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Sibley tree guide

Book Description The Man Who Revolutionized the Field Guide for Birds now brings his formidable identification and illustration skills to the more than six hundred tree species in North America. Similar in size and format to The Sibley Guide to Birds, the design of this guide is another triumph of logic and conciseness. Species are arranged taxonomically, not by characteristics such as leaf shape (as in most other guides), which will allow the user to browse the images to find a match for a observed tree just as a bird uses the bird guide. And all pages will follow the same format, allowing the user to identify particular information easily. David Sibleyâ€™s meticulous and exquisitely detailed™ paintings illustrate the cycles of annual and vital development, revealing even the very subtle similarities and distinctions between elements of different species: bark, leaves, needles, cones, flowers, fruit, branches and silhouettes. More than four hundred maps show the full range, both natural and cultivated, for almost all species. Conservation, conservation and environmental health issues are addressed in authorised trials. As innovative, complete and indispensable as The Sibley Guide to Birds, this new book will set the standard of excellence in tree field guides. A Q &A with David Allen Sibley Question: When did your interest in trees begin? David Allen Sibley: He's always been there. I don't™ something unusual about this-- kids like to climb trees, imagine living in a big empty tree, etc. When I was about 8, I was living near Muir Woods, so seeing the Redwoods, and smelling what I now know are the California trees Laurel made a big impression on me. And I think the interest in trees follows naturally from an interest in birds - looking at birds means you're looking at a lot of trees, and when you start noticing different things about your branches and leaves and bark. Q: How long have you been working on this book and what kind of research has it entailed? How long has each illustration in this book cost you? Das: Well, I've been studying trees for as long as™ I've been watching birds. Every time I™m out in the field watching the birds Iâ€™m not observing the habitat. Iâ€™t realize everything. Itâ€™ impossible for a naturalist to study only one thing as they are all connected. But the actual work on the book began 7 years ago, shortly after the bird guide was completed. I spent my first few years traveling to study and photograph different species, reading about trees, working my painting technique for these images, and planning the book page by page. I'm lucky enough to live near Boston, where Arnold and Mount Auburn Cemetery offer the opportunity to study hundreds of tree species right here. It really has been the last four years that I've spent the most my time in studio painting and writing. Like the bird guide, each individual image would take an average of about an hour to complete, from sketch to finished painting. Q: Were there important differences in the writing of this book vs. the Bird Guide? DAS: The obvious difference is that trees are much easier to find. When I needed to study a particular species of tree I could just walk up to it and spend as much time researching as I needed to. Birds are more elusive. I had to spend years in the field in order to accumulate enough observation time to draw them well. Another key difference is that birds are recognized by sight, just as we do, and the evolution of their appearance has been guided and heavily limited by the way they look to other birds. Trees cannot™, they communicate through pollen and some chemical signals, so a tree™ does not â€™careâ€™ what others â€™sate or bark look like. Its appearance has evolved for purely functional reasons. The exception is some flowers and fruits, which have evolved certain visual signals to attract animals that pollinate flowers or disperse seeds. Q: What would you say to someone who is a beginner in tree identification? What are the key identification features in a tree? DAS: The first thing I suggest is to spend some time with the guide. Try to familiarize yourself with the characteristics of certain trees. Then go through the book and mark all the species that occur in your area. This will help you become familiar with the range of spices that might be present so that when you see a strange leaf shape, fruit, flower, bark pattern, etc. - even if you can't™ don't remember the name - you can remember to see it in the guide. Since trees are so easy to approach, you can simply take a picture of the key parts of any tree, or pick up a leaf or other part that has fallen to the ground, and identify it in your spare time. Key identifiers will always be the shape, color and size of the leaves; the color and shape of the twigs; the color and texture of the bark; and the size and™ of the tree, as well as the