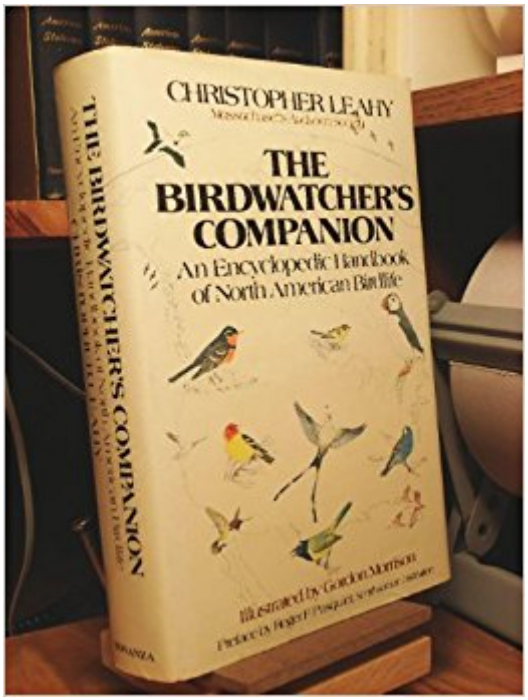
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The Birdwatchers Companion: An Encyclopedic Handbook Of North American Birdlife



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Synopsis

The Birdwatchers Companion: An Encyclopedic Handbook of North American Birdlife

Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 3.4 out of 5 stars 5 customer reviews

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Customer Reviews

The Birdwatchers Companion: An Encyclopedic Handbook of North American Birdlife

A lot of info in this book is outdated or just wrong...such as highest flying bird, birding rules, old illustrations, too many opinions.

A must have reference for the serious and hobby bird watcher.The item was recieved quickly and in excellent condition.

I ordered this as a birthday gift. There was a problem with the billing information and waited 2 days to inform me of the error. The birthday came and went without the present.

The work being reviewed here was first published in 1982 with republication dates of 1997 and 1998. I contains 917 pages and weighs in at almost two and a half pounds. It is absolutely packed with information from cover to cover. There is very, very little wasted space in this wonderful work.Now it should be noted that since this book was first published (And it is still in its original form) a lot of information found in it can now be found on the internet. A person though would have great

difficulties finding another source of so much birding information gathered in one place. Yes, I use the internet, but I also use quite a large collection of bird books which I have collected over the years. This work, "The Birdwatcher’s Companion," by Christopher Leachy is my number one "go to" source for information. I used it extensively when it was first published and I use it extensively even to this day.Now please note that this work IS NOT a highly illustrated field guide meant for identification. No, it is like an encyclopedia of well, bird watching, or as we would say today, "Birding." I have yet to come up with a question about birds or birding, unless it was a question dealing with species specifics that I have not been able to find in this work. It is set up sort of like a dictionary. If you want to know about "leucism," then you simply look it up and read the paragraph explaining. Thousands of terms are covered in this manner; all quite easy to find. Subjects are covered in depth in all cases.I have found that the explanations, definitions, theories, practices, methodology and more to all be concisely addressed and extremely through. Information found in this book most certainly has not been "dumbed-down" in the slightest, but all is presented in a way that it is extremely understandable, even to the absolute novice. (Well, that may be a bit of an exaggeration but truest me, if I can understand it, then almost anyone will be able to).Even when I do not have a specific bit of information I need or want to learn about, I love just leafing through this work reading bits here and there at random. While this book is certainly not designed to be a "read it straight through cover to cover" sort of read, you will find that if you keep it handy that it will amaze you how much of the book can the thoroughly read over a period of time.If you are interested in birds on any level; from the casual observer to the fanatical lister, then this is most certainly one of the most important books you will want to add to your resource collection.Don BlankenshipThe Ozarks

If you’re interested in a subject, there are times that particular concepts or words come up that you simply don’t understand. What is "fossorial"? What is "scansorial"? How do baby birds get out of their shells? What is migration all about?While the internet is a great resource, it doesn’t always have what you’re looking for, and the information can be quite wrong depending on the source. That’s where an encyclopedia like this comes in handy.Yes, it’s pretty hefty at over 900 pages. It’s a solid tome for your bookshelf. But there are times that it comes in SO handy while reading your latest birding magazine, or when someone asks you a question you simply don’t know the answer to.If you can track this down, it’s well worth having!

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