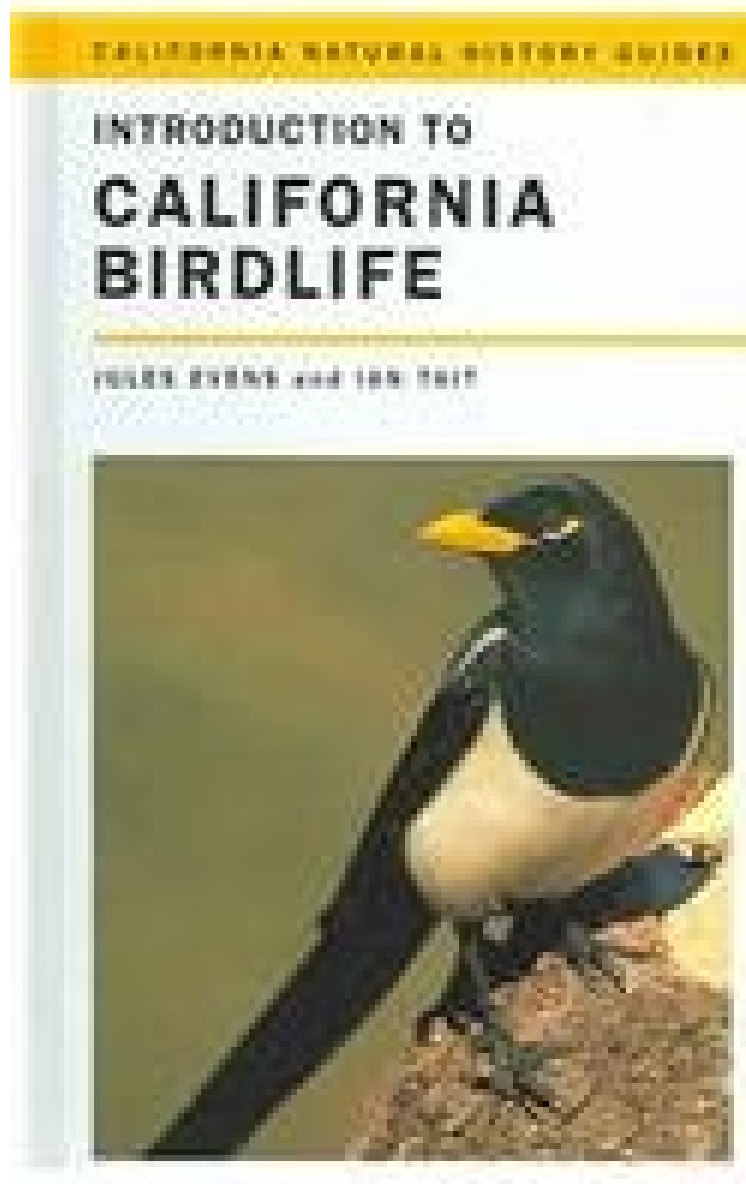


(Free) Introduction to California Birdlife (California Natural History Guides)

## Introduction to California Birdlife (California Natural History Guides)

*Jules Evens*

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**Jules Evens : Introduction to California Birdlife (California Natural History Guides)** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Introduction to California Birdlife (California Natural History Guides):

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Wonderful content, up to date, arranged by ecosystem which is marvelously helpful. By bookEDI bought this book off of a recommended reading list for a natural history trip along the central CA coast and was able to quickly turn to and read the pertinent sections on ocean birds and shore birds. Although it contains some photos, it is not a field guide so you need a field guide at hand to look up the birds not pictured in this book. It is a great addition to a regional field guide. Very well written (I LOVE authors who use language well and in an engaging manner). The book is full of fascinating gee whiz facts as well as being educational on things like speciation and on the effects of thermal activity in the ocean on birds who live there, the latter a very complex subject. Half way through reading it, I have only one minor complaint: they kept the book from being even fatter by making the font quite small. Unfortunately, they also used rather glossy paper off of which light reflects, so it is challenging to find an angle to hold it so the glare off the pages doesn't make it too hard to read, and the lighting makes quite a difference as to whether or not the attempt to read it is hard on the eyes. But I'm delighted to have the information it contains as I work my way through from one ecosystem to another. I am a docent myself (in a different aspect of natural history), and this is a treasure trove of just the kind of useful information any docent would love to find in order to pull out tid-bits to share with the public, as well as advancing one's own continuing education for personal pleasure.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Poorer quality than expected. By Sharon Fields I am very happy with this book's content, but was dismayed to find that two pages had paragraphs cut out of them. Luckily for me I did not need the information on those pages, but if I had I would have been upset. The description given did not indicate that there would be any part of the book missing.

10 of 10 people found the following review helpful. A good introduction. By A. E. Wright Beginning and intermediate birders will enjoy this introduction to the birdlife of the most ornithologically diverse state in the union. Not an identification resource or a site guide, this thick little book instead introduces the birds against the background of their ecology and biology, treating habitats rather than individual species. Unfortunately, the book could have been edited more rigorously than it was. There are spelling errors ("ocine" for "oscine," "nivasus" for "nivosus") that an adept proofreader could have caught, and the discussion of endemism and evolution in the front matter is oddly oblique, never completely wrong but often just a little bit off: readers may well end up wondering why the terms "sister species," "sibling species," and "sister species" all occur in one paragraph and whether there is any difference. The Inyo California Towhee is said to be a "remnant population of a once more widespread species," but that formulation could be applied just as accurately (and just as confusingly) to any other population of California Towhees. The author knows what he's talking about, but the editor could have helped say it better, more clearly, and more precisely. But the book is still highly recommended, as are all the other titles in this excellent series.

In almost every location and every season, California is a birdwatchers' paradise. One can search Sierra meadows for a Great Gray Owl, the autumn estuary for a Black-bellied Plover, or spring willow thickets for the effervescent song of the Yellow Warbler. Closer to home, backyards, neighborhood parks, and cities abound with many of the state's 600-plus bird species. This beautifully illustrated book, the first based on the relationship between birds and their habitats, is the definitive introduction to California's varied birds and the lives they lead. Introduction to California Birdlife describes the representative birds in California's seven major bioregions: ocean, seashore, coastal ranges, Central Valley, mountains and foothills, Great Basin, and deserts. It explains key relationships among weather patterns, plant communities, and the ecological rhythms of these habitats and shows how these factors relate to the distribution, behavioral adaptations, and environmental challenges of its birds.\* The perfect book for beginning and intermediate naturalists, and in-depth enough for experienced naturalists who would like to learn more about the habitat affinities, ecological niches, and seasonal cycles of California birds\* 150 color photographs bring to life many of the birds described\* Introduces the basics of avian biology\* Includes a list of all California's known bird species and a glossary of birding terms

"This is the first book on California birds that is based on habitats. I would have loved to have it when I started birdwatching in 1958! I would have read it cover to cover a dozen times and slept with it under my pillow." - Steve Laymon, Natural Resource Specialist, Bureau of Land Management

"From the Inside Flap" As a longtime birder, ornithologist, and naturalist, Evens has the breadth of understanding of California's avifauna like few others have. . . . Tait's photos are outstanding-it's obvious he's been at it for decades. . . . Anyone interested in the natural history of California will want to read this book." Jeff N. Davis, Institute of Marine Sciences, University of California, Santa Cruz

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