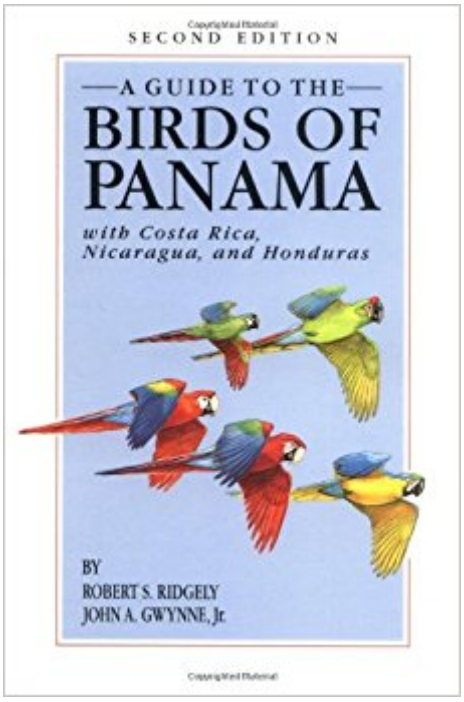
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A Guide To The Birds Of Panama: With Costa Rica, Nicaragua, And Honduras



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Synopsis

This is the first paperback version of the second edition of the popular A Guide to the Birds of Panama. In the second edition, published in 1989, the authors expanded information on the birds of Costa Rica, Nicaragua, and Honduras: approximately 200 new species were added to the material in the 1976 edition. Over 300 additional species, some of them Panamanian, were illustrated. Sixteen new plates were added, and three of the original plates were replaced by improved versions. Throughout the book changes were made to accommodate the explosion in knowledge of the birds of Panama and nearby areas and of neotropical birds in general. The basic sequence and systematics of the AOU 1983 Check-list were adopted. Also included in the revised edition was expanded and updated information on birdfinding in Panama, prepared with the assistance of two of Panama's best resident birders. The book also contains a special section outlining developments in Panama ornithology and conservation. "A sophisticated treatment of one of the world's richest avifaunas."--The Quarterly Review of Biology

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Customer Reviews

"A sophisticated treatment of one of the world's richest avifaunas."--Quarterly Review of Biology

this is the authoritative field guide to Panama birds, now completely revised and expanded to include all the birds of Costa Rica, Nicaragua, and Honduras.

Illustrations and Printing are so so. Without pointers to ID markings it would be difficult to

differentiate between similar species using the illustrations. Heavy, bulky. Not recommended as a Field Guide, but has copious notes and is a good reference work that can help with identification back at base camp. Distribution of birds may be outdated since the book was published in 1989, but again, it can serve as a good reference.

This book apparently is the best bird guide they have for Panama but it falls short of ideal. Firstly, not all the birds of Panama are illustrated. So if you are new to the birds of that area it is best you familiarize yourself with the text and know what to expect even if you are not sure what it looks like. Your best bet however is to get someone to assist you. When i visited for the first time i went to [...] for a local guide. The second downfall of this book is that the illustrations that are there are poorly done at best. I am used to theÃ Â Birds of the West Indies (Princeton Field Guides)Ã Â by Raffaele and that book is well illustrated. The third thing about this book is that it is not a hard cover. The number of species in Panama is so great one should not think of saving weight by printing an inch and a half thick book and wrap it with paper cover. Since it is going to be thick anyway, might as well give it a durable cover. The fact that the text is on different pages from the illustrations makes it particularly difficult to ID a bird. But, in the end, this is the best field guide that Panama has to offer so take it with a glass of water.

I purchased this book with the intention of bird watching on a cruise through the Panama Canal and a trip to Costa Rica. Very nice book, but not a good field guide because it is a hefty book and more suited to someone who is going to spend serious bird watching time in these areas. I would have preferred a field guide like Birds of North America.The book is beautiful, though and I liked it but did not find it useful for my needs.

The book is all that I hoped for, and more. The only problem, I will have to cut out the picture guides to take to Panama, in that I don’t care to cary such a large book.

Wanted more pictures to help ID birds that I saw on our recent trip to Aruba, Columbia, Panama Canal, Costa Rica and Grand Cayman.

As stupid as this may sound, my biggest issue with this book was the weight. On a recent trip to Panama, I felt like every time I took the book with me I was hefting a four or five pound weight. It was difficult to juggle the book with binoculars, notebook etc on the trails.My second issue is a

personal one. I prefer bird books with the picture of the bird next to the description and range of territory as it allows me to rule out certain birds immediately upon viewing them. Our trip leader suggested I rip out the pages featuring the pictures of the birds and take those with me to help with the weight problem and to quickly zoom in on what I think I saw. I was like--I just paid about $35 for this book--no way!I found some trifolds specifically for birdwatchers at one of the gift shops at one of the hotels we stayed at. They were just as useful as this tome. Although I am an avid bird watcher, this trip was kind of last minute so I did not have time to thoroughly study the guide. It did not contain range maps and from Internet searches I could tell the information hadn't been updated in awhile. The three trifolds (Birds of Central Panama, Birds of Eastern Panama and birds of Western Panama)ended up serving me as well as the book would have during the ten day trip--no time for in depth birding!There is a new birding book for Panama coming out in December. It will be interesting to see that one if I go back. I did end up gifting Birds of Panama to our tour guide! This made him very happy and I was happy not to have to carry home the book (which by the way weighed more than the three pounds that states it weighs--more like four or five).

This is a good, standard guidebook with beautiful bird plates. It is, however, somewhat awkward to have the plates divided into two groups at different places in the book. Three chapters ("Migration and Local Movements", Recent Developments...", and "Finding Birds in Panama") were especially interesting and helpful. The chapter "Finding Birds in Panama" was very accurate and useful to me. I wish I had purchased this guidebook before my earlier birding trips to Costa Rica. It is an important book for the entire region.

Great info.

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