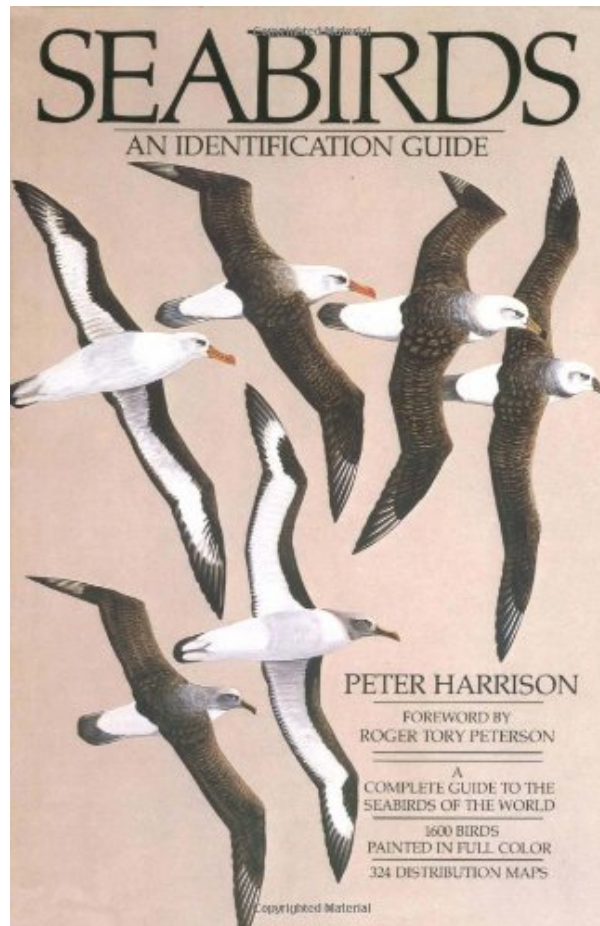
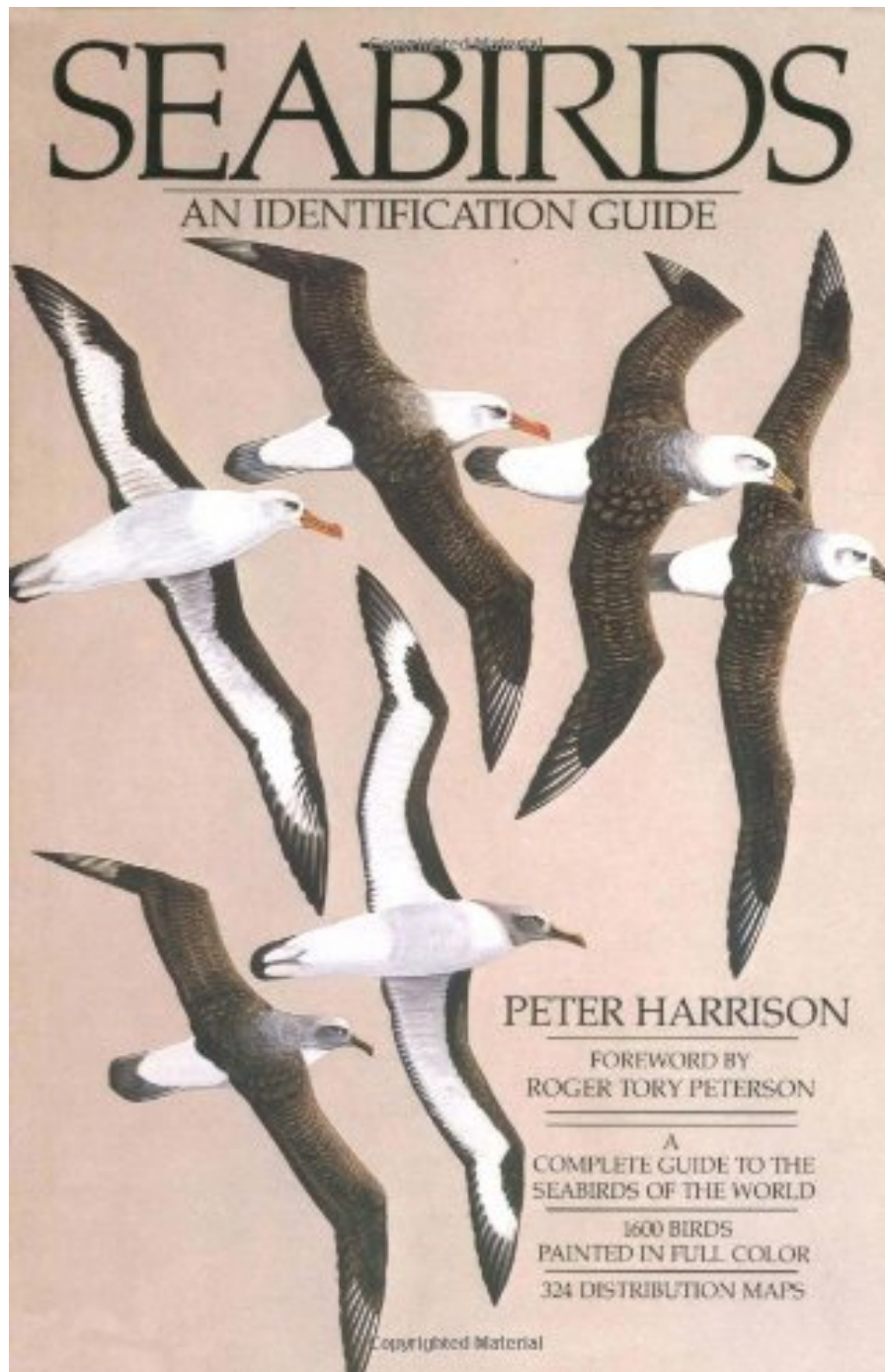


