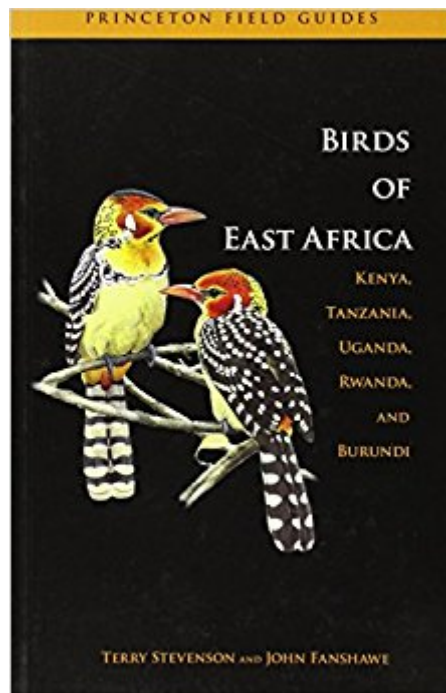




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The Birds Of East Africa: Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi (Princeton Field Guides)



Synopsis

Birds of East Africa is the first comprehensive field guide to this spectacular birding region--and one of the best to any region in the world. Covering all resident, migrant, and vagrant birds of Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Rwanda, and Burundi, this small and compact guide describes and illustrates a remarkable 1,388 species in convenient facing-page layout. Featuring 287 new color plates with 3,400 images painstakingly rendered by three experienced artists, the guide illustrates all the plumages and major races likely to be encountered. Set opposite the plates are range maps and concise accounts describing identification, status, range, habits, and voice for each species. Introductory sections provide notes on how to use the species accounts, the nomenclature adopted, conservation issues, where to send records, and maps of protected and other important bird areas. Between them, Terry Stevenson and John Fanshawe have more than 40 years' experience leading bird tours and conducting conservation work in East Africa. The region shelters a remarkable diversity of birds, including many seriously threatened species with small and vulnerable ranges. The region's birds form a constantly colorful, noisy, and highly extroverted part of the landscape. The book is sure to become an indispensable guide for anyone interested in studying or conserving birds in East Africa, as well as the many visitors who simply want to enjoy the sheer beauty of its birds.

First comprehensive field guide to the countries of Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Rwanda, and Burundi
Covers 1,388 species, with 3,400 color images on 287 plates
Concise species accounts facing the plates describe appearance, status, range, habits, and voice
A color distribution map is given for each species
Information on habitats, protected areas, and conservation issues
The essential guide to the birds of this spectacular region
An overview of East African birds
East African environment
Seasonality
Plumage
Species accounts
Common alternative names
Conservation and threatened species
The local scene
Glossary, references, and an index
Key Features?
Small and compact
Comprehensive species
All distinctive plumages and races illustrated
Color plates
Illustrations
All species ranges mapped
Key protected and important bird areas mapped

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Winner of the 2001 Best Bird Book - Africa, Worldtwitch "For birders with an interest in the region and those planning a trip, look no further. With the publication of this guide we have distilled into one book all the good elements of what has gone before but better. . . . The plates are the book's tour de force and are simply outstanding. . . . This is by far the best and most exciting guide available for anywhere in Africa."--Ken Arber, Surfbirds.com "The illustrations in this guide are of a very high standard and show the detail needed for field identification whilst remaining of an artistic quality that makes the book an attractive object as well as a useful one. . . . The brief descriptions are excellent and the language fresh and punchy. . . . A very fine field-guide indeed and sets a new standard for regional African guides."--Fatbirder.com "As soon as you open the book, you'll realise that the standard of artwork is exceptional. The text is also of an unusually high standard. . . . If you are planning a trip to Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Rwanda or Burundi this is now unquestionably the most valuable book you can buy. And if you aren't yet planning a trip there this is the perfect book to get you dreaming."--Birdguides.com "If East Africa is in your dreams, this should fill the bill."--Charles E. Keller, Indiana Audubon Quarterly "Even if you don't have firm plans to take a birding trip in the region, Birds of East Africa is a mandatory addition to your library. Armchair birding on a single plate can take you from the Swahili coast to the savannas of the Serengeti to the montane forests of the Rwenzori Mountains."--Derek Kverno, Birding Uganda Blog

Terry Stevenson has made Kenya his home since 1977 and is one of Africa's foremost bird-tour guides, having led numerous tours across the continent. He wrote The Birds of Lake Baringo while he was resident ornithologist there from 1981 to 1985, and is a member and advisor to the bird committee of Nature Kenya and to the East African Rarities Committee. John Fanshawe is the Africa consultant for BirdLife International. He has conducted research in the region for many years, and is widely regarded as unrivaled in his knowledge of East African birds and their conservation.

