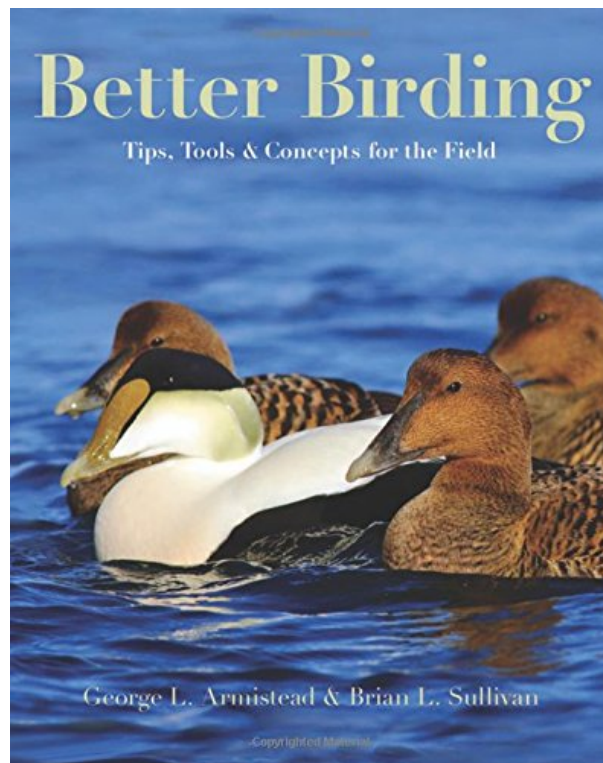
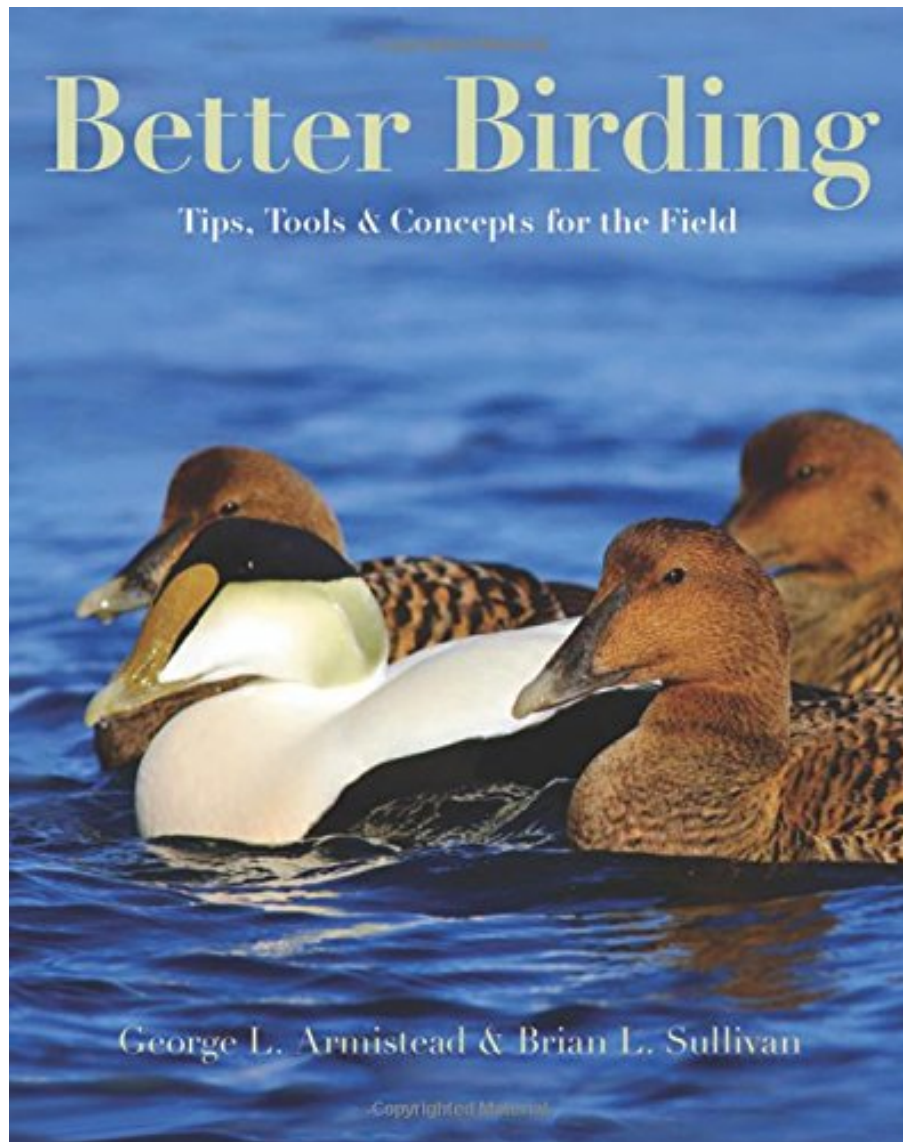


