

Naturalist's Reading List

Creative Non-fiction, Field Guides, Textbooks, Biographies, Film

Read (JeP)	Title	Author	Category	Recommended By	Comments
x	One More Warbler: A Life with Birds	Emanuel, Victor & S. Kirk Walsh	Biography		Emanuel recalls a lifetime of birding adventures—from his childhood sighting of a male Cardinal that ignited his passion for birds to a once-in-a-lifetime journey to Asia to observe all eight species of cranes of that continent.
x	Life List: A Woman's Quest for the World's Most Amazing Birds	Gentile, Olivia	Biography	FR, JeP	Told she had less than a year to live, a St. Louis housewife and avid backyard birder, decided to spend that year traveling the world in search of birds. Her doctors were wrong, but Phoebe's passion had been ignited and she spent the next eighteen years crisscrossing the globe recklessly staking out her quarry.
x	Kingbird Highway: The Biggest Year in the Life of an Extreme Birder	Kaufman, Kenn	Biography	CC, JeP	At sixteen, Kenn Kaufman dropped out of the high school where he was student council president and hit the road, hitching back and forth across America, from Alaska to Florida, Maine to Mexico seeking birds.
	Birding on Borrowed Time	Snetsinger, Phoebe	Biography	FR	Birders will be the audience for this autobiography of Snetsinger, who traveled widely and saw an unprecedented 8000 types of birds in her lifetime.
	A Natural History of the Senses	Ackerman, Diane	Creative Non-fiction		Grand tour of the realm of the senses includes conversations with an iceberg in Antarctica and a professional nose in New York, along with dissertations on kisses and tattoos, sadistic cuisine and the music played by the planet Earth.
	The Curious Naturalist	Ackerman, Jennifer G.	Creative Non-fiction		This indispensable guide encourages the practicing amateur to become an expert in the natural world.
	The Genius of Birds	Ackerman, Jennifer G.	Creative Non-fiction		According to revolutionary new research, some birds rival primates and even humans in their remarkable forms of intelligence. Ackerman explores their newly discovered brilliance and how it came about.
	What an Owl Knows: the New Science of the World's Most Enigmatic Birds	Ackerman, Jennifer G.	Creative Non-fiction	MGZ	<i>Ackerman is a science journalist who worked with many owl researchers and distilled their findings for a general audience. A fascinating read!</i>
	My Life with Cranes: A Collection of Stories.	Archibald, George	Creative Non-fiction	JB, MGZ	<i>In the 1970s, Archibald and his fellow grad student Ron Sauey founded the International Crane Foundation, and dedicated their lives to saving the world's cranes through education and captive breeding and reintroduction programs. These are some of George's stories from his travels around the world.</i>
x	African Genesis: A Personal Investigation into the Animal Origins and Nature of Man	Ardrey, Robert	Creative Non-fiction	JeP	In 1955 on a visit to South Africa, Robert Ardrey became aware of the growing evidence that man had evolved on the African continent from carnivorous, predatory stock, who had also, long before man, achieved the use of weapons.
	The Sounds of Life: How Digital Technology Is Bringing Us Closer to the Worlds of Animals and Plants	Bakker, Karen	Creative Non-fiction		The natural world teems with remarkable conversations, many beyond human hearing range. Scientists are using groundbreaking digital technologies to uncover these astonishing sounds, revealing vibrant communication among our fellow creatures across the Tree of Life.
x	Adventures with a Texas Naturalist	Bedichek, Roy	Creative Non-fiction	JeP	A classic since its first publication in 1947, Adventures with a Texas Naturalist distills a lifetime of patient observations of the natural world.
	Flight of the Godwit: Tracking Epic Shorebird Migrations	Beehler, Bruce	Creative Non-fiction	NPR	Flight of the Godwit invites readers on ornithologist Bruce M. Beehler's awe-inspiring journey in search of North America's largest and farthest-flying shorebirds.
	American Wolf: A True Story of Survival and Obsession in the West	Blakeslee, Nate	Creative Non-fiction	CR, CC	Tells the gripping story of one of these wolves, O-Six, a charismatic alpha female named for the year of her birth.
	Parking Lot Birding	Bristol, Jennifer L	Creative Non-fiction	MGZ	<i>This is a good reference for places to bird across the state of Texas.</i>
x	A Short History of Nearly Everything	Bryson, Bill	Creative Non-fiction	JeP	Taking as territory everything from the Big Bang to the rise of civilization, Bryson seeks to understand how we got from there being nothing at all to there being us.
