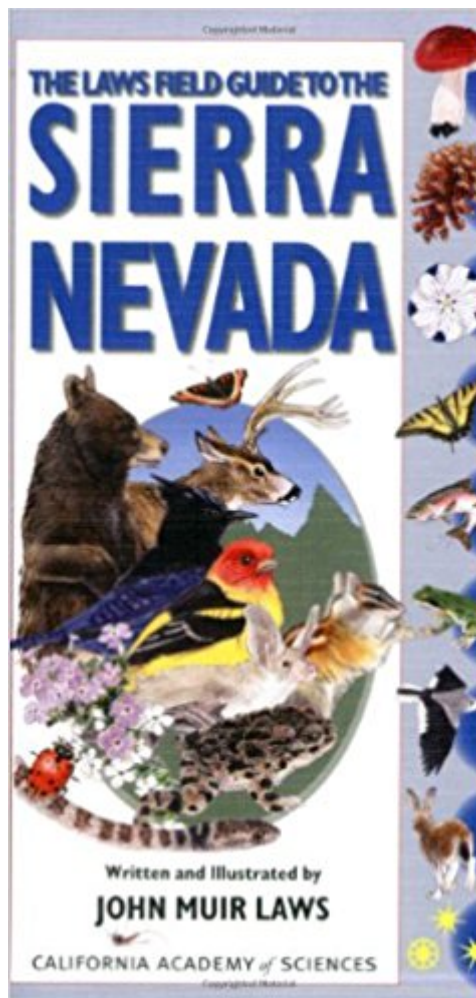




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Laws Field Guide To The Sierra Nevada, The (California Academy Of Sciences)



Synopsis

The most comprehensive field guide to the natural wonders of the Range of Light! In this groundbreaking and meticulously field-tested guide, the rich variety of Sierra life--trees, wildflowers, ferns, fungi, lichens, fish, reptiles, amphibians, birds, mammals, and insects--comes alive.

Easy-to-use features include: - Intuitive organization, color tabs, and simple keys - Similar-looking species side by side - Over 2,800 full-color illustrations - Range maps of species that are otherwise difficult to distinguish - Index of common and scientific names - Lightweight and compact--ideal for backpacking Impressively detailed and comprehensive, the guide includes: - More than 1,700 species - Descriptions of behavior, adaptations, and interactions between species - Species and topics not found in most guides, including aquatic life, spiders and webs, plankton, plant galls, bark beetle galleries, animal tracks and evidence, seasonal star charts, weather patterns, and cloud formations Published in conjunction with the California Academy of Sciences.

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Customer Reviews

"Laws was so determined to make it easy for people to use this guide, he crammed a wide range of species into one book so hikers and backpackers would find it easy to take with them. Then he arranged it by species and primary characteristics so, from the inside cover, they can flip quickly to the pages that cover the plant or animal they've seen for a quick identification. Laws' stunning illustrations are accompanied by observations and requests, like on page 309: Keep an eye out for the wolverine, now feared extinct."--The San Francisco Chronicle

If you have room for only one

Sierra Nevada guidebook in your pack, make it this little gem....Dense with illustration, it's the perfect all-ages introduction to field guides. Well-researched natural history notes pull the reader more deeply into the story of these iconic mountains."--Sierra Magazine

