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Photographic Guide To The Birds Of Costa Rica



Synopsis

An excellent pocket-size reference and field identification aid to the 252 species of birds found in Costa Rica. Over 250 full-color photographs.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Susan, Michael and Patricia Fogden are trained zoologists. They concentrate their work in rainforests and deserts, the habitats they most enjoy, and their pictures have been published widely internationally. Previous books as author/photographer include *Costa Rica: Wildlife of the National Parks & Reserves* (Fundacion Neotropica), and as photographers *The Amphibians and Reptiles of Costa Rica* by Jay M. Savage (University of Chicago Press). --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Basics: 2005, 144 pp, softcover; 299 color photos of 252 species; brief overview of 12 birding locations; map with habitats and 15 birding sites; no range maps Of the many photo-guides in the series, this book has one of the better selections of good photographs. The birds are slightly larger in this book than in most of the other guides; and, nearly every photo is in focus and well lit with the bird unobscured by foliage or suffering from a bad pose. In all, there are 299 color photographs of 252 (28%) of the 890+ species found in Costa Rica. There is a good sampling of families shown in these photos. The most prominent family is the flycatchers with 25 species. Keeping in mind the difficulty of many of the flycatchers, these photos will be helpful when the shown bird is seen in the

field. Since most birds are shown with only one photo, there will be many plumages encountered that are not in this book. There are also 26 species from the combined groups of trogons, motmots, jacamars, toucans, and woodpeckers. My one knock against the selection of photos is more a personal preference. Of the 252 species shown, 55 (22%) are birds expected to be seen in the US. Yes, these birds are typical of Costa Rica, but there are other notable birds of Costa Rica that aren't featured as frequently. There are already so many books with these birds illustrated. How many more photos of the Great Egret, Turkey Vulture, Red-winged Blackbird, or Summer Tanager are needed? Of course, this viewpoint is biased by my familiarity with US birds. For non-US birders, this book would be very useful because these in-common birds are common in Costa Rica and will be seen. The text given with each photograph consists of a single short paragraph. About 1/3 to 1/2 of this is dedicated to descriptions of the bird. The material is not strongly detailed, but it does provide a decent general description of the bird. Some species are also accompanied with brief notes as comparison to a similar species. The remainder of the information consists of brief notes on the bird's habitat or behavior or other natural history comments. Many of the birds have a note recording the maximum elevation at which the bird can be found. Two nice additions in the beginning pages are a map of Costa Rica and a brief listing of birding locations. A dozen sites are listed along with a very brief overview of what may be seen at each. The map does a nice job of identifying the five major eco-types. Within the map are the location of 15 popular birding areas. This is a handy practice guide with good photos to practice for a trip to Costa Rica; however, it is not a complete field or identification guide. For that purpose, the book "A Photographic Guide to Birds of Costa Rica" by Garrigues is highly recommended. -- (written by Jack at Avian Review / Avian Books, December 2009)

- 1) *The Birds of Costa Rica: A Field Guide* by Garrigues
- 2) *A Guide to the Birds of Costa Rica* by Stiles/Skutch
- 3) *A Guide to the Birds of Panama* by Ridgely/Gwynne
- 4) *Aves De Costa Rica* by Skutch
- 5) *Field Guide to the Wildlife of Costa Rica* by Henderson
- 6) *Hummingbirds of Costa Rica* by Fogden
- 7) *An Illustrated Field Guide to the Birds of Costa Rica* by Soto

One of the books I'm taking with me on my upcoming photo trip to Costa Rica. I hope to be taking pics of many different birds and will use this book as well as others to help identify which birds I'm looking at.

This is a concise, easy to carry book. It is great for someone making a short trip to Costa Rica. It includes places to visit as well as other tips and guidance

It is an excellent field guide to all of the birds of Costa Rica filled with great pictures and detailed write-ups.

I purchased this bird guide among others prior to taking a summer birding tour in Costa Rica. I found it a little helpful to study the photos of the birds prior to the trip, but after a few days I put it away to continue study of the full field guide, *The Birds of Costa Rica*, a field guide by Richard Garrigues. Basically, this is a novice bird watchers guide to some of the most common birds in Costa Rica. This could be what you are looking for, if so you may be satisfied with this book. I ended up not even taking this book with me on the trip. This would not be the guide you would wish to purchase if you are a serious birder.

bought the Kindle version of this book, I relied on the index to find pictures of the birds I wanted to know about. The index is hard for me to read, the name of the bird is difficult to find, it is not highlighted. The code as explained in the beginning, profiles of the type of birds, was not usable on the kindle edition (or I never figured it out).

Excellent book for its purpose. Still, I recommend you get a local guide. A human being, that is.

Kindle edition on iPad is clunky because species photos are often not on the same page as bird name. Too bad, otherwise would be a useful beginner's armchair guide.

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