



Flora and Fauna

Recommended reading list for elementary, middle school, and high school teachers. These books are great resources in the classroom for teachers and would be an interesting read for students as well.

1. TITLE: The Birds of New Mexico: Field Guide
AUTHOR: Stan Tikiela

Tikiela's guide, which contains 140 species of birds native to New Mexico, makes bird identification easier, more informative, and more productive. This easy-to-use field guide contains a variety of useful facts, feature comparisons, full-page photos and descriptions, and range maps to make each species easier to find within the state of New Mexico.

2. TITLE: New Mexico Bird Finding Guide
AUTHOR: Dale A. Zimmerman, Marian A. Zimmerman, and John N. Durrie

New Mexico's comparatively sparse human population is concentrated in only a few urban areas, and many of the more remote areas are seldom visited by birdwatching enthusiasts. The *New Mexico Bird Finding Guide* attempts to mitigate the resulting gaps in knowledge of bird distribution in the state. Users of this publication can materially add to our understanding of migration and distribution by submitting their own bird records. The book provides supporting documentation for rarities.

3. TITLE: New Mexico Birds and Where to Find Them
AUTHOR: J. Stokley Ligon

New Mexico Birds is a complete and authoritative guide, as useful and interesting to the amateur birdwatcher and the sportsman as it is to the professional. It describes some 250 species in detail, giving their range, season habit, and behavior patterns. This guide tells where different species nest, gives sighting dates and locations for birds seldom seen, and includes a table of rare and stray birds. Ligon also delineates topography, climate, and life zones affecting bird distribution.

4. TITLE: New Mexico Wildlife Viewing Guide: Second Edition
AUTHOR: Jane Susan MacCarter

From the rugged beauty of the Chihuahuan Desert to the windswept alpine heights of the Pecos Wilderness, this second edition of the *New Mexico Wildlife Viewing Guide* will lead you to 74 premier wildlife viewing areas and will better your chances of seeing wildlife once you arrive. Included are detailed descriptions of each viewing sites and its wildlife, as well as maps, access information, helpful viewing tips, and more than 40 color photographs featuring the wildlife and natural areas of New Mexico, the Land of Enchantment.

5. TITLE: Raptors of New Mexico
AUTHOR: Jean-Luc E. Cartron

In this book, Cartron provides readers with a comprehensive study of all hawks, eagles, kites, vultures, falcons, and owls who breed, winter, or simply migrate through the state of New Mexico. This landmark study is also beautifully illustrated with over 700 photographs and distribution maps of nearly fifty different species of birds within the state.

6. TITLE: Roadrunners
AUTHOR: Lynn Hassler Kaufman

Rattlesnakes and scorpions for lunch anyone? To a hungry roadrunner these dangerous creatures make delicious entrees. Roadrunners are ground-dwelling members of the cuckoo family and generally dine upon smaller birds, reptiles, and insects, including venomous creatures they have adapted to eat without suffering ill effects. Well-adapted to life on the ground, these birds can sprint up to 15 miles per hour, and they have managed to walk, or run, their way into the hearts of millions. Roadrunners have inspired their share of tall tales as well as popular cartoons. Many Native American cultures ascribe supernatural and protective powers to them, and in parts of Mexico, the bird is affectionately nicknamed "paisano," or "fellow countryman." This book is dedicated to the state bird of New Mexico and allows readers to explore both the realities and legends of this speedy bird.

7. TITLE: Investigating Nature Through Outdoor Projects: 36 Strategies for Turning the Natural Environment Into Your Own Laboratory
AUTHOR: Vinson Brown

Brown provides activities for observing wildlife in backyards, neighborhood woods, lawns, gardens, ponds, and streams. With thirty-six strategies for turning the natural environment into your own laboratory, readers can develop observational skills, become aware of their environment, discover the secrets of the wildlife community, and observe the behavior of animals, insects, and reptiles. Students will gain a greater understanding of how animals and plants interact with their environment.

8. TITLE: Outdoor Things To Do: Year Round Nature Fun for Girls and Boys
AUTHOR: William Hillcourt

Hillcourt has created a book that is chock-full of year round nature fun for boys and girls. Projects and activities include: making a vivarium (with living creatures), leaf printing, casting animal tracks, setting up a weather station, identifying trees, birds, insects, water life, and wild flowers, as well as stargazing, building an observation ant colony, and much, much more.

9. TITLE: Project Wild
SPONSORS: Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies and The Western Regional Environmental Education Council, Inc.

Emphasizing wildlife as a way to understand our responsibilities to all living things, *Project Wild* takes young people from “awareness to action.” Its knowledge, skills, and commitment result in informed decisions, responsible behavior, and constructive actions....toward wildlife and the environment upon which all life depends.