"He took his first hike into the Sierra Nevada, the landscape of his obsession, while still in the womb. His parents named him John Muir Laws. He once spent a week searching for a single perfect orchid to paint. He says 'I am constantly amazed by things'--Such as? 'The diversity of chipmunks.' He is not joking. He cares about newts. If asked, he does an excellent imitation of a startled vole. He has opinions about beetles... The new field guide, already praised by outdoor connoisseurs as a naturalist's bible, begins with 'Small Fungi growing on Wood' and ends with stars. It is small enough to slip in your pocket but includes 1,700 species of flowers, trees, bugs, frogs, snails, skinks, birds, fish, rodents. It took him six years. The world needs more of this--this kind of sustained, informed, deep gee-whizdom... Laws painted every wildflower in his book from sketches in the field. The same with the birds, except for the great horned owl which he kept missing. 'We have this idea that all robins, for example, look the same,' says Laws. 'But they don't. Any more than collies look alike or all humans. It's because we are not looking hard enough.'... When he was a boy hiking on the John Muir Trail, he dreamed of creating the perfect field guide, not a guide made by experts, but a book by an enthusiast. 'My criteria for inclusion in the book: Either it is so common you'll trip over it all the time. Or not so common--maybe it is just some subtle little thing, but they are so stunning or their story is so great, I had to include it,' he says. Why? 'Because the more people fall in love with the diversity of life, the more people will fight to protect it,' Laws says. '...The point really is not to identify a creature or a plant and move on. The point is to learn the story.'"

--William Booth, Washington Post, Sunday Jan. 13, 2008

"From fungi to forest to frogs and fish, the book is a small but powerful treasure of reference to nature." --The Sacramento Bee

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Incredible book. I live in the Sierra Nevada and hike in the back country often. This book is a wealth of information on trees, wildflowers, ferns, fungi, lichens, fish, reptiles, amphibians, birds, mammals, and insects illustrated beautifully. I can't recommend this book enough for avid hikers or those just wanting to learn about the plants, insects and animals living in the Sierras.

This is a great field guide for the Sierra Nevada. It's quite comprehensive, including wildflowers, trees, mushrooms, insect, butterflies, birds, fish, amphibians, mammals, and even charts of the evening sky. As a general guide, it doesn't go in depth in some areas, but that's the price you pay for having everything in a single book. The wildflower section is particularly good (taking more than 1/3 of the book) and so it's the insect section (I never paid attention to bugs before buying this guide). The guide is based on gorgeous color drawings (rather than photographs), which allows the author to emphasize the characteristics of the subject. The guide is nicely printed on water resistant paper, but as a result is quite heavy. If you are a minimalist backpacker or hiker, I don't think you want to bring it to the field. All and all, this is the best general field guide I've found for the Sierra Nevada.

This is a simply amazing field guide, by the aptly named John Muir Laws. The illustrations are gorgeous and clear, the organization makes it easy to find the right sections (pink wildflowers, yellow birds, etc), and the short notes in the text are just enough to get one thinking and inspire further research. I *love* that the author included all sorts of plant and animal categories. Like many, I wanted to identify trees, flowers, and birds. But while using the book, I couldn't help noticing the enormous variety of insects, shrubs, spiders, fungi, fish, and more. I'd never thought to identify an insect. And then I wondered why I hadn't. The book encourages appreciation of nature's vast array of life, not just the "cute" ones.

A ton of useful information on a range of subjects (plants, animals, mushrooms, insects, weather, tracks, scat, star charts, etc.). Beautifully illustrated and easy to navigate. The text snippets have a very personal, conversational, at times even humorous tone, which make it a pleasure to consult. At 17.5oz (496g), it's a little too heavy in my opinion for backpacking, but a good companion for all other occasions. The knowledge, thought and passion that went into this publication really burst off the pages.

A great illustrated guide with step by step instructions on identification of flora and fauna. It is not 100% complete, but is very good.

This book goes wherever we go. My family loves it. My two boys and I enjoy the fact that we can look up anything we want when we are out adventuring. One summer we were able to identify every wildflower we encountered on a trip to Shaver Lake CA. That was a lot of fun. It's very easy to use and not intimidating at all.

Having a blast identifying every creature, plant, shrub, flower, etc. that I see. Probably also annoying the heck out of my husband. Just kidding, I think it's pretty cool to be able to look up and read about anything you come across:)

My order looked like it had been tossed around a bit before packaging. Not that it's a huge deal or anything, I just like to wear the book in myself, especially if it's new. The edges were bent/creased on the cover a bit, just looked used more or less. But besides that, I love this book! It has almost everything I've been trying to identify! Definitely a worthy purchase!

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