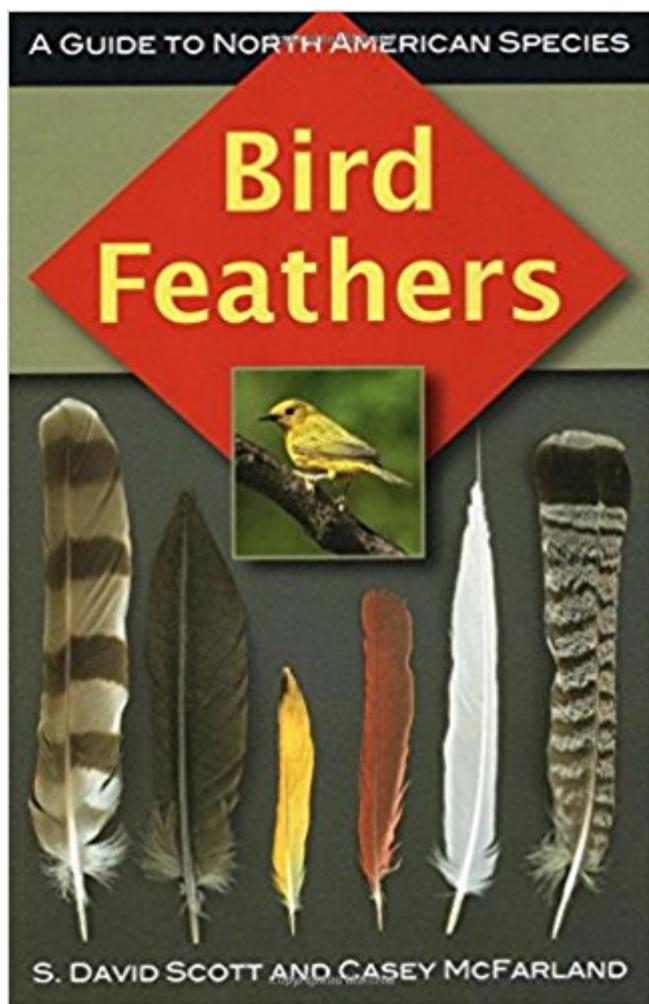


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# Bird Feathers: A Guide To North American Species



## **Synopsis**

Over 400 photos of representative feathers from 379 species How to identify not only what bird a feather came from but also what kind of feather it is Range maps and wing type given for each bird This guide teaches birders to use the characteristics of wing types and feather morphology to identify feathers--not only by species but also by their place on the bird's body. The introductory chapters give a detailed overview of the feather--how feathers developed, the parts of a single feather, and the variety of types of feathers on a bird. In the feather identification section, more than 400 color photographs show feather samples from 379 bird species from all over North America. Along with the wing type of the species and a map showing its range, several types of feathers are included for each bird; each feather is labeled with its type and its size.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

"Bird Feathers is a unique and valuable book, the first to deal with identifying birds by their feathers. . . the well-qualified authors are to be highly commended for this excellent, helpful reference book." (CHOICE: Current Reviews For Academic Libraries 2011-07-08)"As a reference, Bird Feathers will be useful to anyone who spends significant time outdoors. But for birders, it's even more valuable for the insight it provides into birds' lives, form, and appearance." (The Birder's Library 2011-07-08)"an outstanding guide to feathers" (Birder's World 2011-01-01)"Bird Feathers is a must-have book for naturalists and birders...sure to become an invaluable reference in wild bird stores and nature centers nationwide." (BIRDING BUSINESS MAGAZINE 2011-01-01)

S. David Scott has been working as an environmental educator since 2003, focusing on ecology and wildlife behavior. He lives in the Seattle area. Casey McFarland is a wildlife tracker and a tracking instructor and evaluator through Cybertracker International.