habitat, any fruit or flowers, and the timing of seasonal changes. For example, in late May, in the northeast, if you see a pale bark tree with small silvery leaves that has just emerged (while other trees have well-developed green leaves) you can be virtually sure it's a Bigtooth Aspen. A multi-trunk tree, which extends into wetter soils, with straw-colored fruit clusters hanging from branches throughout the winter, is almost certainly a boxelder female. Q: How many tree species do we have in the United States and Canada? DAS: There are around 700 species native to North America (depending on how a tree is defined). Hundreds more species are grown here, and many of them have escaped and are growing in the wild. In this book I have left out a lot of species that are sometimes like trees, and species found only in South Florida, in favor of including commonly grown trees that people will see more often. Q: Why did you decide to structure your guide taxonomically? DAS: I think one of the keys to learning birds, or trees, or anything else alive, is learning the taxonomy --families and genders-- and understanding which species are closely related and which are not. My goal in studying trees is to gain a deeper understanding of them, and part of that is to learn the fundamental things that all maples, or all councillors, etc. have in common. Presenting the species to the guide grouped with their closest relatives, helps readers begin to recognize these fundamental similarities, and then™ will be able to look at a tree and say it just looks like a mapleâ€™ just as birds recognize a key or thred. Q: You said that in researching this book you noticed that trees prove, much more than birds, the impact that humans have had on the landscape. How's that? DAS: Bird populations in North America have changed drastically since the 1500s, but it is still™ possible to see nearly all the same species, and in almost the same places and times, as early European explorers saw them. But the tree landscape we see today is dramatically different from what our ancestors saw 500 years ago. Here in Massachusetts, there are only small patches of old-growth forest that have never been cut. Most have been cut several times over the past few centuries, and what we call forest â€™matureâ€™ today are trees mostly under 100 years old, so™ are still quite young with time to mature. Added to this are introduced diseases that have all but eliminated species such as American chestnut, and the addition of non-native species such as Norway Maple and Northern Catalpa (itâ€™s said 50% of woody plants now growing in the state of Massachusetts are not native) and have a very different landscape. I imagine if Audubon or Thoreau were to return today, they would see plenty of familiar birds, but changes in forests would surprise them. Q: Which tree populations are in the greatest danger of extinction and what can be done about it? DAS: Several species of trees are seriously threatened by the disease, just as the American chestnut was removed by the Chestnut Blight in the early 1900s. Efforts are being made to contain these diseases, to prevent new pests from entering this continent, and to find and propagate resistant trees. In many cases the disease should not be fatal, but with many of our trees stressed by acid rain and/or changes on a large scale such as drought, they are more susceptible. One of the best things can be done to ensure the survival of healthy forests is to act quickly to reduce air pollution as it has profound effects among trees. More directly, we need to reduce our paper use, as old-growth forests in Canada and elsewhere are still being trimmed and grounded as pulp for paper. Q: Where is the largest tree in North America? Oldest? DAS: One of the fun hobbies among tree lovers is the search for trees â€™championâ€™- the largest tree of each species. American Forests maintains a national record of â€™Big Treesâ€™, and many states maintain their own list. The tallest tree ever measured was a Redwood coast in California at 377 feet high. The largest single tree by volume was another Redwood Coast with a trunk of more than 88,000 cubic feet of wood and is estimated to weigh more than 3300 tons! The oldest tree is a bristlecone pine tree in Nevada known to be nearly 5,000 years old. But these age and volume records are challenged by the Quaking Aspen, which often grows multiple trunks of a single large root system, and can be considered a single organism. One such plant in Utah covers more than 100 acres with 47,000 logs, and contains about 6000 tons of wood, which makes it the largest single organism known. Estimates of his age range from 80,000 years to one million years. The average age of any individual trunk is about 130 years, new trunks are constantly being produced by the root system. Q: Do you have a favorite tree? DAS: This is™ ask me to choose a favorite bird! I have a lot of favorites. I like the