10. TITLE: Sharing Nature With Children II
AUTHOR: Joseph Cornell

Sharing Nature With Children II is Joseph Cornell’s sequel to his original 1979 volume of nature activities that sparked a world-wide revolution in nature education. This is another treasury of new games and activities for both adults and children. Many of Cornell’s favorites are in this second volume, as well as the introduction of Flow Learning, a “magical” method of placing the activities in a thematic sequence to ensure a genuinely uplifting experience. Cornell’s expertise and irrepressible enthusiasm for the grandeur and mystery of nature are evident on every page. His unique blend of knowledge and warmth creates a contagious atmosphere for learning.

11. TITLE: Last Child in the Woods: Saving Our Children from Nature-Deficit Disorder
AUTHOR: Richard Louv

In his landmark work, Richard Louv brought together cutting-edge studies that showed how direct exposure to nature was essential for a child’s healthy physical and emotional development. This new edition updates the growing body of evidence linking the lack of nature in children’s lives and the rise in obesity, attention deficit disorders, and depression. Louv’s message has galvanized an international “back-to-nature” campaign. His book will change the way you think about our future and the future of our children.

12. TITLE: A Handbook of Rare and Endemic Plants of New Mexico
AUTHOR: The New Mexico Native Plant Protection Advisory Committee

This handbook includes plants that occur only in New Mexico as well as those that have a more regional distribution but require special management attention. The committee has spent four years collecting the information presented here with the most up-to-date data available about each plant’s habitat, known distribution, and the possible threats to it. A glossary defines all the botanical terms used, and the appendix includes a list of the botanist who first named the plant.

13. TITLE: The Medicinal Plants of the American Southwest
AUTHOR: Charles W. Kane

Inside this essential source of natural medicine you will find: medicinal uses for over 160 southwest plants, modern and traditional applications, preparations, dosage, and cautions. Kane also provides common and specific names, extensive plant descriptions and geographic range, identification and collection techniques, and color photographs with whole plant and flower detail.

14. TITLE: A Guide to Plants of the Northern Chihuahuan Desert

AUTHOR: Carolyn Dodson

Hot, dry, and windy, the Northern Chihuahuan Desert of southern New Mexico and west Texas is home to a unique community of plants. The seventy five representative species in this guide illustrate diverse strategies for adapting to the harsh environment. Dodson includes common and Latin plant names along with information on each plant's strategies for survival; cultural history; medicinal, nutritional, and toxic properties; accounts of the origins of the plant's names; descriptions of relevant geology, ecology, and fauna; and discussions of human impact through time.

15. TITLE: Common Southwest Native Plants

AUTHOR: Jack L. Carter, Martha A. Carter, and Donna J. Stevens

Combining scientific information and lyrical expression, the authors bring together 128 woody plants and thirty-nine herbaceous flower plants common to the southwest. As a pictorial guide for those wishing to learn more about the flora, this book provides a starting point for learning to identify common native plants along trails and byways, as well as plants suitable for landscaping.

16. TITLE: 50 Common Reptiles and Amphibians of the Southwest

AUTHOR: Jonathan Hanson and Roseann Beggy Hanson

If you want to be one of the privileged few to see a Gila Monster or a desert tortoise, you need to know what they really look like and how they will react to your visit. This book includes: the species you are most likely to see in the southwest, over sixty close-up color photographs, brief explanations of habitat and range for each reptile and amphibian, and a description of similar species.

17. TITLE: A Guide to the Rattlesnakes and Other Venomous Serpents of the United States

AUTHOR: Brian Huggs and Brendan O'Connor

This guide is a must for anyone who enjoys the outdoors or the study of nature. This beautiful guide is the first of its type, providing color photographs of all the rattlesnakes, coral snakes, copperheads, and cottonmouths native to the United States. Found from pine forested mountains to the plains, deserts, and swamps, these amazing snakes are as diverse in their patterns and colorations as the areas they inhabit.

18. TITLE: Lizards of the American Southwest

AUTHOR: Lawrence L C. Jones and Robert E. Lovich

Learn where to find lizards and how to identify them. This guide covers all ninety-six species found in the southwest and includes detailed information on habitat, natural history, taxonomy, and viewing tips. Jones and Lovich have also included hundreds of photographs, illustrations and maps, and a checklist of species.

19. TITLE: Animal Tracks of Arizona and New Mexico

AUTHOR: Ian Sheldon

This pocket sized guide will help you to identify tracks of all shapes and sizes from Pika and the White-tailed Jackrabbit to the Coyote and Pronghorn Antelope. It is perfect for children, teachers, parents, backwoods explorers, and naturalists. Includes: excellent illustrations of the animals, detailed drawings of fore and hind prints, stride patterns, easy track identifications and animal behavior.

20. TITLE: 50 Common Mammals of the Southwest

AUTHOR: George Olin

If you want to be one of the privileged few to see a Mexican raccoon or a northern river otter, you need to know what they really look like and how they will react to your presence. Includes: the species you are most likely to find in the southwest, over sixty close-up color photographs, brief explanations of habitat and range for each mammal, and descriptions of similar species.