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Review

"An unparalleled achievement, and the natural history publishing event of the year . . . the best seabird field guide ever published . . . a stupendous leap into the future of birding." Birding

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This is the definitive book on the seabirds of the world, describing virtually all the known species. Illustrated in color.

- Sales Rank: #877857 in Books
- Published on: 1991-09-16
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 1.35" h x 6.15" w x 9.20" l,
- Binding: Paperback
- 448 pages

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0 of 0 people found the following review helpful.

Five Stars

By Jose

I have enjoyed having these references.

16 of 16 people found the following review helpful.

State of the art

By Thomas Sjøby

This book is fantastic, and it has really set the standards for identification guides to come. Furthermore it has a size that makes it possible for you to bring it with you in the field.

The book has absolutely everything you need to know about seabirds. It is written in a very logical way and the plates are very good. The first 23 pages are an introduction to the subject, an overview of the glossary etc. Pages that makes it possible for you to understand the descriptions of the birds later in the book - even if you are a beginner.

After the introduction there is 88 plates with drawings of all the seabirds in the world, including subspecies. All the plates are in colour and has been drawn from field notes and photos. The paintings are great and they will be a very good help when you are out there doing the birding.

After the section with the plates there is descriptions of all the birds. After the descriptions there are distribution maps. The descriptions are very good, but the maps could have been slightly bigger, in order to give the reader a better chance to find out the (more or less) exact distribution of the species.

I haven't seen any books on seabirds that are comparable to this on. It is the state of the art when it comes to seabirds and fieldguides. You simply need this book if you are into seabirds. Buy it!

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful.

An odd job

By Ashtar Command

This is the revised edition of "Seabirds - an identification guide" by Peter Harrison. The author, who actually looks like an old fashioned sea captain, and his wife Carol spent seven years on the world's oceans to gather information for this field guide to end all field guides. Gee, don't these guys have day jobs? Maybe they do, after a fashion: Harrison worked as a deckhand aboard trawlers and crayfishing boats to more easily study and sketch seabirds. I wonder what his crew mates made of that!

As you might have guessed, "Seabirds" is illustrated by deckhand Harrison himself. Personally, I'm a bird book-watcher rather than a birdwatcher, so I tend to buy bird books for aesthetic reasons. I admit that Harrisonian aesthetics weren't really to my liking, but then, I'm a Jonsson aficionado. The selection of species is also somewhat arbitrary: very few shorebirds, but a whole lot of pelicans, cormorants, loons and grebes. Even grebes that don't live anywhere near the sea have been included. The exceedingly rare Atitlan Grebe can be found only in one lake in Guatemala (if you're lucky). That's a seabird? As for ducks, a representative selection has been included, but only in an appendix with illustrations in black-and-white. Do crayfishers have a secret conflict with eiders?

Otherwise, "Seabirds" looks like most field guides are supposed to look like. There's an extensive colour plate section, and in the main text section we get information on distribution, juveniles, various plumages, similar species and some special tips concerning identification. A problem is that the maps are tucked away in a third section at the back of the book. The colour plates don't indicate distribution. I was somewhat surprised to learn that both the Northern and the Southern Giant Petrels are confined to the South Atlantic, and that the "southern" species have a more northern range! Any explanation? Or just one of those "odd jobs"?

Still, I don't doubt that this is the field guide if your favourite haunts include South Georgia, Kerguelen, Antarctica or...Lake Atitlan. Four stars!

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