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## Books: North American Hummingbirds: An Identification Guide by George C West

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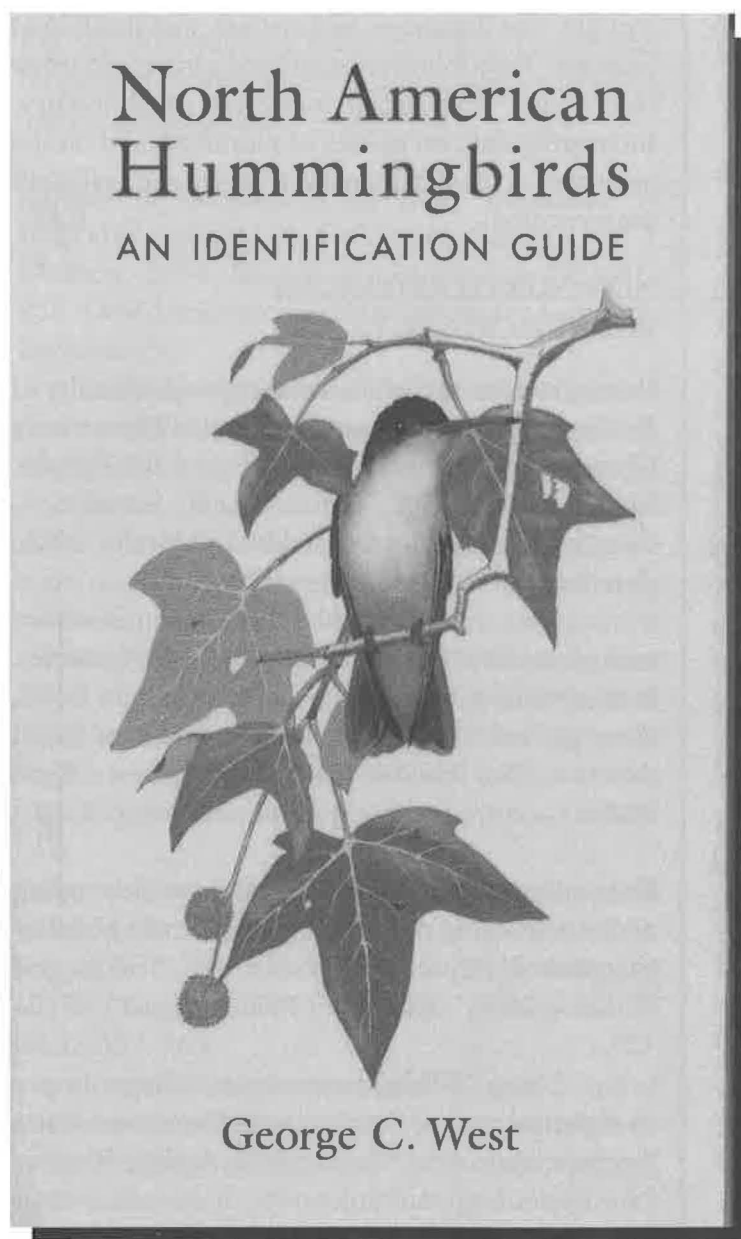


Using bird banding and recovery to study the migration of Black-necked Cranes (*Grus nigricollis*) in China. D.-J. Kong, F.-S. Li, and X.-J. Yang. 2014. *Zoological Research* 35:20-38.

By reorganizing and classifying bird banding and recovery records from 1985 to 2012, the authors discussed the current research status of the migrations of this species. Recovery records indicated three migration routes. JS

## Books

**NORTH AMERICAN HUMMINGBIRDS: AN IDENTIFICATION GUIDE.** By George C. West.  
University of New Mexico Press, Albuquerque. 2015. 233 pp. about \$20.



This excellent, user-friendly guide covers Canada and the United States, and all 25 species occurring here, including many rarely recorded. It is filled with information, breathtaking and highly detailed photos, and other illustrations; all in color and on virtually every page. As a bander, it is what I have always dreamed of having. As a birder, you will find the details you need to get those confusing fall hummers defined. Dr. West illustrates (in both senses) why many banders in the Southwest are fascinated by these flying gems. When photos of some details are not available, he illustrates them with excellent paintings that he executed. Many illustrations in *North American Bird Bander* are also from his prolific hand.

The photos are sharp and clear, and have an added feature, rarely seen in pictures of banding of birds: clean fingernails! It defines "North America" as not including Mexico, but includes many species whose primary range lies in our neighbor to the south.

I would say that it represents a quantum jump in information, consolidating details for banders and birders to identify, age, and sex all seventeen species of hummingbirds found in North America. In addition it provides excellent information and illustrations on an additional eight accidentals.

We all should be grateful to Dr. West for sharing his the knowledge and images garnered from his years of study, banding, photographing, and drawing these wonderful acrobats. Get a copy for yourself and your birding and banding friends.

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