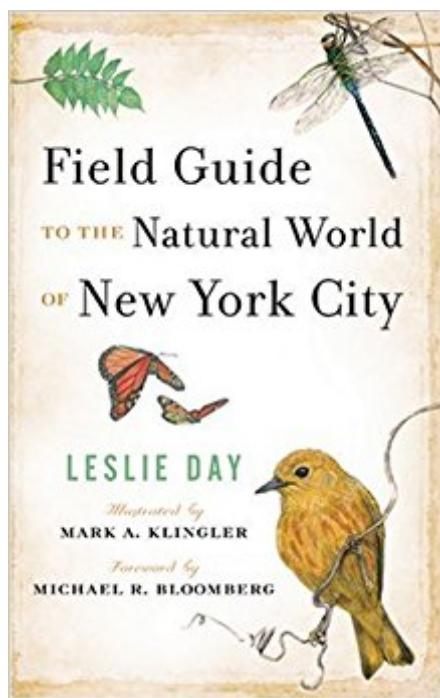


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# Field Guide To The Natural World Of New York City



## Synopsis

New York just might be the most biologically diverse city in temperate America. The five boroughs sit atop one of the most naturally rich sites in North America, directly under the Atlantic migratory flyway, at the mouth of a 300-mile-long river, and on three islands—Manhattan, Staten, and Long. Leslie Day, a New York City naturalist, reveals this amazing world in her *Field Guide to the Natural World of New York City*. Combining the stunning paintings of Mark A. Klingler with a variety of photographs and maps, this book is a complete guide for the urban naturalist—with tips on identifying the city's flora and fauna and maps showing the nearest subway stop. Here is your personal guide to the real wild side of America's largest city. Throw it in your backpack, hop on the subway, and explore.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"Dr. Day... A sort of Julia Child of nature." (Ellen Pall *New York Times*) "This little gem fills you in on everything finned, furred, feathered, or leafed, and how to find it, in all five boroughs." (House and Garden) "Provides historic facts, photographs and maps to give a snapshot of the city's natural resources and to remind hard-charging New Yorkers of the unchanging parts of their environment." (Sally Goldenberg *Staten Island Advance*) "A complete guide for the urban naturalist." (Greg Rienzi *Gazette*) "Describes how to find and explore some of the greener parts of the concrete jungle." (Walter Dawkins *The Record*) "This book should be in every New Yorker's library as both reference and inspiration for low-carbon-impact journeys to places of unexpected beauty and tranquility." (Crawford-Doyle Booksellers Newsletter) "You may well wonder why I am reviewing a

book about New York city when we preach 'local, local, local' throughout these pages. I'll tell you, because this beautifully illustrated handbook is a wonderful example of exploring the bucolic city... All illustrated with gorgeous watercolors by Klingler. We should have one of these. But in the meantime, you will find many of the same species in our fair cities., so why not pick up a copy for inspiration?" (Minneapolis Observer Quarterly)"A guidebook to nature in the Big Apple would range from slim to empty, one might think. Try again. Painted turtles, American eels, dwarf centipedes, Eastern spotted newts, black-crowned night herons and Manhattan schist rocks are among the highlights of Leslie Day's Field Guide to the Natural World of New York City." (Robin Lloyd [www.livescience.com](http://www.livescience.com))"Leslie Day ('a child of Manhattan') reveals hidden depths of this urban behemoth... A wonderful guide to the green side of the Big Apple." (PDSmith Guardian)"This guide is useful for students and anyone interested in locating and identifying the flora and fauna of New York City." (Denise A. Garofalo American Reference Books Annual)"Wonderfully written and well organized... In short, this useful book is, quite simply, beautiful." (Living the Scientific Life)"This is a unique an excellent beginner's guide... Highly recommended." (International Hawkwatcher)"Useful for students and anyone interested in locating and identifying the flora and fauna of New York City." (Denise Garofalo ARBA Online)"The scientific detail is appropriate for all levels, and additional readings are referenced in a selected bibliography. Highly recommended." (Choice)"I have lived in New York City for all my professional life, even as most of the research I do for my books takes me to exotic locations such as Antarctica, Alaska, Patagonia, and the Great Barrier Reef. However, as Leslie Day's wonderful book informs us, the five boroughs of New York can be as interesting and exotic as that of any place on Earth. You don't need a fancy research vessel—just a field guide, a sturdy pair of shoes, a Metrocard, and a desire to see the life teeming in our midst. Welcome to the Big Apple ( *Malus sylvestris gigas*)."

