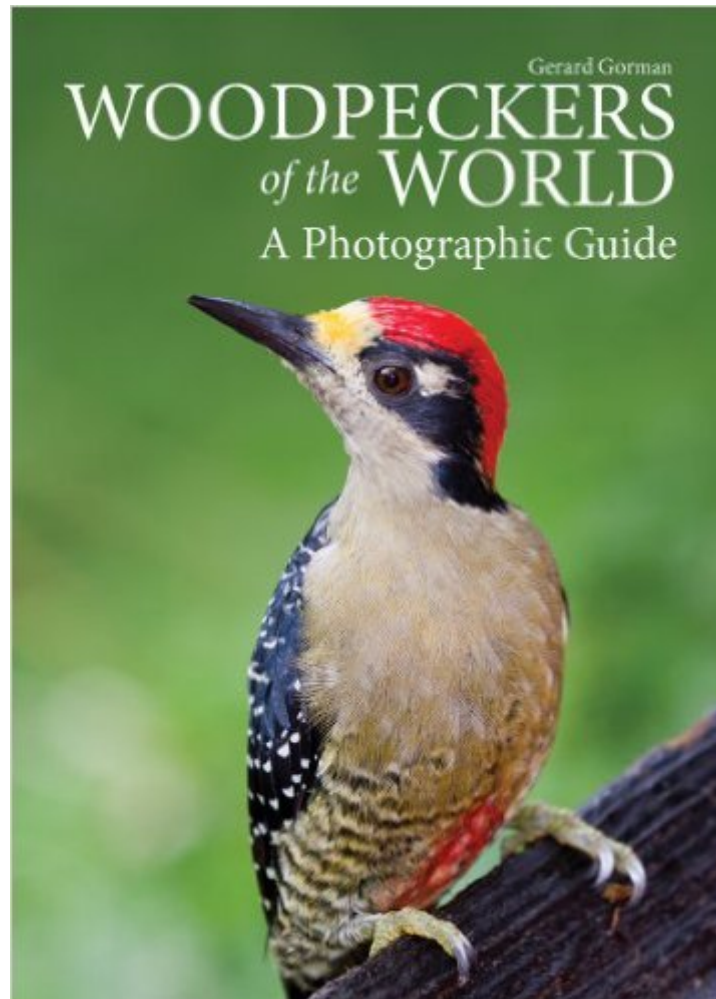


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Woodpeckers Of The World: A Photographic Guide



Synopsis

The definitive guide to all 239 species of woodpecker. This book follows closely the successful field guide format of *Owls of the World*, published by Firefly Books Ltd. and praised by Science Books and Film (among others) in a starred review: "The highlights of *Owls of the World* are the stunning photographs used to illustrate each species as well as the introductory section... a valued addition as a reference for bird enthusiasts and libraries." Booklist praised *Owls of the World* for its "good value and quality for the price," and Choice remarked that it "should become a standard reference" on the species. *Woodpeckers of the World* is the first definitive guide to all 239 species of woodpecker. Beautiful color photographs of male, female and juvenile woodpeckers taken in their natural habitat reveal the birds' coloring, markings, and sexual dimorphism. Detailed text looks at general woodpecker biology, followed by 239 detailed species accounts. Identification notes are followed by brief entries on food, voice, drumming, habitat, status, distribution, geographic variation and confusion species. Each entry features at least two, usually three, high-quality photographs showing an adult male, an adult female and a juvenile. In all, more than 700 carefully selected images highlight identification criteria. Each species entry also contains an accurate range map. Woodpeckers, an order that includes some of the oldest avian lineages, are one of the most popular families of birds, and they are certainly one of the more unusual. Their ability to excavate holes in wood is legendary. The family ranges from the tiny piculets of tropical forests to the mighty Imperial Woodpecker of Mexico, sadly now extinct. In between, there is a considerable variety of species inhabiting forests and woodlands on all continents except Australasia and Antarctica. *Woodpeckers of the World* is an informative, fact-filled and beautifully illustrated guide to a group beloved by all birders.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

THE BASICShardcover; covers all 239 species of woodpeckers in the world; 722 good color photographs show all but five of the species; this is a photographic and natural history guide but not purely an identification guide; text on each bird addresses description, status, habitat, range, food & foraging, vocalizations, drumming, and taxonomy; a large range map for each bird shows the general distribution across the regionTHE REVIEWThis is an attractive book where the highlight of its contents is the collection of 722 color photographs that make up this thick book. This is the first photographic book to address all 239 species of woodpeckers in the world. However, it should be pointed out that 5 species are not shown (Rusty-necked Piculet, Yellow-faced Flameback, and the Atlantic, Ivory-billed, and Imperial Woodpeckers).The book is arranged into "chapters" with one chapter focusing on a Genus. It was a nice artistic touch to start each chapter with a full page, impressive photo of one member of that Genus. There are many spectacular photographs throughout the chapters, such as the Okinawa and Crimson-crested Woodpeckers. Except for five species with only one photo, all the others are shown with 2-5 photographs which depict both the male and female when differences occur. Only a few of the birds have photos that show the various subspecies. Hopefully, this book will drive further photography of some of the lesser known birds. Although most of the photos are good, a few species (e.g., Balem, Red-collared, and Southern Sooty Woodpeckers) need improved photographs.A medium-sized to large range map accompanies each bird. For those species that migrate, a 3-color system is used to denote summer, winter, and resident.

This is a major new overview of the world's woodpeckers by an expert on the subject who has two previous woodpecker publications under his belt (*Woodpeckers of Europe* and *The Black Woodpecker*). Woodpecker taxonomy is a subject for debate, but the author recognizes 239 species for the purposes of this book. Each receives a detailed text with information on identification, vocalizations, food, conservation status, habitat, range and notes on taxonomy and similar species. Interestingly, for the first time, the author specifically includes information on drumming - or absence of it. Each species account is accompanied by a range map and typically several photographs illustrating sexual dimorphism or subspecific variation.As one would expect, the text has been

exhaustively researched and carefully compiled from a broad range of primary sources, but the author himself has traveled widely to gain extra field experience with a large number of species. So this is more than a literature review; it is a real contribution to our knowledge of woodpeckers. Good as the text is, the photographs are surely going to be the main reason for purchasing this book. There are, on average, three images per species and the quality is generally excellent. My favorites are the Piculus, the photographs capturing the striking plumage and eye color that often receive rather drab treatment in field guides.

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