clean bark and majestic appearance of the sycamores, the peculiarity of the Sassaphras, the clean lines of the crown of the noble fir tree, the incredible cones of Pi Coulter. I could go on and on! Q: We are certainly seeing a fierce focus on the environment in all areas of public and private life - from politics to business to the cars we drive and the light bulbs we buy. Where do trees fit into our environmental future? How important are they? DAS: You could argue that trees play a bigger role in our lives than any other living being. We use them for construction, paper and cardboard; for food; to heat in our homes and to cook; for shade and ornament around our houses and offices; and for specialized items such as musical instruments and sports equipment, where there will be no other material. Chances are you are surrounded by wood as you read this. In natural ecosystems trees are important on their own. Its leaves and branches provide food and shelter to countless species of animals. Even more critical is the habitat created by trees. The air under a forest canopy can be 15 degrees more and much wetter, than air on an open field. This microclimate and the leaf litter of the forest floor create a whole secondary ecosystem of other plants and animals that can only exist with one forest canopy. Trees filter air pollutants, convert carbon dioxide into oxygen, and create rich soil. In addition to all this, the trees are nice and relaxing to be around. (Photo © Erinn Hartman) A look inside the sibley guide to trees (Click images to enlarge) The sibley guide to trees is so well done that even the most serious birds can find themselves identifying and enjoying the trees in their own right . . . All aspects of trees are shown: leaves (top to bottom), buds, flowers, fruits, twigs and bark. For most species, autumn leaves are illustrated and, where appropriate, a new growth too . . . The maps of excellent range are large and reliable . . . The information is well ordered [and] the guide includes the latest research . . . The Sibley Guide to Trees will occupy a treasured space right next to The Sibley Guide to Birds . . . He is as monumental and as pleasant as the bird guide, and a masterful and appropriate companion. —Clay and Pat Sutton, Birding magazineA beautiful, masterful and very necessary work that will soon be our guide to the trees of North America. —Edward O. WilsonA wonderful volume of companions in David Sibley's magnificent bird books, with the same illustrations of very precise species and concise and clear descriptions and rank maps, together an invaluable contribution to our nature literature. —Peter Matthiessen, author of Shadow CountryA bird difference--the theme of David Sibley's previous guide--trees of the same species can be different colors at different times of the year, different sizes in different places, and even different shapes and sizes in one place. I thought, therefore, that the trees were so full of variables that a field guide would be impossible. I hadn't counted on Sibley's genius with words and painting to turn the impossible into this brilliant, eminently useful reality. —Richard Ellis, author of Tuna: A Love StoryEtic delighted that the talented David Sibley has 'branched out' to include trees. His illustrations are ideal, and the fact that he chooses to give more examples and variations than other guides will make this a very useful manual. —Robert Bateman, author of BirdsCrec that I will never see another guide that makes it so easy to identify a tree . . . David Allen Sibley, the author and pre-eminent bird guide illustrator, has written a monumental book of scope but easy to use in practical use. Simply put, this is the most comprehensive guide to North American trees . . . This is an important and new contribution that is sure to help us better understand our natural world. Larry Cox, Tucson Citizen David Allen Sibley did it again. Nine years after the publication of his acclaimed The Sibley Guide to Birds, the book that changed the way we our field guides, field, he turned his attention to the second most beloved member of the bird world: the tree. In more than 4,000 exquisite paintings, Sibley reveals what to look for to identify 668 native and commonly cultivated trees . . . and do it the same way you identify birds: from a distance. —Matt Mendenhall, Birder's World Sibley's book brings the advantages of painting to tree identification, keeping plant parts scaled when necessary, showing variations in the shapes of everything from leaves to acorns, and making finely nuanced color options that really help you analyze similar species and direct hybrids . . . Obviously it's made for field use. The durable and flexible cover has final flaps to mark whatever happens to be studying, and the extra size gives you images that you can easily see . . . This book will become a classic. —Jim McCausland, Sunset Magazine David Allen Sibley is the