	The Celestial Hunter	Calasso, Roberto	Creative Non-fiction	NPR	<i>The eighth part of Roberto Calasso's monumental series on the primal forces of civilization</i>
	The Ruin of Kasch	Calasso, Roberto	Creative Non-fiction	NPR	leads us along an enticing maze of mythology, literature, art, and science to the pulsing heart of civilization, where he deciphers the deepest secrets of history.
x	Silent Spring	Carson, Rachel	Creative Non-fiction	JeP, MN	Documented the environmental harm caused by the indiscriminate use of DDT, a pesticide used by soldiers during World War II. Carson accused the chemical industry of spreading disinformation, and public officials of accepting the industry's marketing claims unquestioningly.
	The Sense of Wonder	Carson, Rachel	Creative Non-fiction		intimate account of adventures with her young nephew, Roger, as they enjoy walks along the rocky coast of Maine and through dense forests and open fields, observing wildlife, strange plants, moonlight and storm clouds, and listening to the "living music" of insects in the underbrush.
x	Orison for a Curlew: In Search for a bird on the edge of extinction	Clare, Horatio	Creative Non-fiction	JeP, MN	The slender-billed curlew, <i>Numenius tenuirostris</i> , "the slim beak of the new moon," is one of the world's rarest birds. It once bred in Siberia and wintered in the Mediterranean basin, passing through the wetlands and estuaries of Italy, Greece, the Balkans and Central Asia.
	House of Lost Worlds: Dinosaurs, Dynasties, and the Story of Life on Earth	Conniff, Richard	Creative Non-fiction		Story of how one museum changed ideas about dinosaurs, dynasties, and even the story of life on earth.
x	The Species Seekers: Heroes, Fools, and the Mad Pursuit of Life on Earth	Conniff, Richard	Creative Non-fiction	JeP	From the mid-eighteenth century to the early twentieth, a colorful band of amateur naturalists explored the most perilous corners of the planet to discover new life-forms. Amid globe-spanning tales of adventure, Richard Conniff recounts a dramatic historical shift, as humans finally discovered the pantheon of life on Earth—and our place within it
	Better Living Through Birding: Notes from a Black Man in the Natural World	Cooper, Christian	Creative Non-fiction	ABA	Christian Cooper is a self-described "Blerd" (Black nerd), an avid comics fan and expert birder who devotes every spring to gazing upon the migratory birds that stop to rest in Central Park, just a subway ride away from where he lives in New York City.
	The Descent of Man	Darwin, Charles	Creative Non-fiction	JeP, ES	Focuses special attention on the origin and history of our own species, a subject he had avoided in his previous writings on evolution.
x	The Origin of Species	Darwin, Charles	Creative Non-fiction	JeP, ES	The first mature and persuasive work to explain how species change through the process of natural selection.
	The Bald Eagle: the Improbable Journey of America's Bird	Davis, Jack E	Creative Non-fiction	MGZ	<i>Davis is a history professor who writes well. I also enjoyed his book The Gulf: the Making of an American Sea.</i>
x	Paddling the Wild Neches	Donovan, Richard	Creative Non-fiction	JeP, CG	From its origins on a sandy hillside in Van Zandt County, the Neches River flows through the heart of East Texas. In its watershed lies some of the wildest country in Texas, tucked amid the remains of one of the finest hardwood forests in the world.

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	The Wind Masters: The Lives of North American Birds of Prey	Dunne, Pete	Creative Non-fiction		The author shows what it is like to be a bird of prey and shows us how each bird sees the world, hunts its prey, finds and courts its mate, rears its young, grows up, grows old, and dies.
	A Walk in the Park: The True Story of a Spectacular Misadventure in the Grand Canyon	Fedarko, Kevin	Creative Non-fiction	CR	Two friends, zero preparation, one dream. A few years after quitting his job to pursue an ill-advised dream of becoming a whitewater guide on the Colorado River, Kevin Fedarko was approached by his best friend, National Geographic photographer Pete McBride, with a vision as bold as it was harebrained.
