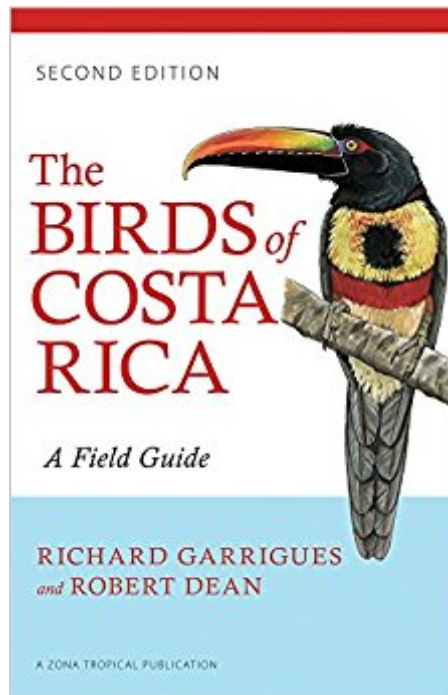




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The Birds Of Costa Rica: A Field Guide (Zona Tropical Publications)



Synopsis

This is the one compact, portable, and user-friendly field guide the novice or experienced birder needs to identify birds in the field in the diverse habitats found in Costa Rica. It features descriptions and illustrations of all 903 species definitely known from Costa Rica, including pelagics and species regular to Cocos Island. Fifty-six of these species are placed in a "Rarities" section that includes accidentals, rarer pelagics, and species that have not been reported in more than twenty years. The detailed full-color illustrations show identifying features—including plumage differences among males, females, and juveniles—and views of birds in flight wherever pertinent. Robert Dean has supplied more than 360 new illustrations, including sixty-four species that are illustrated for the first time in this edition. These include recent additions to the country list, pelagic species, Cocos Island species, and all accidentals recorded from the Costa Rican mainland. Range maps and nomenclature have been updated for this edition, which also has a new user-friendly organizational scheme and an alphabetical quick-find index of groups on the inside back cover.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"A great size to carry in the field, The Birds of Costa Rica offers large illustrations, key field marks in bolded text, and distribution maps enabling rapid identifications. Birders traveling to Costa Rica will welcome this new guide for quick reference in the field."—Wildbird (reviewing the first edition) "For the nature lover fortunate enough to vacation in Costa Rica and for all lovers of beautiful birds comes this up-to-date, comprehensive field guide to the native and

migrant birds to be found in that country. From the distinctive pink spoonbill to the colorful trogons and toucans, Costa Rica is home to a remarkably diverse population of birds." *Science News* (reviewing the first edition) "Because of its beauty, tropical climate, and tremendous biodiversity, Costa Rica is a popular locale for birding. Therefore, a simple, effective field guide would be an invaluable tool for residents and visitors seeking to observe and identify birds. This is exactly the focus of *The Birds of Costa Rica* to assist with identification in the field and the book succeeds admirably. It is a pleasure to read." *Quarterly Review of Biology* (reviewing the first edition) "The foremost objective of *The Birds of Costa Rica* is to help anyone to correctly and confidently identify the Costa Rica birds. And it succeeds. This is the one field guide the novice or experienced birder needs for identifying birds in the field in the diverse habitats found in Costa Rica." *Biology Digest* (reviewing the first edition) "All ornithologists, birders, hawkwatchers, conservation biologists, and others engaged in bird observations in Costa Rica will want to include this excellent field guide as part of their basic field equipment. Most highly recommended." *International Hawkwatcher* (reviewing the first edition) "Compact enough to carry in the field while still depicting and describing [903] species, [this] book [is] a cause for celebration." *Birdwatching* (reviewing the second edition) (June 2015)

Richard Garrigues is one of the preeminent birding guides in Costa Rica, with more than twenty-five years' experience leading birding and natural history tours. He is the author of *The Birds of Costa Rica: A Field Guide*, second edition, illustrated by Robert Dean, and *Photo Guide to Birds of Costa Rica*, both from Cornell. Robert Dean is an avid birder and natural history illustrator. He is the illustrator of *Birds of Aruba, Bonaire, and Curacao: A Site and Field Guide*, *The Birds of Costa Rica: A Field Guide*, *The Birds of Panama: A Field Guide*, and *The Wildlife of Costa Rica: A Field Guide*, all from Cornell.