**BETTER BIRDING: TIPS, TOOLS, AND
CONCEPTS FOR THE FIELD BY GEORGE L.
ARMISTEAD, BRIAN L. SULLIVAN**



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PDF

Well, publication *Better Birding: Tips, Tools, And Concepts For The Field By George L. Armistead, Brian L. Sullivan* will certainly make you closer to exactly what you are ready. This *Better Birding: Tips, Tools, And Concepts For The Field By George L. Armistead, Brian L. Sullivan* will certainly be always buddy any sort of time. You might not forcedly to always complete over reviewing a publication in other words time. It will be just when you have spare time and also investing couple of time to make you feel satisfaction with exactly what you check out. So, you can get the meaning of the message from each sentence in guide.

Review

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"[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

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PDF

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.

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- 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

- Sales Rank: #234315 in Books
- Brand: Armistead George L
- Published on: 2015-12-08
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 9.40" h x .80" w x 7.30" l, .0 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 360 pages

Features

- Better Birding Tips Tools and Concepts for the Field

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23 of 24 people found the following review helpful.

Not To Be Missed.

By Edward S. Brinkley

I've just read about half this book, which came in the mail yesterday. The photographs are all of very high quality and also very well selected to illustrate some of the more difficult issues in North American bird identification. Throughout, the writing is terse and accessible but full of new observations about birds whose identification I haven't thought about thoroughly or critically enough in many cases. I'm one of those aging birders, and though I don't like to admit it, eyes, ears, and memory are not what they once were! There was a period of some years where I could spit out a dozen field marks for difficult species or groups of birds, but lately I need a refresher course - and a new way of looking at groups of birds like swifts, longspurs, and even those brown ducks ("monochromatic Mallards" they call them). Each generation of birders takes up the challenge of identification in new and different ways, and 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 - their habits, their habitats, their natural histories, all balanced in such a way as to make one want to read just one more page. Ever wonder what wintering habitat of Le Conte's Sparrow looks like? There's a great photo that makes one want to walk through the field (and look for Henslow's and Grasshopper Sparrows as well). So 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. But in the end, it's the sharp photography that sells this book. Mouthwatering images. Even the juvenile Seaside Sparrow is probably one of the best images I've seen of this plumage - one that causes a lot of confusion. The authors take full advantage of the digital age, and their photo-montages of similar species (brown seabirds, anyone?) are among the most useful and tasteful I've seen. The layouts of the screech-owls, for instance, made distinctions among species (and subspecies - about which I learned a lot) very clear and easy to remember. I love a book like this - it stays open when I'm reading it, the images are large and sharp, and space is used economically - the chapter frontispieces are artistic and inspired, very inviting, and the chapters are dense but never overloaded, never what I would call difficult, never ponderous. That's not easy to do - the layout is deceptively simple, the writing very laid-back,