	Coyote America	Flores, Dan	Creative Non-fiction	CR, SM, MAR, CC	Legends don't come close to capturing the incredible story of the coyote. In the face of centuries of campaigns of annihilation employing gases, helicopters, and engineered epidemics, coyotes didn't just survive, they thrived, expanding across the continent from Alaska to New York.
	Birds of the Central Oaks and Prairies of Texas with Emphasis on Historical Changes	Frenz, Bert	Creative Non-fiction	AS	Volume 1 of 2. Not since Oberholser's monumental 1974 Birds of Texas has an author attempted to characterize the status and changes in Texas birdlife, focusing on the central Post Oak Savannah and Blackland Prairies.
	The Creative Spark: How Imagination Made Humans Exceptional	Fuentes, Agustin	Creative Non-fiction	NPR	A new synthesis of paleontology, archaeology, genetics, and anthropology that overturns misconceptions about race, war and peace, and human nature itself, answering an age-old question: What made humans so exceptional among all the species on Earth?
x	Why We Believe	Fuentes, Agustin	Creative Non-fiction	JeP	Why are so many humans religious? Why do we daydream, imagine, and hope? Philosophers, theologians, social scientists, and historians have offered explanations for centuries, but their accounts often ignore or even avoid human evolution. Evolutionary scientists answer with proposals for why ritual, religion, and faith make sense as adaptations to past challenges or as by-products of our hyper-complex cognitive capacities.
x	How Birds Evolve	Futuyma, Douglas J.	Creative Non-fiction	JeP	explores how evolution has shaped the distinctive characteristics and behaviors we observe in birds today.
	Crossings: How Road Ecology Is Shaping the Future of Our Planet	Goldfarb, Ben	Creative Non-fiction	FR	Some 40 million miles of roadways encircle the earth, yet we tend to regard them only as infrastructure for human convenience. While roads are so ubiquitous they're practically invisible to us, wild animals experience them as entirely alien forces of death and disruption.
	Eager: The Surprising, Secret Life of Beavers and Why They Matter	Goldfarb, Ben	Creative Non-fiction	JS	Reveals that our modern idea of what a healthy landscape looks like and how it functions is wrong, distorted by the fur trade that once trapped out millions of beavers from North America's lakes and rivers. The consequences of losing beavers were profound: streams eroded, wetlands dried up, and species from salmon to swans lost vital habitat.
	The Dawn of Everything: a New History of Humanity	Graeber, David and David Wengrow	Creative Non-fiction	NPR	A dramatically new understanding of human history, challenging our most fundamental assumptions about social evolution—from the development of agriculture and cities to the origins of the state, democracy, and inequality—and revealing new possibilities for human emancipation.
	40 Years of Evolution: Darwin's Finches on Daphne Major Island	Grant, Peter R. and B Rosemary Grant	Creative Non-fiction		Groundbreaking 40 year study of Darwin's Finches
x	Goodbye to a River	Graves, John	Creative Non-fiction	JeP, CG	In the 1950s, a series of dams was proposed along the Brazos River in north-central Texas. For John Graves, this project meant that if the stream's regimen was thus changed, the beautiful and sometimes brutal surrounding countryside would also change, as would the lives of the people whose rugged ancestors had eked out an existence there. Graves therefore decided to visit that stretch of the river, which he had known intimately as a youth.
	Mind of the Raven: Investigations and Adventures with Wolf-Birds	Heinrich, Berndt	Creative Non-fiction	CC	Much like a sleuth, the author involves us in his quest to understand the raven's world, letting one clue lead to the next.
x	Armadillos to Ziziphus: A Naturalist in the Texas Hill Country	Hillis, David M.	Creative Non-fiction	JeP, MN	For most of five decades, evolutionary biologist David Hillis has studied the biodiversity of the Texas Hill Country. Since the 1990s, he has worked to restore the natural beauty and diversity of his Mason County ranch, the Double Helix. In his excursions around his ranch and across the Edwards Plateau, Hillis came to realize how little most people know about the plants and animals around them or their importance to our everyday lives.
	A Season on the Wind: Inside the World of Spring Migration	Kaufman, Kenn	Creative Non-fiction		A close look at one season in one key site that reveals the amazing science and magic of spring bird migration, and the perils of human encroachment.
