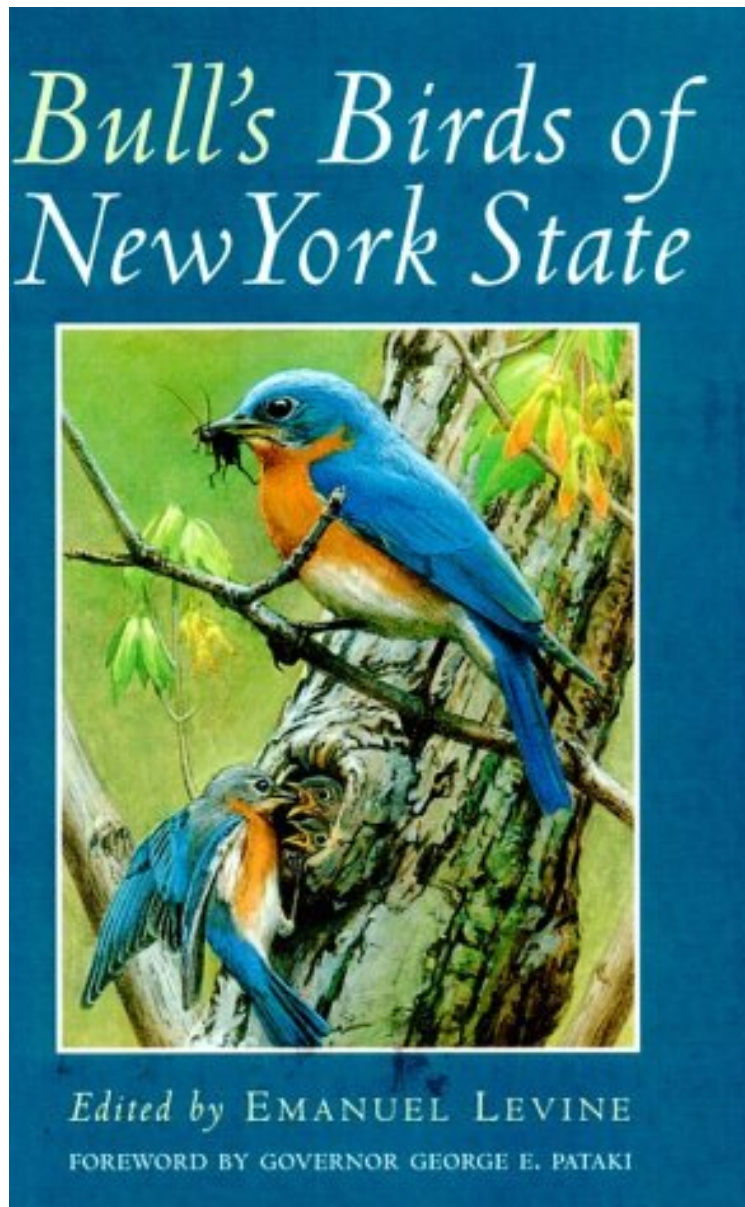


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From Brand: Comstock Publishing Associates : Bull's Birds of New York State (Agora Editions) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Bull's Birds of New York State (Agora Editions):

10 of 10 people found the following review helpful. A Significant Ornithological Event By Gerry Rising A major