One can not do better than to purchase this excellent guide. When I first went to Costa Rica almost 30 years ago to do field work (with aquatic insects) there were no bird field guides for the country - one had to make do with Peterson's Mexican guide and Ridgely's Panama guide. Then Stiles & Skutch came out - which was great! BUT this one is superior, especially in the field, and this second edition is up to date systematically. Get the Stiles & Skutch guide for the more extensive text, but this one will be all you need in most instances.

Invaluable resource! You just must bring this on your trip if you enjoy birds at all, I can't tell you how

much use this got on my trip, and it was impossible to find in country I am so glad I grabbed it before we went! Really easy to use and durable materials- I was very hard on the book and carried it everywhere and it stood up great!

Great book, much better than the first edition. Illustrates all of the birds now and more birds than before. Range maps are in different colors for year-round, summer, winter, migrants. Small enough to carry in a waist pack. Good map. Color pictures and descriptions of various habitats. Illustrations of birds on the same page as the text description.

Garrigues & Dean (along with Cornell's Comstock Publishing) performed a virtual miracle in 2007 with the first edition of this work. Before then, birders in the field in Costa Rica had to use the superb but voluminous guide written by Stiles, Skutch & Gardner (1989), and they often resorted to separating the plates from the text for use in the field. This second edition is not so much revolution as evolution, but it does include illustrations of 64 species not previously covered. In addition, Robert Dean has replaced some species illustrations with portraits he deems improved, and he has added some "supplementary" images (in-flight, alternate plumages, etc.). The authors chose to follow the taxonomic nomenclature of Clements and a modified version of the Clements taxonomic sequence (not surprisingly retaining falcons with other diurnal raptors; inserting pigeons & doves, parrots and cuckoos between hummingbirds and trogons; and (perhaps most interesting of all) depicting the passerine swallows after the non-passerine swifts (also aerial specialists) and before the non-passerine hummingbirds). They believe these departures from taxonomic rigidity promote their goal of producing a guide that is more intuitively useful in the field, and I think they're right. Seabirds seen offshore in Costa Rican pelagic environs have been added to this second edition, as have species associated with Cocos Island (300 miles southwest of the mainland). Novice birders (and others) will appreciate the detailed descriptions & illustrations (six pages) of anatomical features (among the best I've found in any field guide). Birders new to Costa Rica and birders looking to diversify their Costa Rican birding experiences will value the brief chapter on climate and topography, including summaries of six different "life zones" and some of the ornithological features of each. Range maps are now color-coded for seasonality, and have been updated. Species illustrations are at least equal in quality to those of the first edition, and many birders would rate at least a few as improvements. Some of the brighter colors depicted on some species in my first edition seem somewhat more subdued in this new guide, but in most instances the differences are subtle. Inside the front cover (very conveniently) are images of adult vultures and

raptors in flight. Congratulations to Richard Garrigues, Robert Dean and the folks at Comstock Publishing responsible for the Zona Tropical series.

We just returned from a trip (group tour) in Costa Rica. This is (as advertised) the definitive field guide for birds in that country, as confirmed by our local guide. The birds are spectacular, and the book's illustrations with maps of bird locales were invaluable for quick identification. This small country contains many ecosystems, and many bird species are confined to specific areas.

Long-time Central American birder told me this is the one to get. I agree.

This 2nd edition of Garrigues's guide to Costa Rican birds is a gem. Excellent illustrations, extremely well designed, with the information at your fingertips. As a collector of birding field guides from around the world, I would put this up with the first level. Well constructed, of a size that can fit in a cargo pocket, it should be able to withstand the rigours of field use. It would be nice to see a hard cover version, but for many that would not be a necessary luxury.

As you'd expect, we bought it to take to Costa Rica for a birding-oriented trip. The contents are good and seem accurate and we saw that most of the other people we ran into had the same book and were also using it handily. BUT THE BIGGEST FLAW IS THE @#\$# INDEX! Many of the birds in the book, and that you'll hopefully see, are not in the index in the back or are mis-indexed. Everyone noticed it, and it's a big deal when your guide says "it's a _____", and you cannot find it but it IS in the book. Index missing or under a different name or ??????

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