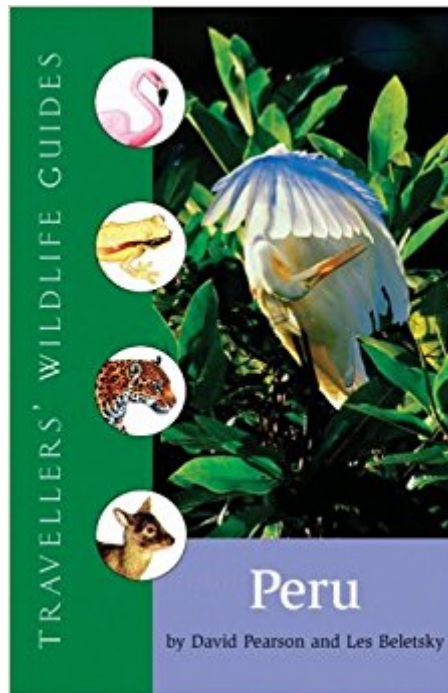




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Travellers' Wildlife Guides Peru



Synopsis

From the world-famous Machu Picchu Incan ruins high in the Andes Mountains, to Lake Titicaca in southern Peru, to the Iquitos area of northern Peru, travellers want to experience tropical forests and other stunning habitats and catch glimpses of exotic wildlife. In this book is all the information you need to find, identify, and learn about Peru's magnificent animal and plant life.

Book Information

Series: Travellers' Wildlife Guides

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Customer Reviews

"...this is a serious handbook for dedicated wildlife enthusiasts. The series concept is to help travellers identify and learn about the animals and plants they are most likely to see. The Peru guide is exceedingly comprehensive, includes current conservation information and is delightfully illustrated." --AUDUBON (April 2001)

Praise for the Series "...the kind of guide that an ecotourist to the area really needs." (Adrian Barnett in New Scientist, July 1999) "This is the perfect field book for the general tourist who has an interest in exploring tropical environs." (William R. Teska in Science Books And Films, June 1999) "...few [guides] are written with the same authority and attention to detail... It could be the best (money) you spend all trip." (Nick Baker in BBC Wildlife, 1999) "...this convenient field guide-sized book is absolutely packed with information for the visitor." (Steve Gantlett in Birding World, 1998) "These are books I would certainly want to read before a visit." (Gordon Hamlett in Birdwatching, 1999) "The illustrations are superb, the text simple and direct... If you go, take this book." (Birds,

Summer 1999) "The information on identification, distribution, ecology, behaviour, conservation, and habitats is enlivened by fascinating 'environmental close-ups'." (Bryan Bland in British Birds, September 1999) "...it is the treatment of frogs and snakes that makes these volumes worth taking along." (Winging It, June 1999) "The text is accurate and well-researched." (Nick Smith in IBIS, 1999) --This text refers to an alternate Paperback edition.

...but I just can't get excited about it. My grumps:1. This is a heavy, heavy guide. I've never seen a field guide so big and I'm not that excited about carrying it while hiking!2. I'd be more willing to carry a big, heavy guide if there were more pictures. As it is, I'd guess that 2/3 of the book is text. The text is intricate and well-written, but as a field guide I want PICTURES and little text blurbs. I don't need extensive climate descriptions or pages on mating habits. Totally overkill.3. It seems only the popular/common species are pictured. And it is an odd collection of pictures too... insects are photos (VERY overexposed), plants very light colored simple illustrations, and mammals are intricately painted. No continuity. And spiders? Totally absent. With the hundreds of species of arachnid in Peru, why aren't a few of them included? At least? I think flowers are pretty absent, too. I was verrrry close to returning this book but I wasn't able to find anything else that seemed comparable to bring along. So I have decided to keep it and give it a try for my 2-week trip in March. We'll see how that goes.

For anyone not willing to commit to hauling around the big standard bird guide for Peru, or in search of a book that covers animals as well, the Wildlife Guide is a must-have, right up there with a good pair of binoculars. Yes, there were birds I saw more than once that weren't in the guide, but that's to be expected, considering the ground the guide covers and the size (and excellence) of its illustrations. Not only is the book a field guide to identification, it's full of readable, informative essays on the country's ecosystems and the fauna to be found there. They ain't Sibley, but then, Sibley doesn't cover capybaras. I've used both the Ecuador and Peru editions of this book, and recommend them highly to anyone with even a passing interest in bird spotting and wildlife watching. My only slight gripe is that the heavyweight glossy stock is great for durability, but the weight of the thing, along with binocs, water, and incidentals, made for a semi-burdensome daypack while hiking in the thin mountain air. And oh, yeah, it really could use more on insects. As was the case with other reviewers, our guide in Tambopata - who hadn't seen the book before - immediately wanted to know where he could get a copy. (Speaking of which: be sure to buy this before you leave for Peru. I only spotted a single copy in one bookstore during the month I was there.)

This guide covers many of the species I saw on my journey in the Peruvian . Serious Birders will need to supplement with a Peruvian Bird Guide. But if you are just on one of those pansy riverboat tours where you don't even step out on land, don't bother, because you'll never see any real wildlife anyway.

Nice illustrations, but I wish all wildlife was shown. About 25% of the critters I encountered were not depicted. I would also prefer to have the illustrations on the same page as the descriptions.

Half of the book is pictures and small descriptions of the birds and other wildlife which is what I wanted (this is what the sample page showed). But the larger half of the book isn't very useful in the field, thus will make it too heavy to carry on our excursions.

This wildlife guide provides photo identification, habitat description, and a good overall feeling for Peru's wildlife. My only "complaint" would be the weight of the volume for travelers. I ordered a used copy so that I could cut out the photo id's to lighten my load. :)

We were going to the and Lima only, so much of this book was not pertinent to us on this trip. (We've been to the Andes/Cusco/Macchu Picchu before.) I was looking for a basic book on birds and animals, and found this to be the best compromise. I'd have preferred to buy the new Birds of Peru book instead, but the price was too high. The book is very heavy so be aware of that in your packing plans!

I will study this book prior to my April/May trip to the in Peru followed by a trip to Machu Picchu. Looks good.

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