(Richard Ellis, author, artist, and research associate at the American Museum of Natural History)"Leslie Day has written an indispensable guide both to the natural history of New York and to the multitude of nature that continues to thrive in the city all around us. Both the writing and illustrations are really first rate. With this book in hand, the city will never look the same."

(Kevin Baker, author of *Paradise Alley*, *Dreamland*, and *Strivers Row*)"This book highlights the environmental treasures of New York City. Every New Yorker ought to follow Leslie Day's lead and spend time in these precious natural areas. Research shows that people who do are happier, smarter, and better socialized. This is a self-help book that really works!" (Glenn Phillips, Executive Director, New York City Audubon)"Visitors to New York City, and even longtime residents, are astounded by the natural world that can be found in our City parks. From the deep woods of Van Cortland Park in the Bronx, to the wetlands of Staten Island's South

Shore, there are mysteries waiting to be solved with the assistance of Leslie Day's illustrated guide. Come spend a day in the country—âçin the city! " (Adrian Benepe, Commissioner, New York City Department of Parks & Recreation)

Leslie Day is a New York City naturalist. Dr. Day taught environmental science and biology for more than twenty years. Today, she leads nature tours in New York City Parks for the New York Historical Society, the High Line Park, Fort Tryon Park Trust, Riverside Park Conservancy, and New York City Audubon. Mark A. Klingler is a scientific illustrator at the Carnegie Museum of Natural History. He was trained at Carnegie Mellon University and Pennsylvania Academy of the Arts. His work has appeared internationally in major scientific journals and popular magazines, as well as museums and art forums across the country.

An enjoyable and informative book for someone living in NYC that is interested in exploring what nature has to offer. I only wish that there is more information, including plant and animal life than what was included. After taking an excursion to Jamaica Bay, I still wanted to know which birds and plants I had seen, with only a few recognizable in the book. However I plan to continue to use it once Spring rolls around and explore some of the other areas described.

This book is a handsome, valuable addition to the library (or backpack) of NYC dwelling natural history lovers. Unfortunately, it is not "complete," as several reviews suggest. Missing, for example, is the red-eared slider(*Trachemys scripta elegans*), the most commonly seen turtle in Central Park. Migrant and occasional bird species, too, are not to be found. The wild turkey is now reestablished on parts of Manhattan, but does not find a place in Day's guide. There are many such oversights; generally, however, I recommend the book.

What a joy! Leslie Day has created a wonderful reference book for everyone who has ever wondered about the wildlife that coexists with us in the city. Among other things, I've always been personally intrigued by those tiny birds that seem to live in the shrubs around apartment buildings and are constantly throwing dirt on themselves. Now I know that they are house sparrows and are bathing themselves! And SO much more. Leslie helps you to see the city in a whole new way. Beautiful! Thank you!

Love!

Great book for the urban naturalist. This guide gives you locations, species and habitats of some of NYC's wildlife that you can easily have access to

This guide misses woodchuck and raccoon and probably other species, but it is really well designed in informative and pleasant way. Highly recommended !

This book was for my daughter who lives in NYC. She absolutely raves about it. She and her husband both enjoy the book for all the info they get about nature in the city. They are birders and now they notice other things, too.

Author only went to the southern tip of Staten Island. Yet again, Staten Island is the forgotten borough. Such a shame, as there are many protected wild areas on Staten Island, all within relatively easy reach from Manhattan or Brooklyn. Geology section not complete either. Author left out the Palisades Diabase, among other things. As far as Staten Island goes, this book is poorly researched and definitely not worth the money, which makes me doubtful about the quality of the rest of the book as well.

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