This book contains just about everything you would want to know about bird feathers. It has a tutorial in the front that tells you how to identify what part of the body a feather came from, some of the functional differences in feathers, different wing and flight feather shapes and provides a lot of educational material for somebody wanting to teach a class or just learn more about what a feather says about a bird. I have been able to identify a bird from a single feather through the use of this book, although it took a lot of searching. The book is organized by bird category, not by feather size or feather shape so if you are trying to identify what type of bird your feather came from and do not have a clue as to the general type of bird it can take quite a bit of searching. After repeated use I was eventually able to make some educated guesses using feather shape and color to predict which group of birds I thought the feather came from, so identification becomes easier with time. Though the book doesn't include every species, it has a sizable list, with many of the most common species. There are photographs of the flight feathers from each bird and measurements are provided. In some cases smaller contour feathers are also included in the layout. Both the measurements and inclusion of body feathers is very helpful, especially if you find a pile of mystery feathers clustered together. Highly recommend this book to anybody who wants to know more about birds.

What a delight to have this tool. This is the birdwatcher's geocaching. I have spent many years picking up feathers and testing my ability to identify the bird from which it has come. I enjoy it personally but am also a field biologist who uses that data to describe details of a discovery, including bird remains that have been left as a result of predation or impact from transmission wires or wind turbines. I have since purchased 4 more copies for my colleagues and field staff. Other than the unfortunate mislabeled plate on page 30, I have found the book accurate. I believe the authors approach to depict flight feathers was an appropriate choice as they are the most telling of species. The more we learn, the more we respect nature's gifts. Thank you for your tremendous tedious efforts.

This book has 100s of birds from North America listed, with multiple feathers from each and a bit

about feather origins and morphology as well as where the birds are located in the USA. Unfortunately, I was hoping for some sort of description and more identifying characteristics of each bird, such as feather measurements etc. there are many feathers that look very similar... It's still unclear as to what bird feathers I have found. It would also be nice to have a photo of the bird itself, on each page. Guess I'll keep searching for my perfect feather identification book.

I bought this for my ornithologist friend and he is delighted. It's a unique way to identify birds and includes interesting information if you enjoy birds. He thought there were a few feathers that had been matched to the wrong birds but we decided that later editions would include edits for errors. Mostly the errors do not detract from the book which is well organized and informative.

I bought this book after seeing the cover and recognizing a feather that has been in my collection for years. What a treat to be able to identify ALL my feathers at last! And SO much better than squinting at inadequate photos on the [...] Even better, this book begins with a few chapters designed to explain the structure(s) and function(s) of feathers--and how they power a bird in flight or help it survive. These are well-written, well-illustrated, and vastly interesting. Yes, there is technical language, largely biological terms, but each word is explained; you need not have a BS in physiology to understand them. In fact, I think a high school student interested in birding or biology would find this perfectly accessible. No doubt about it, feathers--and a birds--are elegant things, and this book tells you why. If you are a desultory or devoted feather collector, outdoors-man/woman, amateur naturalist or professional, you will enjoy having this book on your shelf.

I'm sitting at my desk which has an old ink well filled with 7 feathers I've collected in the past few months from hikes in the western foothills. Three of these feathers are tan and barred. After receiving "Bird Feathers" by Scott and McFarland, I now know that two are primaries and one is a secondary - and I know the purposes as well. I'm also fairly sure that one is from a Sharp-shinned Hawk, but I'm not positive. I'm not even certain as to the feathers on the front cover of the book, the most detailed photos presented. And I either have a feather from an Anna's Hummingbird or a Western Bluebird. Hence, my predicament in being a real amateur and having such a book. Beautifully written and well photographed, the book still has a fault and it is not entirely the authors'. As an amateur nature photographer, I know how difficult it is to photograph feathers, especially feathers with color. If it were a perfect world, the book would be twice as large and the feathers would be life-sized and the colors would be true. However, if one takes a Western Bluebird

and a Western Inland Scrub Jay as examples, the blues are distinctive and much more "blue" than what is represented in the book.Under a high powered (Verilux)lamp or outdoors, one can see that the feathers that are photographers do have blue in them, but the gray part of the feathers predominates and makes the variations very difficult to see. This makes identification difficult though not impossible.I highly recommend the book even with these "distractions." Nothing compares, and if it makes you "study" harder, then the book has accomplished an unintended consequence. Meanwhile, it IS well written and explains more than I ever knew. Combined with the photographs, it's superb.

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