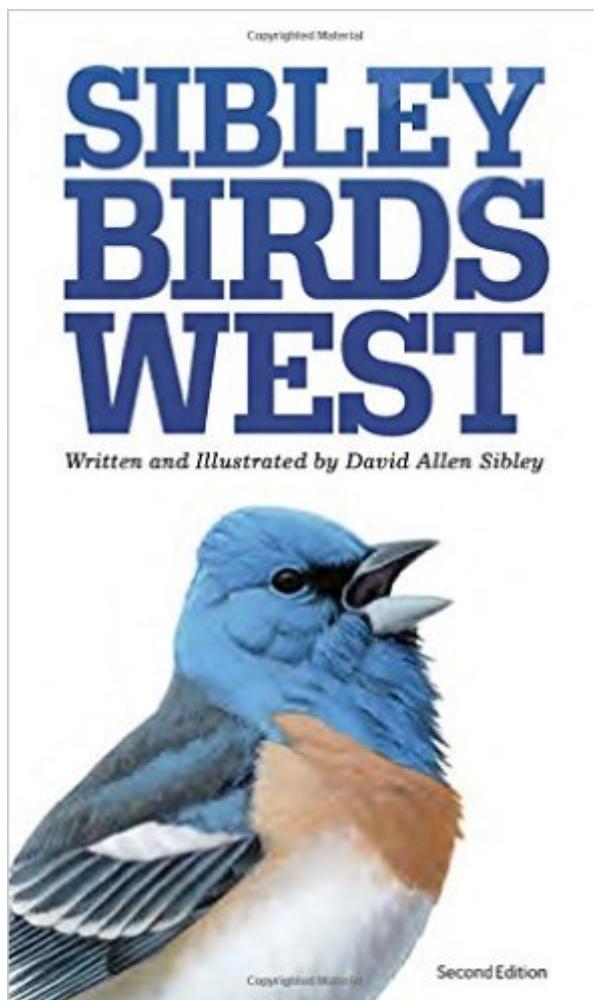


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Sibley Birds West: Field Guide To Birds Of Western North America



Synopsis

FlexiboundNow completely revised and updated--the indispensable resource for all birders seeking an authoritative guide to the birds of the West in a portable format they will want to carry into the field.Â Â Compact and comprehensive, this guide features 715 bird species, plus regional populations, found west of the Rocky Mountains. Entries include stunningly accurate illustrations--more than 5,046 in total--with descriptive captions pointing out the most important field marks. Each entry has been updated to include the most current information concerning frequency, nesting, behavior, food and feeding, voice description, and key identification features. Here too are more than 652 updated maps drawn from information contributed by 110 regional experts across the continent, and showing winter, summer, year-round, migration, and rare ranges.**NEW AND IMPROVED:**Â Â â ¢ Â Updated habitat, description, behavior, and conservation text for each species account and all family pages (drawn from the second edition ofÂ The Sibley Guide to BirdsÂ and tailored for the specific region). Â Â â ¢ Â All illustrations, including new and revised illustrations of species and regional forms, are taken from the rescanned and meticulously color-corrected second printing of the second edition of theÂ Sibley Guide. Â Â â ¢ Â New design reflects the layout ofÂ The Sibley Guide to Birds, Second Edition. All species accounts are now presented in columns, rather than stacked, allowing for better comparison and more illustrations and text for each species. Â Â â ¢ Â Current taxonomic order and up-to-date common names. Â Â â ¢ Â All maps revised to reflect the most current range information. Â Â â ¢ Â More species and rarities included.

Book Information

Paperback: 504 pages

Publisher: Knopf; 2nd edition (March 29, 2016)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0307957926

ISBN-13: 978-0307957924

Product Dimensions: 4.9 x 1.1 x 7.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.4 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.9 out of 5 starsÂ Â See all reviewsÂ (31 customer reviews)

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Customer Reviews

I ordered this book the day after I was hired to survey birds in National Park properties through out the Chihuahuan Desert. The second edition of "Birds West" is the first Sibley publication I've owned and I can not deny it has been a spectacular investment in the field. Up until this point I have relied on National Geographic's field guide to Western Birds and have been referencing both through out the season. What sets Sibley apart is not necessarily his artwork (which is exceptional regardless), but his knack for providing extraordinarily helpful information in a brief format. The Nat Geo guide attempts to cram visual, behavioral, and habitat information into a small paragraph which allows maximal room for illustration. Sibley, on the other hand, has developed a format geared to maximize the recognition of diagnostic traits in the field. Each section is prefaced with a reference page showing each species, grouped into genus, side by side. This really helps you recognize the shared traits of a genus which can make all the difference when you're in a location with 6 wren species coming from 6 different genus. On the individual pages, Sibley gives more than adequate descriptions of the habitat you're likely to find each bird in and his comprehensive illustrations and sketches high light even the least expected diagnostic features. Thanks to this I was able to initially ID a Black-chinned Hummer from its display flight pattern alone. The only short-coming of this regional field guide is a trivial one unique to the situation I find myself in. Surveying areas that fall right on the border that divides Sibley's Western guide from his Eastern, he has chosen to exclude some rarities, like the Great Kiskadee and Ringed Kingfisher, that would've been helpful.

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