contribution to regional ornithology is now available. "Bull's Birds of New York State," edited by Emanuel Levine of the American Museum of Natural History in New York City and with a Foreword by Governor George Pataki, has just been published. A copy belongs in the library of every bird watcher in this state, from the beginning feeder-observer to the academic ornithologist. (Wives, husbands and friends of birders take note.) This is our fifth state bird book. The first, by J. E. DeKay, "Zoology of New York: Part 2, Birds" was published in 1844. Next came E. H. Eaton's two volume, "Birds of New York State" in 1910 and 1914. John Bull wrote "Birds of New York State" in 1974. The final predecessor is the more specialized "Atlas of Breeding Birds in New York State," edited by Robert Andrlé and J. R. Carroll and published in 1988. Unlike all but the "Atlas," the new book was written by a formidable team of 77 authors. Seven of them prepared introductory essays about this state's environmental and ornithological history and about the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs under whose aegis the book was developed. These are followed by one to two-page accounts detailing range, status, breeding and nonbreeding information and remarks (but not identification characteristics) about the 451 bird species recorded through early 1997 in this state. What I find remarkable is the uniformly high quality of each of these brief accounts. They constitute not only a compendium of information but also a collection of interesting insights. How was this possible with so many writers spread across the state? Obviously through the discipline that was provided by Levine and his associates, Berna and Stanley Lincoln, both Lincolns past Federation presidents. An underlying theme that arises from many of these accounts is the change in bird populations due to clearing of the countryside for farmland during the 18th and 19th centuries followed in this century by the return of much of that land to forest. The recent good news for woodland birds like pileated woodpecker is equally bad news for grassland birds like vesper and Henslow's sparrows. It is difficult to choose from among these fine essays but my favorites are Don Windsor's pieces about those lowly urban birds: rock dove, starling and house (a.k.a. English) sparrow. My vote for best remark is Steve Eaton's about how our premier game bird got its name. "The Spanish first introduced the turkey from America into Europe in the early 1500s. From Spain it spread rapidly as a domestic fowl throughout Europe, but knowledge of its place of origin did not. In the Middle Ages nearly everything exotic was obtained in or through Turkish, or Arabian, territories. Even our corn is still known in the Near East as Turkey wheat. There is little doubt that our bird derived its name from the country Turkey." The number of species recorded in New York has increased over the years but new birds continue to appear. Number 452 - the lovely lazuli bunting that was seen by many local birders at the farm of Don and Virginia Tiede south of Batavia last winter - is the first of those that must wait to appear in the next volume of the series. 5 of 11 people found the following review helpful. Bull's Birds of New York By NY Bird Watcher If you are trying to identify birds, this book is pretty worthless, there are about 5 pictures and they are black and whites sketches. If identifying birds is your aim buy another book...or buy a book in conjunction with this

Whether you watch birds on the shores of Long Island, at the Bashakill Marsh, at Niagara Falls, or just at your backyard feeder, this volume will help you appreciate what our Empire State has to offer. It will give you a historical perspective, and it will tell you what we can hope to look forward to in the future if we are vigilant stewards of our natural world. Governor George E. Pataki The "bible" of the state's birders since its publication in 1974, John Bull's Birds of New York State has now been completely revised and updated by the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs. This eagerly awaited survey of bird life in the state today provides new and thorough accounts of all 451 species on the official New York State checklist. The book features 7 new maps 4 in full color and 30 striking sketches by bird artist Dale Dyer. Birders will find chapters covering topics from the prehistoric birds of the region to contemporary bird habitats and the ways in which current classification is being affected by DNA data and research. The species accounts themselves pay particular attention to date parameters and frequency of occurrence, details that are important to the active birder. Where applicable, full subspecies discussions are included. Meticulously prepared by the editor, Emanuel Levine, and the more than 70 members of the Federation who served as authors, this book will prove invaluable to birdwatchers statewide whether backyard feeder watchers, casual birders, or dyed-in-the-wool enthusiasts.

"Readers will find new and thorough accounts of all 451 species on the official state checklist, as well as date parameters and frequency of occurrence." Publishers Weekly "Birders and ornithologists in New York State will want to include this book in their libraries." Wildlife Activist "The most current and most complete documentation available of the status and distribution of birds of New York. . . . Emanuel Levine and the authors have put together a book that provides documentation of interest to the serious birder, interesting tidbits for the most casual birdwatcher, and food for thought for professional resource managers. Everyone with an interest in birds of New York should clear a space on their bookshelves for this volume which will become an invaluable reference." New York State Conservationist "This sturdy volume will be the main reference for all New York birders, whatever their level of expertise. Recommended for general readers, undergraduates through faculty." Choice "The new version of Bull's Birds is a necessary purchase for public and academic libraries in New York and adjacent states. It would be a useful purchase for birding libraries everywhere." American Reference Books Annual "This volume stands out as a companion

to traditional field guides. . . A wealth of information."Northeastern Naturalist"
In summary, the new Bull revision is a handsome specimen. This revision of a classic text will be a valuable resource to experts, a learning guide for intermediate birders, and a goldmine of information for the beginner."Birding