After reading glowing reviews on , we chose this book over Zimmerman's *Birds of Kenya and Northern Tanzania*. Initially, we were very excited about the book, beautiful birds, beautiful colors. But shortly after starting our birding in Kenya, we realized that the book was not very helpful as a field guide. Its main shortcoming is its inaccurate illustrations of birds. Often, the color is off, such as the blue of Blue flycatcher and of grey-headed kingfisher. The color differ quite a bit from the nature. African paradise flycatcher's eye ring is blue, in the book, it is grey. Plain-backed pipit's back is pale toupée in nature, but brown in the book. In addition to inaccurate colors, the shape are often wrong too. For example, larks look very exaggerated in the book, they simply do not match the general impression of the larks in the field. Bird ID in East Africa would be a real challenge, if one had to rely on this field guide. During our 2 week trip in Kenya (Lewa Downs, Lake Baringo, Kakamega forest, Masai Mara), we had at least 6 birding/game drive guides. All use Zimmerman's book for its better illustrations. So during the trip, we used our guides' book and left ours in the tent. People rightly complain about Zimmerman's poor organization, but in the end that is a minor issue compared to the accuracy of the drawings (do not expect too much from Zimmerman either though: the drawings are nowhere near as good as Sibley's or as in *Birds of Europe* by Svensson/Zetterström/Mullarney) .

I used this guide on a birding trip to Uganda. This is an excellent guide. When you order the guide though be sure to order the soft back edition rather than the hard back if you are going to use it as a field guide. The hard back weighs more and if you happen to drop it the back is liable to rip off. If you do order the hard back be sure to reinforce the binding with shipping tape. Unlike some guides this one has a well thought out index. The common names are indexed separately from the scientific names. The family name are in bold so they stand out and the font is a large size for we old time birders who have a difficult time reading small print. In the back is a map of the area with all the important bird sites noted and listed. Certain of the drawings are not accurate, the Mountain Greenbul being a prime example. The description says the underparts are yellow and they are in Uganda, but the drawing is not. The descriptions and range maps are opposite the drawings of the birds. This is the 2nd copy of this guide I have owned. I gave the first copy to my Uganda driver when he asked if I would sell it to him. Folks in Uganda have a difficult time getting birding equipment. If you do go there, take a couple of extra laser pointers, and an extra birding guide with you if you have room. They make great gratuity items if you do not wish to sell them instead. Also an extra pair of inexpensive binoculars.

Confronted by only one serious contender for the distinction of best field guide to the birds of East Africa, the Terry Stevenson/John Fanshawe entry wins by default. In featuring each descriptive summary and range map on a page facing the corresponding species illustration, the organization of the book qualifies it as a true field guide. While the field guide edition of "Birds of Kenya and Northern Tanzania" by Zimmerman, Turner, & Pearson incorporates several superior attributes, frequently including quality and variety of illustrations, it is essentially a condensation of a larger work and not organized in field-guide format. In covering a wider geographical area, the Stevenson/Fanshawe guide describes nearly 300 more species depicted on over twice as many color plates. Both of these fine books are potentially very useful for birding in Kenya and Tanzania, with the organization of the true field guide more likely to enhance its potential usefulness to those just beginning to appreciate the splendid avian diversity of East Africa.

Got this book after a trip to Kenya to help me identify all the birds I photographed. Very nice quality, comprehensive. Not tiny but not massive either. If, goodness willing, I go back someday, I'll definitely bring it with me!

A truly great field guide. In my several months in Kenya, I used this as a reference while I was birding there. The pictures are detailed and clear for easy recognition. The color plates provide easy access to organized information. This is truly the best guide to the birds of the region.

really big book for travel, didn't bring it on our trip

In 1997 my mother and I went on a safari in Kenya with the Kenyan tour company The East African Ornithological Safaris Ltd. Who could forget a name like that. If I'm remembering it right, the gentleman who hosted the introductory meeting was the son of the author, Terry Stevenson. The son said that his dad had worked in East Africa for many years and had become an expert on the birds of the area. He showed us a hardcover copy of the book and it was a tome. This paperback version is smaller and more convenient but is quite heavy because of the density of pages and information. Clearly an authoritative volume. Very impressive and useful.

This is the essential guide for anyone who has been to this area birding or is contemplating going on a birding trip, the illustrations are very well done and the text is well written, the maps are very

helpful, so far I have ID's for everything that I photographed including those often hard to identify "LBJ's" Little Brown Jobbies.

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