	The Birds that Audubon Missed	Kaufman, Kenn	Creative Non-fiction		Examines the scientific discoveries of John James Audubon and his artistic and ornithologist peers
	Why the Raven Calls the Canyon Off the Grid in Big Bend Country	Klepper, E	Creative Non-fiction		Big bend off grid
x	The Singing Life of Birds	Kroodsma, Donald	Creative Non-fiction	JeP	Listen to birds sing as you've never listened before, as the world-renowned birdsong expert Donald Kroodsma takes you on personal journeys of discovery and intrigue.
	Chimney Swifts: America's Mysterious Birds above the Fireplace	Kyle, Paul and Georgean	Creative Non-fiction	MGZ	<i>The Kyles are wildlife rehabbers who have devoted decades to designing chimneys and rearing generations of chimney swifts.</i>
	The American Bird Conservancy Guide to Bird Conservation	Lebbin, Daniel J, Michael J Parr, and George H Fenwick	Creative Non-fiction	MGZ	<i>Includes species accounts for 212 Watch List birds; habitats, including many Important Bird Areas; threats; international areas of concern; and a list of conservation priorities by state.</i>
	Is Earth Exceptional?: The Quest for Cosmic Life	Livio, Mario	Creative Non-fiction		Exploration to discover how and where the universe breathed itself into life.
	Is a River Alive?	Macfarlane, Robert	Creative Non-fiction		Brings his glittering style to a profound work of travel writing, reportage, and natural history.
	Fastest Things on Wings: Rescuing Hummingbirds in Hollywood	Masear, Terry	Creative Non-fiction	SP	A heartwarming account of the trials and triumphs a Hollywood hummingbird rehabber encounters while caring for her tiny, fragile patients.
x	The Snow Leopard	Matthiessen, Peter	Creative Non-fiction	JeP	In 1973, Peter Matthiessen and field biologist George Schaller traveled high into the remote mountains of Nepal to study the Himalayan blue sheep and possibly glimpse the rare and beautiful snow leopard. Matthiessen, a student of Zen Buddhism, was also on a spiritual quest to find the Lama of Shey at the ancient shrine on Crystal Mountain.
x	The Life History of a Texas Birdwatcher: Connie Hagar of Rockport	McCracken, Karen Harden	Creative Non-fiction	JeP	Connie Hagar's life history is more than just a bird book. Hers is a story of dedication to nature and the role she could play in promoting it to others, despite recurring threats of blindness and other health problems.

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	The Alpha Wolves of Yellowstone (5 book series)	McIntyre, Rick	Creative Non-fiction	CR	This is the incredible true story of wolves of Yellowstone.
	A Most Remarkable Creature	Meiburg, Jonathan	Creative Non-fiction	HLF	About the Striated Caracara, animal intelligence, evolution, taxonomy
x	Why Fish Don't Exist: A Story of Loss, Love, and the Hidden Order of Life	Miller, Lulu	Creative Non-fiction	JeP	Part biography, part memoir, part scientific adventure, Why Fish Don't Exist is a wondrous fable about how to persevere in a world where chaos will always prevail.
	Of Time And Turtles Mending the World, Shell by Shattered Shell	Montgomery, Sy	Creative Non-fiction	SP	Insights gleaned from working in a hospital for injured, sick, and abandoned turtles—and at the same time, investigates the mystery of time itself.
	The Soul of an Octopus: A Surprising Exploration into the Wonder of Consciousness (and other books)	Montgomery, Sy	Creative Non-fiction	CR	Intelligence of animals and consciousness
x	The Naked Ape	Morris, Desmond	Creative Non-fiction	JeP	This work has become a benchmark of popular anthropology and psychology. Here is the Naked Ape at his most primal in love, at work, at war. Meet man as he really is: relative to the apes.
x	Portrait of a River: The Wildlife of the Danube from the Black Sea to Budapest	Mountfort, Guy	Creative Non-fiction	JeP, MN	The author of one of Britain's first field guides to birds. On his 1962 sojourn into Bulgaria and Rumania along the Danube.
x	The Indians of Texas From Prehistoric to Modern Times	Newcomb, Jr., W.W.	Creative Non-fiction	JeP	An anthropological history of Native Americans in the Lone Star State. First published in 1961, this study explores the ethnography of the Indian tribes who lived in the region that is now the state of Texas since the beginning of the historic period
	Botany of Desire	Pollen, Michael	Creative Non-fiction	BS, CC	In <i>The Botany of Desire</i> , Michael Pollan ingeniously demonstrates how people and domesticated plants have formed a similarly reciprocal relationship.