but the concepts conveyed can be quite subtle or complex. But one retains the points well, somehow. While the book might not be ideal for someone who has just started birding, it's a great book for people who feel that they need a bit of help with Fish Crow versus American Crow, for instance, who feel a bit insecure about some of their field work. (If we are not in that place now, we can remember when we were!) Too often, experts, both in writing and in person, fail to spell out all the subtle cues that help them identify such birds at a distance with accuracy. The authors do a great job of validating the difficulty in identifying, correctly and critically, many of our common species - their work in professional bird guiding, in scientific field work, in education/outreach, and in citizen science (with eBird) has surely helped them understand what the most regularly misidentified birds are, and these make up the bulk of the book. Granted, some species that are included require a trip offshore, or to Alaska, but that's not such a bad thing, is it? (I've never seen a Kittlitz's Murrelet, but after that chapter, I'm going to see one in 2016.) There are surely a dozen more groups of species that the authors might have treated - but perhaps there will be a second volume in years to come. We can hope. Anyone looking for a last-minute holiday gift for a birder? Grab one. They'll gift wrap it, I hear.

7 of 7 people found the following review helpful.

The gift that will keep on giving

By Holly Merker

A field guide is a gift that keeps giving, since you can crack it open hundreds (if not thousands) of times and never tire of it, and always learn something new. Little gifts of knowledge, presented to you, sometimes when you least expect it.

I gifted myself a thousand-times over when I pre-ordered my copy of Better Birding.

I received Better Birding from Amazon in the mail a week ago, and can't put it down. This is the most comprehensive guide to birding I've ever opened, and lives up to the title of "field guide". Many books can interpret birds for you, but Better Birding interprets both field birding, and birds, in a way that is easy to understand, but more importantly, to absorb, for birders of all experience levels.

Throughout the book, George L. Armistead and Brian L. Sullivan, guide you through field experiences, offering insight and tips on how to recognize, meet, and become intimate with birds on a level that is unparalleled by other available resources.

The visual appeal, with the outstanding photographic images that were selected for this book, are artfully arranged with care, to teach anyone with an interest in birds. "Eye-candy" for the avian enthusiast. This is one of the reasons I'm having a hard time putting it down.

The first twenty-seven pages of the book tackle aspects of birding that no other guide has done before. These pages guide you through why it matters to understand bird distributions, habitats, and expectation of species in your region. The authors explain taxonomy, and how that can play a role in your field experience - something that might otherwise seem complex, and overwhelming. But here, is so simply presented: it just makes sense.

Additionally, Armistead and Sullivan carefully address the tricky topic of using playback in the field, and present a discussion that should be a "must read" for all birders.

All of these tools provided for you are important in gaining a basis of knowledge that will enrich your experience in the field, and make you into a better birder.

As an environmental educator by profession. I spend a lot of time teaching, and interpreting, birds for younger people, in particular. This book will now be my "go-to resource" for interpreting birds for others. I'm especially excited to pass-on some of the "Focus on" tips and strategies given in this book. These tips are

concise, targeted, and make sense, and will undoubtedly help dissolve that "overwhelmed feeling" we all have had when trying to comb through difficult-to-identify species.

There is no doubt that this is a book I'll be recommending countless times, and to many birders and naturalists, young and old. You can never have too many field guides, and this is an absolute need for any birder or naturalist!

Gift yourself, and your friends, with this outstanding book! You will be so happy that you did, and will undoubtedly become a better birder.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful.

The pictures are wonderful, the information is really easy to understand

By Brumbe

I bought this as a gift for a birding fan and took the time to look through the pages. The pictures are wonderful, the information is really easy to understand, and the giftee really raved about the book.

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"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 the 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

"Better Birding provides a thoughtful and holistic approach to bird identification that often is missing from traditional field guides."--Stephen J. Dinsmore, Prairie Naturalist

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).

Well, publication *Better Birding: Tips, Tools, And Concepts For The Field* By George L. Armistead, Brian L. Sullivan will certainly make you closer to exactly what you are ready. This Better Birding: Tips, Tools, And

Concepts For The Field By George L. Armistead, Brian L. Sullivan will certainly be always buddy any sort of time. You might not forcedly to always complete over reviewing a publication in other words time. It will be just when you have spare time and also investing couple of time to make you feel satisfaction with exactly what you check out. So, you can get the meaning of the message from each sentence in guide.