

Searching the Skies, Searching the Stacks:

Bird Field Guides in the Watkinson Library

An Exhibition curated by Mary Jordan, '11

August 15 – November 1, 2011

In conjunction with a new display of Audubon's *Birds of America*
in the Watkinson Reading Room

Raether Library and Information Technology Center
Trinity College, Hartford, Connecticut



Trinity College
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT

A Word from Student Curator Mary Jordan, '11

When I began working at the Watkinson, I did not anticipate that much of my time would involve our feathered friends. The Watkinson is known for its old and rare books, with illuminated manuscripts centuries old and other ancient gems. Little did I (or the rest of the Trinity student population) know that the Watkinson is also renowned among ornithologists for its Enders collection of ornithological books. My time working here has involved searching the shelves for books on birds I have never heard of before. I never imagined there would be so many books on birds, and certainly not that much demand for them. I was wrong; those little birds are popular!

This exhibition—*Searching the Skies, Searching the Stacks*—highlights bird field guides in their many forms. It may seem strange for some visitors to come to the Watkinson and see books published less than 100 years ago on display. However, this demonstrates that the Watkinson is not just a library of old texts, but also where researchers find up-to-date ornithological information. My goal with this exhibit is to give visitors an idea of the progression and variety of bird field guides, using examples from the Enders collection. You will also find books on related topics such as bird watching and bird photography.

I hope that you enjoy the exhibit and that it gives you a new appreciation for Audubon and other naturalists like him. The key aspect of a successful field guide, at least in my non-expert opinion, is accurate pictures. Audubon and others such as Roger Tory Peterson paved the way for useful field guides through their meticulous representations of the species. The result is books that even I can use to identify birds—until they fly away.

Credits

This exhibition was organized and described by Watkinson student assistant Mary Jordan during her last semester at Trinity. The exhibition was installed by Watkinson student assistant Zsófia Gregor. Sally Dickinson, Associate Curator of the Watkinson, provided advice, as needed, and developed the graphics in conjunction with Rita Law, Manager, Creative Services, Trinity College. Publication of this checklist was made possible by the support of the Trinity College/Watkinson Library Associates Fund.

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CHECKLIST

Case I.

John James Audubon & the National Audubon Society

1. Audubon, John James. *Journal of John James Audubon, 1820-1821*. Boston: The Club of Odd Volumes, 1929.
2. Buchanan, Robert. *The Life and Adventures of John James Audubon*. London: Sampson Low, Son, and Marston, 1868.
3. Low, Susanne. *A Guide to Audubon's Birds of America*. New Haven: William Reese Co., 2002.
4. Vedder, Lee A. *John James Audubon and The Birds of America*. San Marino, Calif.: Huntington Library, 2006.
5. Pough, Richard H. *Audubon Water Bird Guide*. Garden City, N.Y.: Doubleday, 1951.
6. Bull, John and John Farrand, Jr. *The Audubon Society Field Guide to North American Birds, Eastern Region*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1977.
7. *Summer Birds of Eastern North America*. New York: National Association of Audubon Societies, 1974. [identification cards]

Case II.

Roger Tory Peterson: Creator of the Modern Field Guide

8. Peterson, Roger Tory. *The Field Guide Art of Roger Tory Peterson: Western Birds*. Norwalk, Conn.: Easton Press, 1990.
9. Peterson, Roger Tory. *A Field Guide to the Birds: A Completely New Guide to All the Birds of Eastern and Central North America*. Maps by Virginia Marie Peterson. 4th ed. compl. rev. & enl. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1980.
10. Rosenthal, Elizabeth J. *Birdwatcher: The Life of Roger Tory Peterson*. Guilford, Conn.: The Lyons Press, 2008.
11. Peterson, Roger Tory. *A Field Guide to Western Birds*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1941.
12. Peterson, Roger Tory, Guy Montfort and P.A.D. Hollom. *A Field Guide to the Birds of Britain and Europe*. Rev. & enl. ed. London: Collins, 1971.
13. Peterson, Roger Tory. *A Field Guide to the Birds*. "Giving field marks of all species found in eastern North America." 1st ed. Boston and New York: Houghton Mifflin, 1934.
14. Peterson, Roger Tory. *A Field Guide to the Birds*. 2nd rev. & enl. ed. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1947. Inscribed by the author.

Case III.

Identity through Description: Precursors to Modern Bird Guides

15. Vieillot, L.P. *La Galerie des Oiseaux*. Tome 1. Paris: Carpentier-Méricourt, 1834.
16. Maynard, C.J. *Handbook of the Sparrows, Finches, etc., of New England*. Newtonville: Maynard, 1896.
17. *British Birds*. London: Religious Tract Society, 1840.

18. Richards, Harriet E., E.M. Cummings. *Baby Bird-Finder: Song and Insectivorous Birds*. Boston: W.A. Butterfield, 1904.
19. Richards, Harriet E. *Baby Bird-Finder: Water and Game Birds, Hawks and Owls*. Boston: W.A. Butterfield, 1904.
20. Reed, Chester A. *Bird Guide, Part 1: Water Birds, Game Birds and Birds of Prey East of the Rockies*. Worcester, Mass.: Charles K. Reed, 1906.
21. Reed, Chester A. *Birds of Eastern North America*. New York: Doubleday, Page and Co., 1912.
22. Hausman, Leon Augustus. *Field Book of Eastern Birds*. New York: G.P. Putnam's Sons, 1946.
23. Bewick, Thomas and François Holandre. *Early Birdwatcher's Field Guide, Assembled from Bewick Woodcuts and Hand-Colored Engravings*. England, c.1800.