x	Cooked	Pollen, Michael	Creative Non-fiction	JeP, MN	Explores the previously uncharted territory of his own kitchen. Here, he discovers the enduring power of the four classical elements—fire, water, air, and earth— to transform the stuff of nature into delicious things to eat and drink.
x	Figuring	Popova, Maria	Creative Non-fiction	JeP, MN	Explores the complexities, varieties, and contradictions of love, and the human search for truth, meaning, and transcendence, through the interwoven lives of several historical figures across four centuries — beginning with the astronomer Johannes Kepler, who discovered the laws of planetary motion, and ending with the marine biologist and author Rachel Carson, who catalyzed the environmental movement.
x	The Universe in Verse	Popova, Maria	Creative Non-fiction	JeP, MN	Seven years after the improbable idea of cross-pollinating poetry and science came abloom on a Brooklyn stage in a former warehouse built in Whitman's lifetime, after it traveled to the redwoods of Santa Cruz and the sunlit skies of Austin, <i>The Universe in Verse</i> has become a book.
	Strata: Stories from Deep Time	Poppick, Laura	Creative Non-fiction		The epic stories of our planet's 4.54-billion-year history are written in strata—ages-old remnants of ancient seafloors, desert dunes, and riverbeds striping landscapes around the world.
	The Kirtland's Warbler: the Story of a Bird's Fight Against Extinction and the People Who Saved It	Rapai, William	Creative Non-fiction	MGZ	<i>Journalist Rapai tells the story of the US's rarest warbler, which was delisted in 2019.</i>
	Mastering Bird Photography: The Art, Craft, and Technique of Photographing Birds and Their Behavior	Read, Marle	Creative Non-fiction	AS	In this richly illustrated book, you'll learn how to be in the right place at the right time and how to obtain tack sharp portraits.
	Becoming Wild: How Animal Cultures Raise Families, Create Beauty, and Achieve Peace	Safina, Carl	Creative Non-fiction	CR	Some believe that culture is strictly a human phenomenon. But this book reveals cultures of other-than-human beings in some of Earth's remaining wild places. It shows how if you're a sperm whale, a scarlet macaw, or a chimpanzee, you too come to understand yourself as an individual within a particular community that does things in specific ways, that has traditions.
	In Defense of Biodiversity: Why Protecting Species from Extinction Matters	Safina, Carl	Creative Non-fiction	CR	a critical examination of the small, but growing, trend among segments of the conservation community that it is time to come to terms with the degradation of the natural world, that conserving for conservation's sake has reached its expiration date, and the very troubling assertion that extinctions can be desirable for evolution and survival of the "hardest".
	The Light Eaters: How the Unseen World of Plant Intelligence Offers a New Understanding of Life on Earth	Schlanger, Zoë	Creative Non-fiction	MN	A deep immersion into the drama of green life and the complexity of this wild and awe-inspiring world that challenges our very understanding of agency, consciousness, and intelligence.
	Entangled Life: How Fungi Make Our Worlds, Change Our Minds & Shape Our Futures	Sheldrake, Merlin	Creative Non-fiction	FR, SP	The author introduces us to this mysterious but massively diverse kingdom of life.
	Owls of the Eastern Ice: A Quest to Find and Save the World's Largest Owl	Slaght, Jonathan C.	Creative Non-fiction	JB, SM, MAR, CC	Through this rare glimpse into the everyday life of a field scientist and conservationist, <i>Owls of the Eastern Ice</i> testifies to the determination and creativity essential to scientific advancement and serves as a powerful reminder of the beauty, strength, and vulnerability of the natural world.
x	Birdsong: A Natural History	Stap, Don	Creative Non-fiction	JeP	Many of us have experienced the interruption, pleasant or otherwise, of a bird singing from high in the trees or a lone chirper perched outside a bedroom window and wondered what the song was about.
	The Knowledge Machine: How Irrationality Created Modern Science	Stevens, Michael	Creative Non-fiction		Why is science so powerful? Why did it take so long—two thousand years after the invention of philosophy and mathematics—for the human race to start using science to learn the secrets of the universe? This book blends science, philosophy, and history to answer these challenging questions, showing how science came about only once thinkers stumbled upon the astonishing idea that scientific breakthroughs could be accomplished by breaking the rules of logical argument.