artist and author responsible for several excellent bird books (mine are well thumbed), and his tree guide holds his own against the Audubon series. His paintings manage the neat trick of being both evocative and accurate; explanatory details are clearly articulated. —Dominique Browning, The New York Times Book Review Sibley's inclusion for most tree families is notable for a one-volume work . . . With a few exceptions . . . the user of this guide can expect to find any native tree found in North America in northern Mexico. Alan Pistorius, Northern Woodlands magazine [A] blockbuster . . . The book is arranged in taxonomic order. Pines, firs and firs are located at the front of the book with the flowering trees and nuts that follow. This ordination brings together all the pine trees, the single group oaks, the ashes together and so on. I favor this arrangement in field guides because it demonstrates the natural relationship between the families of the trees, thus teaching some botany, as well as providing identifications. —Paul G. Wiegman, Pittsburgh Tribune-Review Rich with identification aids (including leaves, nuts, flowers, bark, shape and rank maps), Sibley's guide will make a useful and entertaining companion. —Jay Strafford, Richmond Times-Dispatch Thousands of paintings with well-chosen details will help you identify trees even in winter . . . With native trees the most vulnerable and important plants endangered by climate change, we need to sharpen our awareness of wild forest trees that provide oxygen, food, shelter and erosion control for our ecosystem and are very different from the cloned exotic trees we plant in our backyard gardens as pampered pets. —Carol Stocker, The Boston Globe (#1 in her list of the 10 best garden books The Sibley Guide to Trees, a wealth of knowledge about tree identification, is made into the aesthetics and easy to understand of Sibley Sibley . . . Fantastic... A great new book. —Katrina Marland, American Forests magazine Is the sibley guide to trees as impressive as The Sibley Guide to Birds? I should say yes. [1] It is truly a tree tour de force, a worthy companion of the author's flag bird guide. A first realizes how wonderful this volume is: the graphic design is subtle but sharp . . . Probably the best amateur tree ID guide on the market. However, the importance of this work far outweighs its usefulness. This Sibley Guide to trees as a bridge from the rest of the natural universe . . . The Sibley Guide to Trees is an essential reference text for anyone and everything that has been asked about the identity of a tree. I classify this book up there with my beloved Sibley Guide to Birds as mandatory editions in any home library. —Mike Bergin, 10000birds.com Sibley's guide deserves a place in all libraries, public or private . . . The Sibley Guide to the Tree is the closest we have to a tree record in North America. —Chris Watson, Santa Cruz Sentinel Invaluable—The Hartford Courant Is David Allen Sibley's new work as useful, reliable and interesting as his book on birds? For me, a nobotanist who has walked through the forests of much of the country, he is. This guide is full of clear and concise descriptions and wonderful drawings of species that go from sumac to saguaro. —John R. Alden, The Plain Dealer A treasure trove of knowledge about North American trees. Each page is a lot of information . . . The beautifully illustrated pages are in color and complete detail, until giving the dimensions and shapes of the acorns of each oak variety. Sandy Mahaffey, The Free Lance-Star (Fredericksburg, VA) A masterful contribution to the genre . . . With each entry, there is a brief written description of the tree and its main characteristics, along with drawings of the leaves, shoots, bark, flowers, fruits and seeds —and in many cases, the structure or shape of the tree. And wow, when flipped through the pine section, you can easily see the difference in needles and cones. Best of all, Sibley includes a map with each entry showing the natural range of the tree across the U.S. and Canada . . . It's small enough to take you outside when you want to know if you're looking at a white, a black, or a red oak. My copy is likely going to . . . completely dog ears within a year or two. Jane Berger, Garden Design Online David Allen Sibley began seeing and drawing birds seriously in 1969, at the age of seven. Since 1980 he has traveled all over the U.S. mainland studying the natural world, both on his own and as a leader of bird watching tours. This intense journey and culminated in the publication of his complete bird identification guide, The Sibley Guide to to seguit per The Sibley Guide to Bird Life & Behavior, Sibley's Birding Basics, The Sibley Field Guide to Birds of Eastern North America, i The Sibley Field Guide to Birds of Western North America. Viu a Concord, Massachusetts. Massachusetts.

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