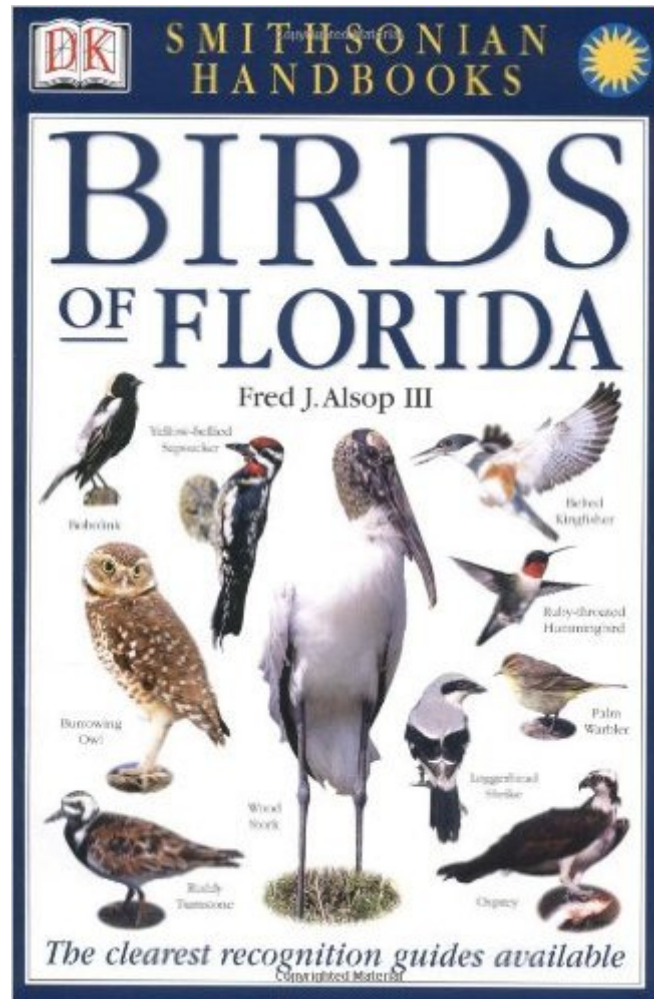


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# Smithsonian Handbooks: Birds Of Florida (Smithsonian Handbooks)



## Synopsis

The most comprehensive series of field guides to North American birds ever. This impressive collection highlights birds from all regions of the United States including localized areas such as the Mid-Atlantic, the Pacific Northwest and New England. Whether birding in the foothills of New England, the prairies of the Midwest, or the beaches of Florida, Smithsonian Handbooks are the most comprehensive field guides to North American birds on the market. Looking for the Great Blue Heron or the Piping Plover while visiting the Great Lakes? Desperate to find the rare Long Billed Curlew or the Marbled Godwit during a hike in the Cascade Mountains? There's no need to look any further! Created in association with the Smithsonian Institution, these amazing guides are an absolute staple for any birder or amateur ornithologist. Each local species receives its own profile, along with descriptions of habitats and annotated photographs that highlight specific characteristics and other points of interest. Take bird watching to new heights!

## Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 starsÂ Â See all reviewsÂ (82 customer reviews)

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## Customer Reviews

As the other reviewers have pointed out, this book covers every bird that has ever been seen in FL (well, not counting the dusky-headed parakeet we saw south of Tampa), but the index is terrible. On arrival in Florida we saw two egrets, one of which I knew was a great egret and other of which I knew was a snowy egret - but which was which? Unfortunately, when I went to the index for page numbers, all that was listed under "egrets" was cattle egret and rusty egret. The others were listed by their latin names only in another listing. The information was in the book, but not to be found

through the index. The same with herons - the index lists only great blue, green, little blue and tricolored, although the book also includes info on the black crowned night-heron, and yellow crowned night-heron, both permanent Florida residents. I turned back to my Sibley's almost immediately because I had lost confidence in this book. Better books are available in Florida.

Whether you want to take up the hobby of birdwatching, identify the water birds you see while touring the Everglades, or simply recognize the birds at your backyard bird feeder, this is a great guide to the birds of Florida. As with every DK guidebook I have ever used, this one is high quality. Within its heavy paper covers are lots of brilliantly colored illustrations and a wealth of information about each of the 331 species of birds known to occur regularly in Florida. It is published in association with the Smithsonian Institution. Information in the full page profile of each species includes clear drawings and photographs with distinguishing features labelled, song, behavior, breeding, nesting and nest identification, flight patterns, location, habitat, and migratory habits. There is also general information on the anatomy and topography of birds, species and gender variations, birdwatching techniques, and tips on ways to identify birds, including physical and flight characteristics. Since the bird profiles are arranged in taxonomic order, you have to page through the book, matching illustrations, in order to locate the profile of the bird you wish to identify. To help speed up identification, use the handy "similar birds" feature. When you find a bird close in appearance to the one you are seeking, this feature lists other species that are similar in order to help you hone in on the one you are looking for. This guidebook is a great resource for everyone from the casual observer to the serious birdwatcher. Happy birding! Eileen Rieback

I just arrived in Florida and tried to find 3 birds I was not familiar with. Only one of three clearly identified. I went back to the tried and true Golden Book and found two of the three. Gulls are insufficiently covered in the Smithsonian book, particularly as Gulls may not have final markings for 2-4 years. No color illustrations of these. A disappointing book.

An excellent field guide, but the "of Florida" tag is very misleading. It is actually a general guide to birds of North America, superficially edited to imply that it was produced specifically for Florida. All of the range maps show the entire North American continent, rather than focusing on ranges within the state of Florida. The species notes are also very general for North America, providing no insights into status of populations in Florida. It appears that very little consideration of Florida was given to selection of the species included in the guide. Western species are indeed mentioned in a separate

section, but Eastern species from the subtropics to the subarctic are all included as if they were Florida birds. If you are looking for detailed bird information specifically for the state of Florida, this is not the bird guide for you.

An excellent book for identifying birds. Anyone interested in Florida birds can use this book. However, its main drawback is that it offers very few specifics on when and where to find these birds IN FLORIDA. The main reason to consider a book on FLORIDA BIRDS is that it will tell you how to find these birds IN FLORIDA. For example, it states that the Swallow-tailed Kite is listed as endangered in South Carolina, which is unfortunate to be sure, but totally useless to finding this bird in Florida.

This is a very generic book on birds of the eastern U.S. If you want to find birds specific to Florida you will have to cull through every map and determine if that particular bird is indigenous to Florida or even occasionally flies over the state. If you want a book specific to FLORIDA birds you would be advised to look elsewhere.

the title should be "Every bird that has ever been in Florida and might return" that and the small print are my only complaints. The pictures are great. Every bird is described in great detail including behavior, nesting habits, frequency, voice. The maps show all of North America so a bird that hugs the coast in the winter is hard to see. This book will be in my pocket during my upcoming trips to Florida.

We live in Florida on a channel so we get a lot of birds flying, nesting and swimming up and down the corridor. This is an easy to read accurate weather proof book to have at the ready to identify our birdy visitors.

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