly. So , it is good for you because of not hesitating having this anymore or you going to regret it. This excellent book will give you a lot of positive aspects than the other book get such as help improving your skill and your critical thinking means. So , still want to hold up having that book? If I had been you I will go to the book store hurriedly.

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