	Nature's Best Hope: A New Approach to Conservation That Starts in Your Yard	Tallamay, Doug	Creative Non-fiction	FR	The author outlines his vision for a grassroots approach to conservation.

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	Notes on Complexity: A Scientific Theory of Connection, Consciousness, and Being	Theise, Neil	Creative Non-fiction		Introduction to complexity theory, the science of how complex systems behave, that explains the interconnectedness of all things.
	Siberia: A Journey Through Russia's Vast Heart—From Mongolia to the Arctic Circle Exploring Landscapes, Culture, and Resilient People	Thurbron, Colin	Creative Non-fiction		Traveling alone, by train, boat, car, and on foot, Colin Thurbron traversed this vast territory, talking to everyone he encountered about the state of the beauty, whose natural resources have been savagely exploited for decades; a terrain tainted by nuclear waste but filled with citizens who both welcomed him and fed him—despite their own tragic poverty.
	The Herring Gull's World: A Study of the Social Behaviour of Birds	Tinbergen, Nikolaas	Creative Non-fiction		A study of the social behavior of birds.
x	Mastering the Art of Soviet Cooking: A Memoir of Food and Longing	Von Bremzen, Anya	Creative Non-fiction	JeP, MN	Wonderful discussion of Soviet history and life through food.
x	Of a Feather: a brief history of American birding.	Weidensaul, Scott	Creative Non-fiction	MGZ, JeP	<i>An enjoyable narrative about the colorful characters involved in American birding.</i>
x	A World on the Wing: A Global Odyssey of Migratory Birds	Weidensaul, Scott	Creative Non-fiction	JeP	Updates what we've learned of bird migrations—how billions of birds circumnavigate the globe, flying tens of thousands of miles between hemispheres on an annual basis—is nothing short of extraordinary.
	An Immense World: How Animal Senses Reveal the Hidden Realms Around Us	Yong, Ed	Creative Non-fiction	FR	The author coaxes us beyond the confines of our own senses, allowing us to perceive the skeins of scent, waves of electromagnetism, and pulses of pressure that surround us.
	Dragonflies and Damselflies of Texas and South Central US	Abbott, John	Field Guide		
x	The Gull Guide of North America	Ayyash, Amar	Field Guide	JeP, MGZ	<i>A photographic guide to taxonomy, range, ID, molt, and hybrids of 36 species and 8 hybrids.</i>
x	Sparrows of the United States and Canada, The Photographic Guide	Beadle, David and James Rising	Field Guide	JeP, MGZ	Takes sparrow identification one step further. The authors have gathered a stunning selection of over 350 photographs as a basis for the identification of all 64 taxa of emberizine sparrows.
	Habitats of the World: A Field Guide for Birders, Naturalists, and Ecologists	Campbell, Ian, Ken Behrens, Charley Hesse, and Phil Chaon	Field Guide	ES	The first field guide to the world's major land habitats—189 in all.
x	Terns of North America: a Photographic Guide.	Cox, Cameron	Field Guide	JeP, MGZ	<i>Structure, behavior, flight, call, and plumage info for 16 tern species, 2 noddies, and black skimmer.</i>
x	The Crossley ID Guide to Raptors	Crossley, Richard, Jerry Liguori, and Brian Sullivan	Field Guide	JeP, MGZ	<i>This is a photographic guide that shows adults and juveniles of each species, both perched and in flight. It also includes several quizzes.</i>
x	Pete Dunne's Essential Field Guide Companion	Dunne, Pete	Field Guide	JeP, MGZ	<i>A field guide without pictures, but with excellent descriptions.</i>
x	Hawks in Flight	Dunne, Pete, David Sibley, and Clay Sutton	Field Guide	JeP, MGZ	<i>Both photos and sketches are used to help ID hawks, falcons, kites, eagles, vultures, caracara, and osprey in the air.</i>
	Beetles of Eastern North America	Evans, Arthur V.	Field Guide		
x	Peterson Field Guide to Birds of Northern Central America	Fagin, Jesse and Olover Komar	Field Guide	MGZ	<i>This is one of the most usable guides I found for birds of Central America.</i>
	Hummingbirds: A Life-Sized Guide to Every Species	Fogden, Michael, Marianne Taylor, and Sheri L Williamson	Field Guide	MGZ	<i>Descriptions are by Williamson and Taylor, with photos by Michael and Patricia Fogden. Despite the title, not every species is illustrated, but it is a beautiful book.</i>
	The Birds of Costa Rica, a Field Guide	Garrigues, Richard and Robert Dean	Field Guide	MGZ	<i>I did not take a "birding" trip to Costa Rica, but this guide helped me ID all the birds I saw on vacation.</i>
	Seabirds: The New Identification Guide	Harrison, Peter, Martin Perrow and Hans Larsson	Field Guide		the first comprehensive guide to the world's 434 species of seabirds, since the 1983 Covers all known seabirds, beginning with seaducks and grebes and ending with cormorants and pelicans.
