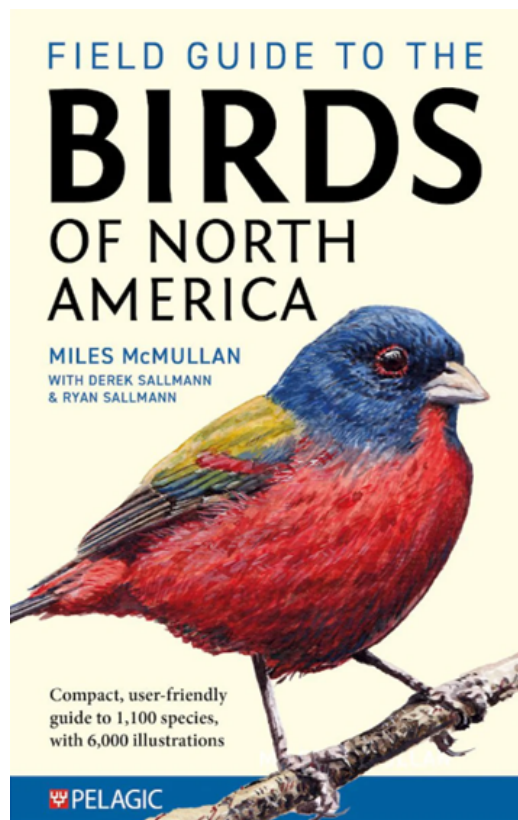


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A RELIABLE COMPANION FOR DISCOVERING NORTH AMERICAN BIRDS



McMullan M., Sallmann D. & Sallmann R., 2025. Field Guide to the Birds of North America. Pelagic Publishing, Exeter, UK, 360 pp

The book by Miles McMullan, with contributions from Derek and Ryan Sallmann, is a fresh and vibrant addition to the ever-growing library of ornithological field guides. Published by Pelagic in 2025, this guide manages to be both a comprehensive resource for birders and an approachable entry point for beginners, where the clarity of the book and the thoughtful design are key elements. Covering an impressive 1,100 species, the guide is compact and easy to carry in the field, an achievement in itself given the breadth of content. The organization is intuitive, with clear species accounts and logical groupings that make navigation through is an easy task even for novice users. The soft cover contributes to its portability in the field, making it easy to pack and handle, though it may slightly compromise durability over extended use or in harsh weather conditions. What truly distinguishes this guide are the illustrations. With over 6,000 detailed images, the visual element is exceptional. Each bird is shown in various postures and plumage phases, including juvenile and seasonal variations when relevant, making identification in the field much easier. The artwork is consistently high-quality, managing to combine scientific accuracy

with artistic clarity. Another standout feature is the inclusion of useful maps at the beginning of the book, depicting North America's biomes, precipitation patterns, and provincial boundaries. These provide valuable ecological and geographical context and help orient the reader before even getting into species-level details. The authors' experience in the field shines through in the concise yet informative descriptions. Each account includes key ID features, vocalizations, habitat preferences, and often, behavioural notes that enrich the species presentation. All this information is provided through an accessible language, never losing the reader in incomprehensible technical jargon. This field guide also stands out in its sensitivity to regional diversity. From arid deserts and boreal forests to coastal wetlands and mountain ranges, the authors ensure a fair representation of the vast geographic and ecological diversity of North American birds. In sum, the *Field Guide* is a reliable companion for any birdwatcher eager to explore and identify the rich avian life of North America. Whether you are scanning your backyard feeder or trekking through remote wilderness, this guide earns its place in your backpack.

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