How to Use Peterson Field Guide to Eastern Birds

The Guide is grouped by eight main, visual categories:

1. Ducks and Duck-like birds
2. Gulls and Terns
3. Long-legged waders (such as herons)
4. Shorebirds and smaller waders
5. Fowl-like birds (such as grouse)
6. Birds of prey
7. Flycatchers
8. Warblers

Each species account has a picture on the right page, sometimes with arrows pointing to outstanding field marks, and text on the left page. The text includes a description, actions, similar species, voice, range and habitat. Small range maps are located under the species name with a reference to a larger map at the back of the book. For example, M 7 refers to Map 7 in the index.

The following colors depict different ranges on the maps:

- **Red** = Breeding range
- **Blue** = Winter Range
- **Purple** = Resident year-round
- **Red dash** = Irregular summer range
- **Blue dash** = Irregular winter range
- **Purple dash** = Irregular year-round range
- **Striped** = Pelagic range

Scientific names are listed for each species while Family and Order names are listed at the top of the left page. Sometimes, you have to flip back past a species account to determine its Family and/or Order.

**BRANT Branta bernicla** (see also p. 24)
Locally common M7
24–26 in. (60–66 cm). A small black-necked goose, has white stern, conspicuous when it appears, whitish flanks, and band of white on neck (absent in immature). Travels in large irregular flocks. Eastern subspecies, “Pale-bellied” Brant (B. b. hrota), has light belly, less contrast flanks, and two separated neck patches. Pacific Coast subspecies, “Black” Brant (B. b. nigricans), has dark belly and complete white band across foreneck. **VOICE:** Throaty cr-er-er-er or krr-oak, kerr-oak. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Foreparts of Canada and Caesalpinia geese not black to waterline, and those species have large white face patch. Brant is more strictly coastal. **HABITAT:** Salt bays, estuaries in summer, tundra.