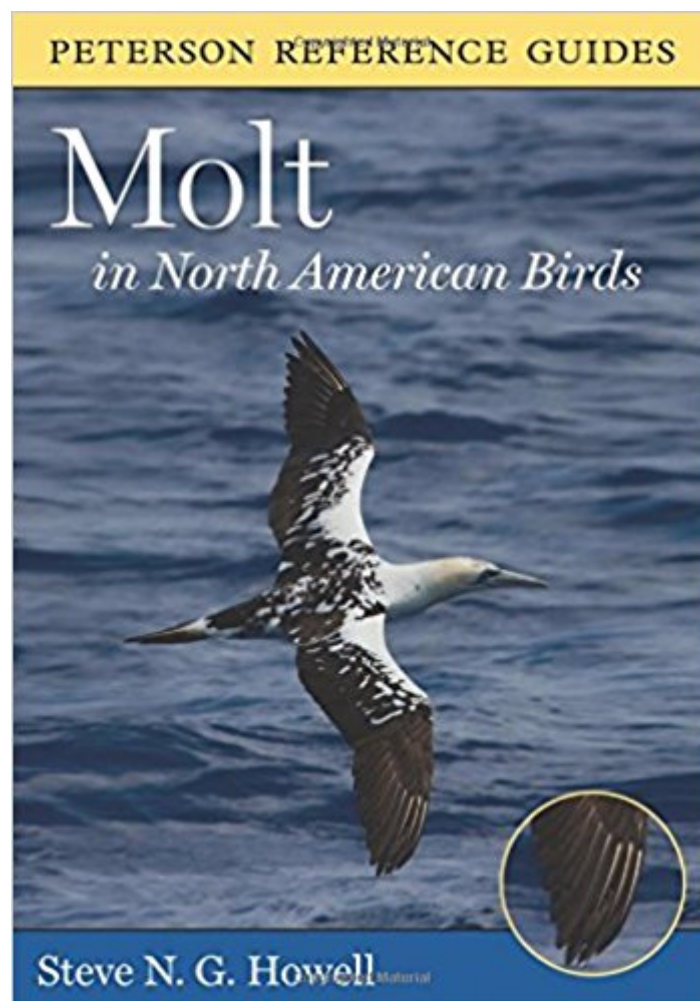




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Peterson Reference Guide To Molt In North American Birds (Peterson Reference Guides)



Synopsis

To most observers, molt seems an overwhelming subject. But birders use many aspects of molt more than they realize to distinguish juvenile birds from adults, to pick out an individual hummingbird from among dozens visiting a feeder, and much more. For those whose interest goes beyond simply identifying birds, questions such as What triggers molt to start? How fast do feathers grow? and How long do they last? offer a fascinating window into the lives of birds. Put plainly, molt relates in some way to everything a bird does, including where it lives, what it eats, and how far it migrates. Here, for the first time, molt is presented for the nonscientist. Molt is very orderly and built on only four underlying strategies: simple basic, complex basic, simple alternate, and complex alternate. This book clearly lays out these strategies, relates them to aspects of life history, such as habitat and migration, and makes this important subject accessible. 0.80 inches tall x 7.30 inches long x 10.20 inches wide

Customer Reviews

Product Description To most observers, molt seems an overwhelming subject. But birders use many aspects of molt more than they realize--to distinguish juvenile birds from adults, to pick out an individual hummingbird from among dozens visiting a feeder, and much more. And for those whose interest goes beyond simply identifying birds, questions such as What triggers molt to start? How fast do feathers grow? and How long do they last? offer a fascinating window into the lives of birds. Put plainly, molt relates in some way to everything a bird does, including where it lives, what it eats, and how far it migrates.

Feathers are an integral part of birds' lives. They cover and protect a bird; signal a bird's sex, age, and breeding status; and enable it to fly. But feathers don't last forever, and they need to be replaced by a process known as molt. Molt can seem like an intimidating topic but really it isn't. Even though birds have evolved many ways of balancing when and where to molt with other aspects of their life history, their molting patterns are actually very orderly and built upon only four underlying strategies: simple basic, complex basic, simple alternate, and complex alternate. The Peterson Reference Guide to Molt in North American Birds clearly explains the molting strategies of each family of birds, using beautiful, large photographs to illustrate and simplify this important and useful tool in bird identification. Armed with a new understanding and appreciation for molt, birders can improve their skills with any number of species. Beyond identification, birds' molting patterns reflect factors such as their

habitat, food, clutch size, migration distance, and body size, and offer a novel window through which to view the remarkable lives of birds. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

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