x	The Bird Life of Texas (BLOT)	Harry C. Oberholser; Edgar B. Kincaid Jr. (editor)	Field Guide	JeP	This massive treatise stands as one of the 20th century's great bird books. It details the birds of Texas in detail.
x	Peterson Reference Guide to Birding by Impression: a Different Approach to Knowing and Identifying Birds	Karlsn, Kevin T and Dale Rosselet	Field Guide	JeP, MGZ	<i>A guide to birding by impression and identifying 36 groups of birds by those principles.</i>
x	Kaufman Field Guide to Advanced Birding: Understanding What You See and Hear	Kaufman, Kenn	Field Guide	JeP, MGZ	<i>An in-depth guide to identifying groups of birds.</i>
	Kaufman Field Guide to Insects of North America	Kaufman, Kenn	Field Guide		
x	Peterson Reference Guide to Bird Behavior	Kricher, John	Field Guide	JeP, MGZ	<i>A guide to bird behavior, treated topically, e.g., feathers and flight, social behavior. It had a deplorable index, so I created my own!</i>
	Peterson Field Guide to Moths of Southeastern North America	Leckie, Seabrooke and David Beadle	Field Guide		
x	North American Flycatchers: Empidonax and Pewees	Lee, Cin-Ty and Andrew Birch	Field Guide	JeP, MGZ	<i>These two books make flycatchers accessible for ordinary birders! Included are details of voice, range and habitat, voice—including sonograms, similar species, and very detailed illustrations.</i>
x	North American Flycatchers: Kingbirds and Myiarchus	Lee, Cin-Ty and Andrew Birch	Field Guide	JeP, MGZ	<i>These two books make flycatchers accessible for ordinary birders! Included are details of voice, range and habitat, voice—including sonograms, similar species, and very detailed illustrations.</i>

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	Field Guide to Mesozoic Birds	Martyniuk, Matthew P.	Field Guide	ES	A comprehensive illustrated guide to the birds of the Jurassic and Cretaceous periods and their dinosaurian forebears. Each species is illustrated in multiple views with size and distinguishing features highlighted. I
	Owls of the World: a photographic guide	Mikkola, Heimo	Field Guide	MGZ	<i>Descriptions, range maps, and beautiful photos of 268 species of owls.</i>
x	The Shorebird Guide	O'Brien, Michael, Richard Crossley, and	Field Guide	JeP, MGZ	<i>A photographic guide to North American shorebirds, emphasizing size, structure, behavior, and voice over plumage.</i>
x	A Guide to Field Identification: Birds of North America	Robbins, Chandler S, Bertel Brunn, and Herbert S Zim	Field Guide	JeP, MGZ	<i>My first field guide, and one of the few that has sonograms.</i>
	Birds of Texas	Sarkozi, David	Field Guide	MGZ	<i>A photographic guide to almost 500 Texas birds, by a man who has completed two Texas Big Years.</i>
	Bird Feathers - A Guide to North American Species	Scott, S. David and Casey McFarland	Field Guide	AS	How to identify not only what bird a feather came from but also what kind of feather it is
	Peterson Reference Guide to Woodpeckers of North America	Shunk, Stephen A.	Field Guide	AS	This comprehensive and authoritative guide to the natural history, ecology, and conservation of North America's 23 woodpecker species goes far beyond identification. It explores their unique anatomy and their fascinating and often comical behaviors
x	The Sibley Guide to Bird Life & Behavior	Sibley, David Allen	Field Guide	JeP, MGZ, AS	<i>Includes over 100 pages of introductory material, but then details unifying characteristics of 80 bird families, including taxonomy, variation, food, breeding, movements, and conservation.</i>
x	The Sibley Guide to Birds	Sibley, David Allen	Field Guide	JeP, MGZ	<i>My favorite field guide, from a master illustrator.</i>
	What It's Like to be a Bird: from Flying to Nesting, Eating to Singing—What Birds are Doing and Why	Sibley, David Allen	Field Guide	MGZ	<i>The first 30 pages or so are facts, grouped by topic, but the remainder consist of beautifully illustrated 2-page portfolios of different birds. Sibley has also published a young person's version of this book, that would be a great intro for children.</i>
