

IWWA Hancock Memorial Award

GARY KRAMER

Photos supplied by Gary Kramer



Gary Kramer is an award-winning freelance journalist who lives in Willows, California. He has published six books, more than 1,000 articles, and thousands of photos. His photographs and articles regularly appear in many outdoor magazines and calendars. A native Californian and U.S. Navy Vietnam veteran, Gary earned Bachelor and Master of Science degrees in Wildlife Management from Humboldt State University. For 26 years Gary was a wildlife biologist and refuge manager with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. After a 10-year stint as the refuge manager of the Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge Complex, he retired to pursue his writing and photography career full-time. In the process of putting *Waterfowl of the World* together, Gary visited more than 40 countries, from the Arctic Circle in Alaska to Tierra del Fuego in South America, west to China and South Korea, south to Australia and New Zealand, and east to Morocco and South Africa—and many places in between.



Through the images of Gary Kramer, and the words of Kramer and Greg Mensik, *Waterfowl of the World* takes readers on 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. There are some, like the Nene, that were recently in peril, but are now secure due to conservation efforts; as well as others, including Snow Geese and Canada Geese, whose populations have experienced dramatic increases in recent decades. *Waterfowl of the World* is an extraordinary accomplishment and a testament to Kramer's long professional history and expertise in waterfowl ecology and management, and even more importantly, his superb photography. This book combines his skills in a way that simply could not be accomplished by any other person. The effort required to produce it is almost unimaginable. Kramer visited more than 40 countries in three years to photograph virtually all the waterfowl on the planet. Simply seeing these species would be an accomplishment of a lifetime for many, but photographing them in their natural habitats is something well beyond the grasp of even the most accomplished wildlife photographer. *Waterfowl of the World* combines range maps, natural history, and conservation/status information with a photographic insight seldom seen. It will be an outstanding resource for a broad constituency of readers, including waterfowl enthusiasts and managers, nature photographers, academics, and students, with an interest in the ecology and biology of this remarkable group of birds. The 11 3/4 x 10 inches coffee table book with 540 pages, 1,299 color photos and 167 range maps can be purchased from GaryKramer.net.