21. TITLE: Hummingbirds of North America

AUTHOR: Dan True

Dan True has crafted a comprehensive guide to hummingbirds in North America. Included in this book is a detailed look at feeder designs, hummingbird predators, ways to control uninvited guests and feeders, tips for how to photograph hummingbirds, a history of the hummingbird feeder, and more.

22. TITLE: Creatures, Critters, and Crawlers of the Southwest
AUTHOR: April Kopp

April Kopp's careful research and colorful mastery of the written word give us a wonderful view of many animal species found in New Mexico and elsewhere in the southwest. The obvious presence of wildlife is well-noted in historical writings about the region. Kopp's ability to combine historical entries with her own display of insightful anecdotes makes this book a joy to read.

23. TITLE: Amphibians and Reptiles of New Mexico
AUTHOR: William G. Degengardt, Charles W. Painter, and Andrew H. Price

In this comprehensive guide, each species is presented in a color photograph of its distribution range shown on a map. Technical art supplements identification keys, and line art complements family description. For each species the following is provided: type, distribution, description, similar species, systematics, habitat, behavior, reproduction, food habits, and references.

24. TITLE: Cacti and Succulents: An Illustrated Guide to the Plants and Their Cultivation
AUTHOR: Graham Charles

Beautifully illustrated and highly accessible, this essential guide to cacti and other succulents is both a practical manual and a source of reference and inspiration for all enthusiasts. More than 250 different species or genera and their natural habitats are described in topics such as: the unique nature of succulents, the natural environment, history, classification and nomenclature, watering, feeding, general care, propagation, pests and disease, and profiles of cacti and other succulents.

25. TITLE: Flowers of the Southwest Deserts
AUTHOR: Natt N. Dodge

The purpose of this booklet is to introduce common desert flowers to newcomers of the southwest. Dodge gives background information about each plant as well as its uses for animals and human beings alike.

26. TITLE: 100 Common Roadside Wild Flowers of Southwestern Woodlands
AUTHOR: Janice Emily Bowers

In the southwest, a parade of flowers can surprise you with their astonishing color and quantity. Blooms of red, yellow, pink, purple, and orange populate the woodlands. This book focuses on species you're most likely to see and helps you quickly identify them. This informative guide, made for the specialist and amateur alike, includes: more than 100 full-color photographs, concise, easy-to-read text, and informative side bars to tell you when and where you'll likely see wildflowers, arranged by color for easy reference.

27. TITLE: Shrubs and Trees of the Southwest Desert
AUTHOR: Janice Emily Bowers

Specialists and non-specialists alike will enjoy the detailed drawings and clear descriptions provided in this book. Botanist Janice Emily Bowers describes how these plants have adapted to survive in the extreme environment of the southwest desert. The guide also gives details about the ranges of plants, where you are most likely to see them, and interesting information about possible human uses. Handy color-coded pages and a detailed index with both common and scientific names make this guide a delight to use.

28. TITLE: 70 Common Cacti of the Southwest
AUTHOR: Pierre C. Fisher

This indispensable guide to an iconic plant of the southwest describes names, characteristics, and range of the cacti. Fisher also provides more than 75 close-up photographs, the species you are most likely to encounter in southwestern deserts and foothills, handy information on how to identify each species, and brief descriptions of habitat and range.

29. TITLE: Cacti of the Southwest
AUTHOR: Meg Quinn

The American southwest is home to an incredible diversity of drought-tolerant plants including many found nowhere else on earth. No other group says “desert” quite like cacti. Their prickly nature notwithstanding, cacti are very fragile as are the arid deserts they inhabit. Botanist and educator Meg Quinn describes significant cacti of the Sonoran, Mojave, and Chihuahuan deserts including several which are listed as threatened or endangered. Most are shown in full color photographs.

30. TITLE: 50 Common Insects of the Southwest
AUTHOR: Carl Olson

Insects are one of the last mysteries of biology. So numerous we can't count them all, so varied we have only scratched the surface of the number of species, and with behaviors we cannot even begin to explain. This guide includes: more than sixty close-up color photographs, brief well-written descriptions of behavior, handy information on how to identify species, and knowledge of how insects live with humans.

31. TITLE: Tread Lightly: Venomous and Poisonous Animals of the Southwest
AUTHOR: Rich and Margie Wagner

As medical professionals, the Wagners have firsthand experience in treating venomous bites and stings. As wildlife photographers, they have come to keenly appreciate the remarkable beauty and ingenious design of some of the southwest's most dangerous creatures. For each of the more than three dozen animals in this book, these authors provide information on range and habitat, physical characteristics, diet, behavior, and reproduction and life cycles. This book also includes 55 full-color photographs of venomous and poisonous animals, along with harmless look-alikes, as well as a question-and-answer section.