	Field Guide to the Flower Flies of Northeastern North America	Skevington, Jeffrey and Michelle Locke	Field Guide		
x	The Warbler Guide	Stephenson, Tom and Scott Whittle	Field Guide	JeP, MGZ	<i>A detailed photographic guide to warblers in the US, including migration routes, parts of trees where each bird is found, aging and sexing, and similar species.</i>
	Slow Birding: the Art and Science of Enjoying the Birds in Your Own Backyard	Strassman, Joan E	Field Guide	MGZ	<i>Strassman is a biology professor who advocates for slow bird observation over listing. She profiles 16 birds that she observes near her St. Louis home, summarizes research findings, and lists slow birding activities that people can pursue for each species.</i>
	The Thing with Feathers: the Surprising Lives of Birds and What they Reveal about Being Human	Stryker, Noah	Field Guide	MGZ, CC	<i>Stryker is an editor of the ABA magazine Birding. His book includes 13 chapters that address pigeon navigation, owl irruptions, cache memory of nutcrackers, magpie self-awareness, and more.</i>
	Peterson Reference Guide to Owls of North American and the Caribbean	Weidensaul, Scott	Field Guide	MGZ	<i>A photographic guide to systematics, distribution, description, vocalizations, habitat, breeding, behavior, and status of 39 species.</i>
x	A Field Guide to Hummingbirds of North America	Williamson, Sheri L	Field Guide	MGZ	<i>A seminal reference book, but I find it frustrating to flip between the plates in the front and descriptions in the back.</i>
	Bees in Your Backyard	Wilson, Joseph & Olivia Carrill	Field Guide		
x	Peterson Reference Guide to Sparrows of North America	Wright, Rick	Field Guide	JeP, MGZ	<i>A photographic guide with naming history, field ID, and range and variation of 76 species.</i>
x	The Big Year	Frankel, David	Film	JeP	Three seasoned birders who each set out to achieve a Big Year
x	Birders: The Central Park Effect	Kimball, Jeffrey	Film	JeP	A diverse group of full-of-attitude New Yorkers reveals how a hidden world of beautiful wild birds in the middle of Manhattan has upended and magically transformed their lives.
x	Birders	Padua, Otilia Portillo	Film	JeP	The film depicts birdwatchers on both sides of the border of US and Mexico, and how migrant birds travel back and forth over the border each year.
x	LISTERS: A Glimpse Into Extreme Birdwatching	Reise, Owen and Quentin	Film	ES	Two brothers learn about competitive birdwatching by becoming birdwatchers—spending a year living in a used minivan, traveling the country to compete in a 'Big Year'.
	The Field Guide to Dumb Birds of North America	Kracht, Matt	Humor	MGZ	<i>Kracht sketched and re-named 55 bird species in creatively profane ways. It provided good comic relief on a long car ride.</i>
x	Ornithology (4th Edition)	Gill, Frank B & Richard O Prum	Textbook	JeP	A comprehensive introductory text covering a wide scope of topics essential for understanding the field of ornithology.
	The Cornell Lab of Ornithology Handbook of Bird Biology	Lovette, Irby J and John W Fitzpatrick, eds	Textbook	BL, MGZ, AS	<i>I never took an ornithology class in college, but I taught myself quite a bit, using this textbook. Cornell Lab also offers a class that uses this book as the text.</i>
	What Is a Bird?: An Exploration of Anatomy, Physiology, Behavior, and Ecology	Williams, Tony D. (Editor)	Textbook	ES	Explores all aspects of these remarkable creatures, providing an up-close look at their morphology, unique internal anatomy and physiology, fascinating and varied behavior, and ecology. It features hundreds of color illustrations and draws on a broad range of examples, from the familiar backyard sparrow to the most exotic birds of paradise.

Comments in italics are by the person recommending the book. Non-italic entries are from the seller or publisher.