

Want Better Bird  
Photographs?

**BECOME A BETTER  
BIRDER**

# How?

Things you can do

- Before you go
- In the field
- When you return



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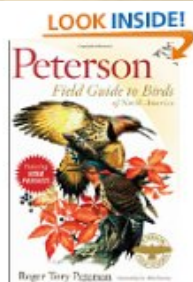
# What's Your Motivation?

- Fame and Fortune
- Bragging Rights
- Fascinated by Birds
- Good because
  - Wet, cold, sleepy, thirsty, hot, sore and dirty are the norm.
  - There's a lot of "Hurry up and Wait"
  - Motivation is a good thing 😊



# Before You Go... Study Birds

- Books ([www.Amazon.com](http://www.Amazon.com))
- One or two books are never enough



**Peterson Field Guide to Birds of North America (Peterson Field Guides)** by Roger Tory Peterson (Aug 1, 2008)

★★★★★ ☒ (42 customer reviews)

**Formats**

**Price**

**New**

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**Paperback**

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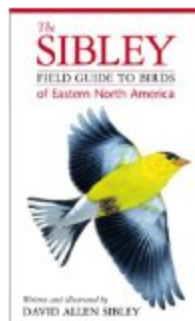
**Vinyl Bound**

\$12.55

\$8.21

**Excerpt - Front Cover:** "... Peterson Field Guide to Birds of North America Roger Tory Peterson ..." [See a random page](#) in this book.

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**The Sibley Field Guide to Birds of Eastern North America** by David Allen Sibley (Apr 29, 2003)

★★★★★ ☒ (111 customer reviews)

**Formats**

**Price**

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**Used**

**Collectible**

**Paperback**

Order in the next **44 hours** to get it by Tuesday, Apr 10.

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# Before You Go... Study Birds

- Websites
  - Cornell University
    - <http://www.birds.cornell.edu/>
    - <http://www.allaboutbirds.org>

The **Cornell** Lab  of Ornithology  
Exploring and Conserving Nature

# Before You Go... Study Birds

The screenshot shows the homepage of The Cornell Lab of Ornithology. The header features the lab's name and tagline, "Exploring and Conserving Nature," along with links for "Get eNews," "Contact Us," and "Join Us Donate." A navigation bar includes "About Us," "What We Do," "Give," and "All About Birds," with a search bar and "Find" button. A secondary bar has "Login," "My Membership," and "Share" options. The main banner features a Great Blue Heron with the text "Meet Our Great Blue Herons Now streaming in HD via our nest cam" and a "Watch live!" link. Below this are links for "Live Great Blue Heron Cam," "Live Red-tailed Hawk Cam," "Ted Parker Recordings," "Rosetta Stone for Warblers," and "Make a Gift Today." The "About Us" section describes the lab's mission. Promotional boxes for the "Annual Report 2011," "Join as a Member," and "Sign Up for eNews" are also present. The footer includes an "All About Birds" search section, a "TRY THIS" section with links to the "New Macaulay Library website" and a "Birding Warblers" video player.

The Cornell Lab of Ornithology  
Exploring and Conserving Nature

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Now streaming in HD via our nest cam  
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Live Great Blue Heron Cam Live Red-tailed Hawk Cam Ted Parker Recordings Rosetta Stone for Warblers Make a Gift Today

**About Us**  
We use science to understand the world, to find new ways to make conservation work, and to involve people who share our passion.  
Learn More

**Annual Report 2011**  
Read Now

Your passion is our mission.  
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**Sign Up for eNews**  
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**TRY THIS**  
New Macaulay Library website  
Explore the world's largest archive of natural sound and video

**Birding Warblers**  
by Lab of Ornithology

# Before You Go... Study Birds

- <http://www.nmnh.si.edu/BIRDNET/birds/ornith.html>
- <http://www.ornithology.com/>

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Now is the time to get volumes 1 & 2!



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BIRDING TOP 1000



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Facts About Birds  
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the  
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Ornithologist with your  
questions about WILD birds.....

