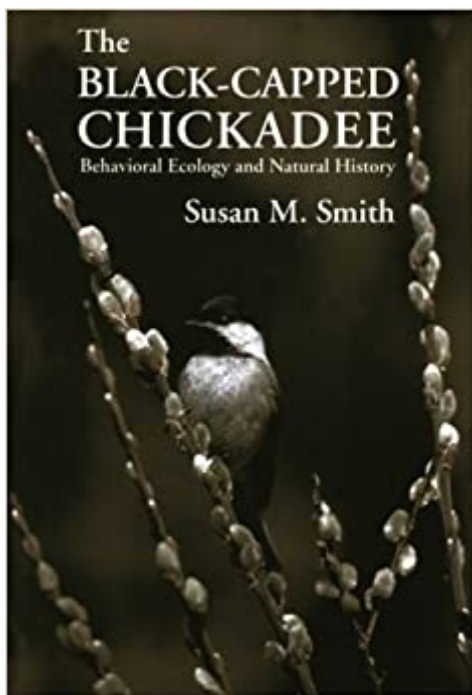


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# The Black-Capped Chickadee: Behavioral Ecology And Natural History (Comstock Book)



## Synopsis

A frequent visitor at the backyard feeder, the Black-capped Chickadee is one of the most familiar and popular of birds. It is found in an unusually large geographic area--from coast to coast in the northern two-thirds of the United States and in much of Canada. This book is the first comprehensive synthesis of published information about this tiny, tough bird.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

A really wonderful book. I've watched black capped chickadees since I was a boy in northern New Hampshire and always find them fascinating. Smith's extensive research answered so many of the questions I'd always wondered about regarding chickadee behavior. For example, do they mate for life? Yes, mostly they do. Do they form actively defended territories? Yes. And many more. One can only hope that an update describing more recent research will be forthcoming.

Expert observation based documentation!

Great book!!

I discovered this book when Bernd Heinrich mentioned it in his excellent *One Wild Bird At A Time*, which has a chapter on chickadees. From the back: The book is the first comprehensive synthesis of

published information about this tiny, tough bird, with special attention given to such close relatives as the Carolina Chickadee and the European Willow Tit. Drawing on many of her own observations, Susan M Smith covers common study techniques diet and foraging, communication and displays, and the birds' annual cycle in terms of ecology and social behavior. She deals with aspects of chickadee physiology, explaining how they manage to survive harsh winter weather, and she discusses natural predators, population dynamics, and the most interesting areas for further research. "Studying chickadees can be addictive," she writes, "I've been hooked for years." This attractive book is accessible to any serious birder, and it also offers a wealth of supporting figures and tables useful to researchers. Susan M. Smith is a professor of Biological Sciences at Mount Holyoke College. Contents: The Black-capped Chickadee and Related Species x General Natural History 1 Some Study Techniques 17 Food and Feeding 28 Communication 55 The Early Breeding Season 90 The Later Part of the Breeding Season 125 The Nonbreeding Season 168 Surviving the Winter 223 Survivorship and Population Dynamics 253 Glossary 321 References 326 Index 355

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