



### *Waterfowl of the World*

2023 Gold Winner

**Author:** photography by Gary Kramer, text by Gary Kramer and John Gregory Mensik

**Publisher:** Sweetgrass Books, an imprint of Farcountry Press

**ISBN:** 978-1-59152-294-2

A visual and literary journey in search of all 167 species of ducks, geese, and swans on Earth. Among these are a few on the brink of extinction, like the Madagascar Pochard and Brazilian Merganser; and those that are struggling, such as the White-winged Duck and Baer's Pochard.

Waterfowl of the World was awarded a Gold Metal in the 2023 Benjamin Franklin Independent Book Publishers Association Awards - Nature & Environment category. Out of 1800 entries, 50 categories were awarded Gold Metals.

### Judges Notes

#### Judge # 1 - Score - 100 out of 100

Thank you for your submission to the Ben Franklin. The front cover is outstanding, the image of the Pintails in flight is awesome. The lettering of the front cover title both in font size and choice of color was well done. The captions for the photography and text is readable and an appropriate font size. The back cover image of waterfowl flying toward sunset fits the tone of the book perfectly. It was nice to see the quality of the people who endorsed the book on the back cover. Thank you for providing a printed price on the back cover as well. The real treat of this book is when you start reading the text and savoring the outstanding photos found in each waterfowl account. The pictures were taken in the field. The clarity and detail of the images allows the reader to identify any species readily. Each account uses typeface that allows for easy reading and ready reference. Habitat maps for each species identify countries of origin and were known breeding territories. A chapter at the end entitled Photographer's Notes describes the effort put forward by the photographer to obtain photos of all recognized waterfowl species in their native habitats (which is no small feat). After the Photographer chapter comes a Selected References List, where I was very pleased to see the references listed.

In my many years as a judge for Ben Franklin, this book is the finest book from a Design viewpoint that I have come across. Congratulations to Photographer, Authors, and Publisher for producing such an outstanding book. You are my Number 1 choice for the Nature/Environment category.

#### Judge #2 - Score 98 out of 100

A brilliant tome. Few conventional publishing issues, but all around, simply stunning. Comprehensive information on each waterfowl including description, distribution — with maps, the biology of each as well as the conservation and status. All accompanied by remarkable photography. A must for any biology/nature study.

#### Judge #3 - Score 92 out of 100

Gorgeous photography, lots of detail. Feels like a fairly comprehensive reference book slash coffee table book. Concise writing packed with information, each entry almost felt like an encyclopedia entry or Wikipedia page. Photography pops, very crisp & clear with rich color and nice paper. As a hobby photographer, I enjoyed the inclusion of the Photographers Notes section and the 'behind the scenes' shots showing the positioning, camouflage, and equipment used to get the shots in the book. Seeing the size of the lenses makes me feel a little better about my amateur attempts with a 70-210mm lens!

With an average score of 97 out of 100, Waterfowl of the World placed first in the Nature/Environment category earning the Gold Metal.