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birds? **ANSWER**



# Before You Go... Study Birds

- Learn about Migration
  - What species, seasons, timing, distances and food



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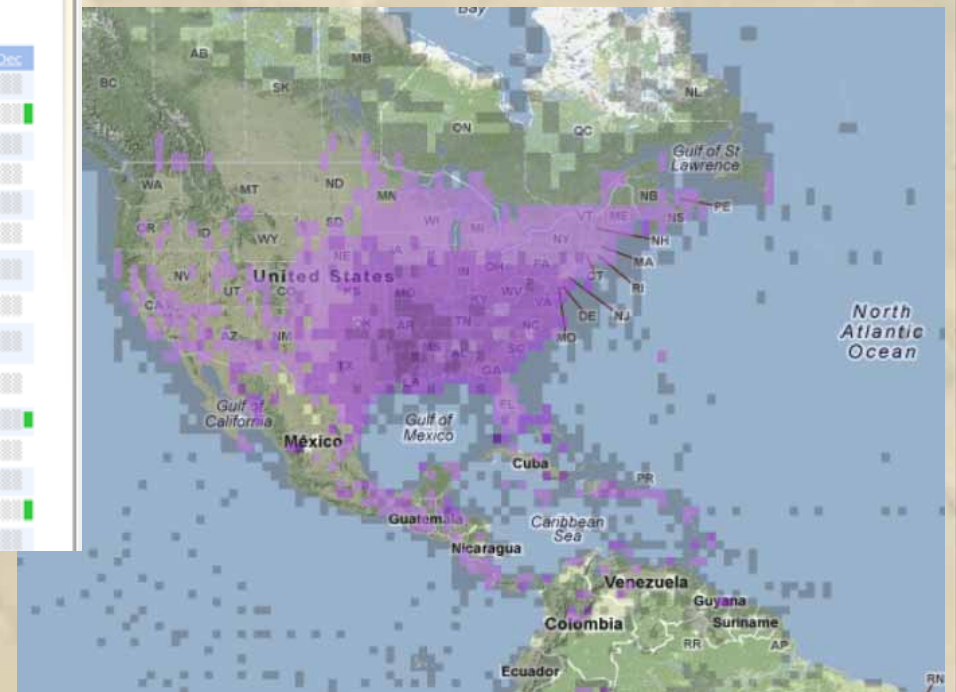
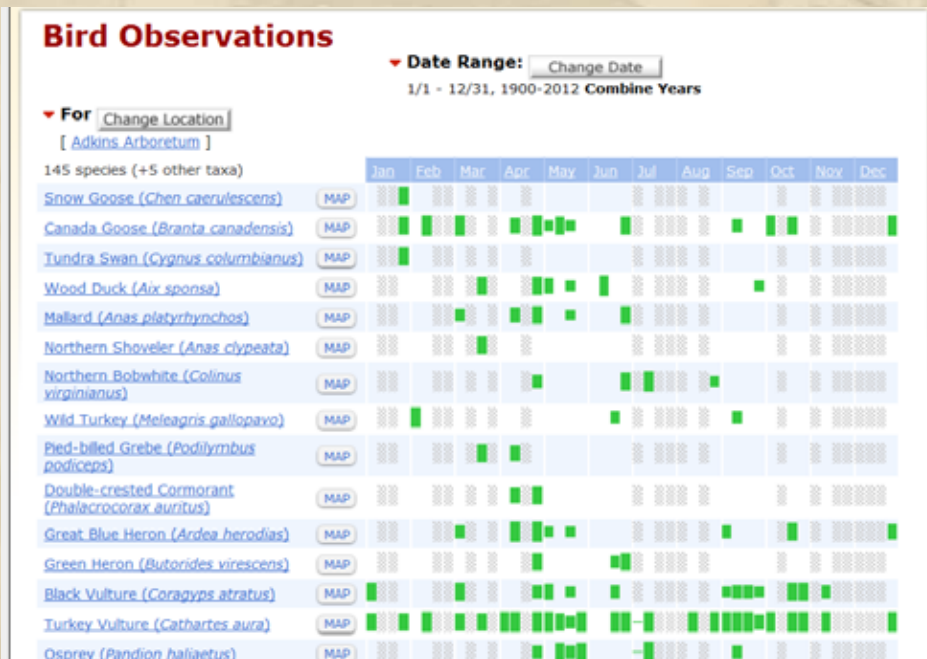
# Before You Go... Study Birds

- Learn seasonal plumage changes



# Before You Go... Study Birds

- Locations
  - eBIRD -- <http://ebird.org/content/ebird/>



# Before You Go... Study Birds

- Local Stuff
  - [http://birdingcouple.blogspot.com/Warren and Lisa Strobel](http://birdingcouple.blogspot.com/Warren%20and%20Lisa%20Strobel)
- Make online friends
  - [www.Flickr.com](http://www.Flickr.com)
- Visit National Groups
  - <http://centralmdaudubon.org/>
- eBIRD, MDOsprey, DPCA Birding SIG

# Before You Go... Study Birds

- Photographer -- Gurus
  - **Arthur Morris** – <http://www.birdsasart.com/>
  - **David Hemmings** -- <http://davidhemmingsbirdphotography.com/>
  - **Art Wolfe** -- <http://www.artwolfe.com/>
  - **Index of Bird Photographers** -- [http://www.photographersdirect.com/professionals/united\\_states/birds-photographers.asp](http://www.photographersdirect.com/professionals/united_states/birds-photographers.asp)
  - **FLICKR** -- <http://www.flickr.com>

# Before You Go... Life's 7 P's

- Research and plan your trip
  - Location
  - Species
  - Migration
  - Alone or with friends
  - Workshops



# Before You Go... Equipment

- Binoculars
- Camera(s)
- Lenses – 400mm or better
- Tripod
- Camera/lens cleaning supplies
- Waterproof cover
- Appropriate Clothing
- Water, hat, bug repellent

## In the Field... (so what IS the “Field” anyway?)

- Your yard!
- Local parks, reserves, etc.
- National parks
- Wildlife management areas
- Wildlife sanctuaries
- Visitor's centers
- Fees  
(Duck Stamp, Golden Eagle Pass)

# In the Field...

- Care about the welfare of your subject – act accordingly
- Tread gently
- Move smoothly
- Be quiet (keys out of ignition!)
- Be polite even when others are not
- Respect private property and rules

# In the Field...



- Approach carefully
- Stay behind pre-positioned photogs
- Never disturb birds
- No eye contact
- Be still and relaxed
- Blend in
- Study and enjoy your subject even if it means missing the shot this time

# In the Field...

- Practice!



# When You Return ...

- Cull your photographs
- Identify your subjects
  - Common name
  - Genus and species names
- Tag your photographs
- Share your photographs
- Be a citizen scientist,  
Login to eBird and record your trip

# When You Return...

- Start planning your next trip!
  - <http://www.delawarebirdingtrail.org/>
  - <http://www.delawareaudubon.org/birding>
  - <http://www.delawarebirding.com/>
  - <http://www.marylandbirding.com/>
  - <http://www.birding.com/wheretobird/maryland.asp>



# Dream of Seasons to Come



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# Laurie Brice's Birding Map

- Email: [techdir@digitalphotoclub.net](mailto:techdir@digitalphotoclub.net)
- Subject: DPCA Birding Map