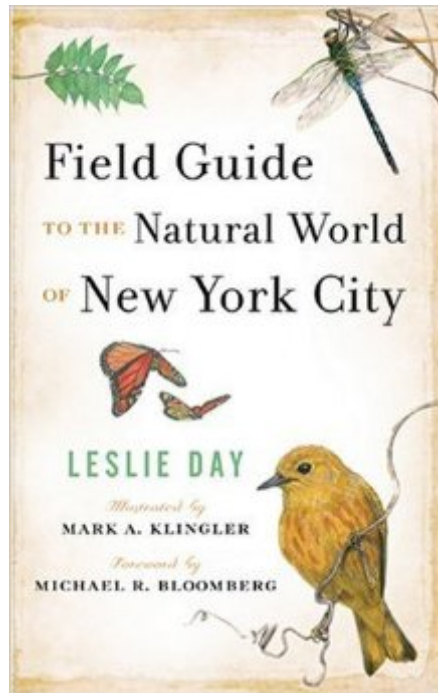


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# Field Guide To The Natural World Of New York City



## 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

I purchased my copy of Leslie Day's Field Guide to the Natural World of New York City a few months ago from a well-known independent book store here in New York City so I will not appear as a 'verified purchaser', nevertheless I have the book before me as I write this review, as well as the other books mentioned below. In spite of the image most people have of New York City as a 'concrete jungle' it is surprisingly interesting from a naturalist's perspective, with many parks and other green areas. Since the appearance of Elizabeth Barlow's classic *The Forests and Wetlands of New York City* (1971) several books have appeared that aim to help the reader discover and explore nature in the 'Big Apple'. Among these my favorite still remains *Wild New York* by Margaret Mittelbach and Michael Crewdson (1997). Leslie Day's book attempts to occupy the same 'space'

as the Mittelbach and Crewdson volume and is certainly attractively produced, well organized and beautifully illustrated. My first impression of the book was very positive and I still think the coverage of parks (pages 25-114) is useful and Mark Klingler's paintings of various animals, plants and fungi a very pleasing feature of the book. The range of species included is reasonable in a guide such as this which cannot claim to be comprehensive, though no doubt others might question the omission of some species or the inclusion of others. As a professional biologist I am impatient of inaccuracies in scientific information in books intended for a general audience and unfortunately I seem to find mistakes almost every time I go through this book. Just two examples will serve to make my point. In her account of the earthworm *Lumbricus terrestris* Ms.

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