Case IV:

Having Taken Flight: Modern Bird Field Guides

24. Hume, Rob. *RSPB Birds of Britain and Europe*. Rev. ed. London: Dorling Kindersley, 2006.
25. Floyd, Ted. *Smithsonian Field Guide to the Birds of North America*. New York: Collins, 2008.
26. Brinkley, Edward S. *National Wildlife Federation Field Guide to the Birds of North America*. New York: Sterling Publishing Co., 2008.
27. Sibley, David Allen. *The Sibley Guide to Birds: Field Identification*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2000.
28. Dunn, Jon L. and Jonathan Alderfer, ed. *National Geographic Field Guide to the Birds of Western North America*. Washington, D.C.: National Geographic, 2008.
29. Svensson, Lars and Peter J. Grant. *Collins Bird Guide*. London: HarperCollins, 1999.

30. Cornell University. Laboratory of Ornithology. *A Field Guide to Bird Songs of Eastern and Central North America*. 2nd ed. Boston: Houghton, Mifflin, 1983. [sound recording]

Case V:

Exploring the World through its Birds

31. Bond, James. *Field Guide of Birds of the West Indies*. New York: The Macmillan Co., 1947.
32. Prozesky, O.P.M. *A Field Guide to the Birds of Southern Africa*. London: Collins, 1970.
33. Harris, Michael. *A Field Guide to the Birds of the Galapagos*. New York: Taplinger Publishing Co., 1974.
34. Lekagul, Boonsong. *Bird Guide of Thailand*. Bangkok: Ramin Press, 1968.
35. Yamashina, Yoshimaro. *Birds in Japan: A Field Guide*. Tokyo: Tokyo News Service, Ltd., 1961.
36. Pizzey, Graham. *Field Guide to the Birds of Australia*. New York: HarperCollins, 2002.
37. Parkinson, Brian. *Field Guide to New Zealand Seabirds*. London: New Holland Publishers, 2000.
38. Lee, Woo-Shin, Tae-Hoe Koo and Jin-Young Park. *A Field Guide to the Birds of Korea*. Tokyo: Toyokan Publishing, Co., 2000.

Case VI:

Birds of Another Tongue: Foreign Language Bird Field Guides

39. Madarász, Gyula. *Magyarország Madarai*. Budapest, 1899-1903.
40. Scott, Derek A., Hossein Moravej Hamadani and Ali Adhami Mirhosseyini. *The Birds of Iran*. Tehran: Department of the Environment, 1975.

41. Chang, James Wan-Fu. *A Field Guide to the Birds of Taiwan*. Taiwan, 1980.
42. Shimomura, Kenji. *Genshoku Nihon chōrui zukan*. 1955.
43. Narosky, Tito. *Aves Argentinas*. Buenos Aires: Asociacion Ornitologica del Plata, 1978.
44. The Hong Kong Bird Watching Society. *A Photographic Guide to the Birds of Hong Kong*. Hong Kong: Wan Li Book Co., 2004.
45. Burkhardt, Marcel, Christian Marti and Felix Tobler. *Swiss Bird Guide*. Sempach: Swiss Ornithological Institute, 2009.

Case VII:

Bird Watching: More than a Hobby

46. Chandler, David. *100 Birds to See Before You Die*. San Diego: Thunder Bay Press, c2008.
47. Kastner, Joseph. *A World of Watchers*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1986.
48. Gibbons, Felton and Deborah Strom. *Neighbors to the Birds: A History of Birdwatching in America*. New York: W.W. Norton and Co., 1988.
49. Barnes, Simon. *How to Be a Bad Birdwatcher*. London: Short Books, 2004.
50. *Good Birders Don't Wear White: 50 Tips from North America's Top Birders*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 2007.
51. Fitter, R.S.R. *Collins Guide to Bird Watching*. London: Collins, 1963.
52. Barton, Roger. *How to Watch Birds*. New York: McGraw-Hill Book Co., 1955.
53. Slinger, Joey. *Down and Dirty Birding: from the sublime to the ridiculous—here's all the outrageous but true stuff you've ever wanted to know about North American birds*. New York: Fireside, 1996.

Case VIII.

Shooting Birds: Photography and Birdwatchers

54. Gomersall, Chris. *Photographing Wild Birds*. Newton Abbot: David & Charles, 2001.
55. Tipling, David. *Bird Photography*. East Essex: Photographers' Institute Press, 2005.
56. Job, Herbert Keightley. *Among the Water Fowl: Observation, Adventure, Photography*. New York: Doubleday, Page & Co., 1902.
57. Hosking, Eric John and Cyril W. Newberry. *The art of bird photography*. London: Country life; New York: Transatlantic Arts, [1948]
58. Job, Herbert Keightley. *Nest of Pintail, L. Manitoba*. [glass plate negative] July, 1912.
59. Yeates, George Kirkby. *Bird Photography*. London: Faber & Faber, [1946]
60. Warham, John. *The Technique of Bird Photography*. Garden City, NY: Focal Press Limited, 1973.
61. Chapman, Frank M. *Bird Studies with a Camera*. New York: D. Appleton and Co., 1903.



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