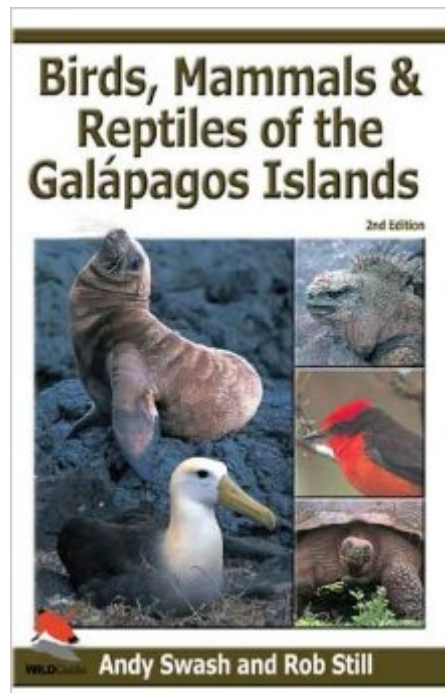


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Birds, Mammals, And Reptiles Of The Galápagos Islands: An Identification Guide, 2nd Edition



Synopsis

This simple-to-use, pocket-size volume offers a comprehensive guide to the unique wildlife of the Galápagos, encompassing all the birds, mammals, and reptiles a visitor to these extraordinary islands might encounter. The second edition corrects and amends plates and text, as well as adds six new photos of the whales. Reviews of the first edition: "The essential field companion for Galápagos visitors." • "The Quarterly Review of Biology" "I cannot conceive anyone going to the Galápagos without [this book] in hand." • Noble S. Proctor

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

A friend bought me this ID guide to take with me on a week-long cruise of the islands. The trip was magical and defies description; this ID guide was very helpful to me. It discusses not only the specific animals but also the ecology of specific vegetation zones of each island and documents sightings of each species. Not strictly for the layperson, because it requires some familiarity with scientific terms. I shared this guide with the National Park guides on our trip and they praised it highly - so I bought them each a copy. How's that for an endorsement?

Unless you are an advanced nature buff, birder, etc. this book should fulfill the need for travelers to recognize habitats and the land and air critters that inhabit them. Lavishly illustrated, good identification information, and even range maps- all very compact, and accurate. The information is next to the photo, so there's no paging back and forth- a good thing when you have a critter right in front of you. There's even a cross-referenced check-list by habitat! I'll definitely be taking this

slender book with its strengthened, plasticized covers on my next trip to the "Islas Encantadas". You'll be glad you got this for your trip.

This book is, in the words of my 8-year-old son, "incredible"! The layout is very easy to understand, the photographic plates that show the various species in related groupings are marvelously well-done. The text is informative without being pedantic, and the plethora of full-color photographs and excellent illustrations make the book a joy to use. If you are going to the Galapagos, BUY THIS BOOK! Better yet, buy more than one, because you will wear it out so fast flipping pages and grabbing it out of your travelling companions' greedy hands. If you aren't going, but want to learn about the fauna of this unique archipelago, you will find no better resource.

Original review of 1st Edition, November 9, 2005 This is the Galápagos guide you want! Andy Swash (photographer) and Rob Still (computer design wizard) have conspired to produce the handiest and most authoritative guide to the wildlife of these enchanted islands. They have pioneered the use of computer enhanced photographs, which combine the advantage of a photograph as an accurate record of an individual, with the artists ability to stress those features that are representative of the species. In one pocket-sized, 168 page, full-colour photographic guide you have all you need to identify almost all of the archipelago's wildlife including every living species of bird, mammal and reptile. And since WILDGuides are a non-profit organisation which supports conservation throughout the world, you are helping ensure that the wildlife you enjoy today will still be there for others to enjoy tomorrow. Check out their other titles, all of which share the enhanced photography approach. The perfect guide for the curious visitor and expert alike. Look no further!-----Comments on 2nd Edition, September 5, 2006 This second edition (white cover) differs from the first (blue cover - see review above) as follows: * it includes new species for the islands, such as Green Heron and Grey-headed Gull * all range maps have been revised and updated * the cetaceans section has been completely revamped * a new section on "electronic media" is provided * the species checklist has been brought right up-to-date The guide remains the top recommendation for wildlife observation on the islands and WILDGuides are still a non-profit organisation with an impressive record of donations to conservation.

We bought this book as one of 5 guides to the Galapagos which we took with us on our trip in Oct 05. It was really excellent, so good in fact, that our wonderful naturalist guide asked if we could send him a copy. I just gave him ours and now I have to order it again for us! It's organized by type of

animal and bird, which makes it easier for novices to experienced wildlife observers alike to identify animals and birds. It has a nice sturdy format also, which is good for taking along onto the islands. I highly recommend this book!

This book is ideal for a trip to the Galapagos where you want to have some useful, well organized, compact information about the animals you will see. The pages have clear organization and layout and the only thing lacking is significant information about the sea life.

As a conservation/wildlife biologist I have used a wide variety of field guides for all different taxa of organisms for both work and recreation across the world. I visited the Galapagos as a tourist and found myself in need of a guide to help ID the different wildlife I encountered. This guide does deliver on its promise and includes plates on birds, mammals, and reptiles however I feel like it does not excel at any of them. The presentation is cluttered and inconsistent, and there is at least one plate where the labels for the birds on the photo side have been left out (its not terribly hard to figure out which is which but the labels are clearly missing). The photos are also variable in quality, lighting, and angle and do not always clearly show off various identifying characteristics, which can be a bit frustrating when attempting to key out some of the similar species, there is a reason most professional bird guides use high quality illustrations rather than actual photos. This book is a far cry from the professionally done bird/reptile books of the mainland. However the information presented in the book is good and its better than any of the resources I found for sale in the Galapagos islands themselves. The inclusion of a small range map next to every species is an excellent addition and I'm glad they chose to include it to show exactly which islands the species are found on. Final Word: It will likely be more than sufficient for most people, however experienced birders & naturalists will likely find the presentation lacking and at times frustrating. For the price, I'd say its not a bad buy.

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