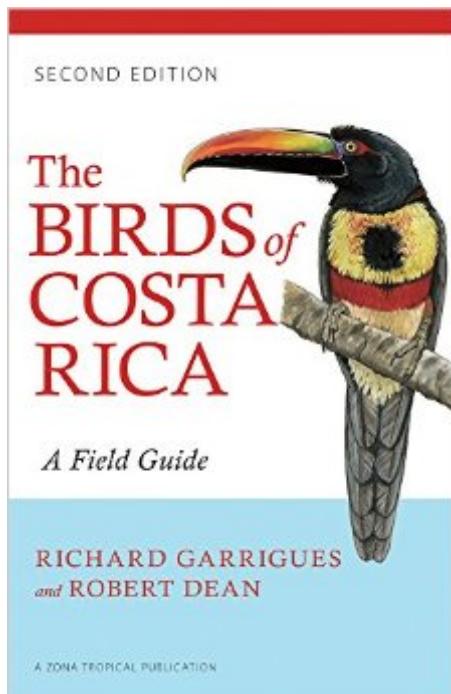


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The Birds Of Costa Rica: A Field Guide (Zona Tropical Publications)



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

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).

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