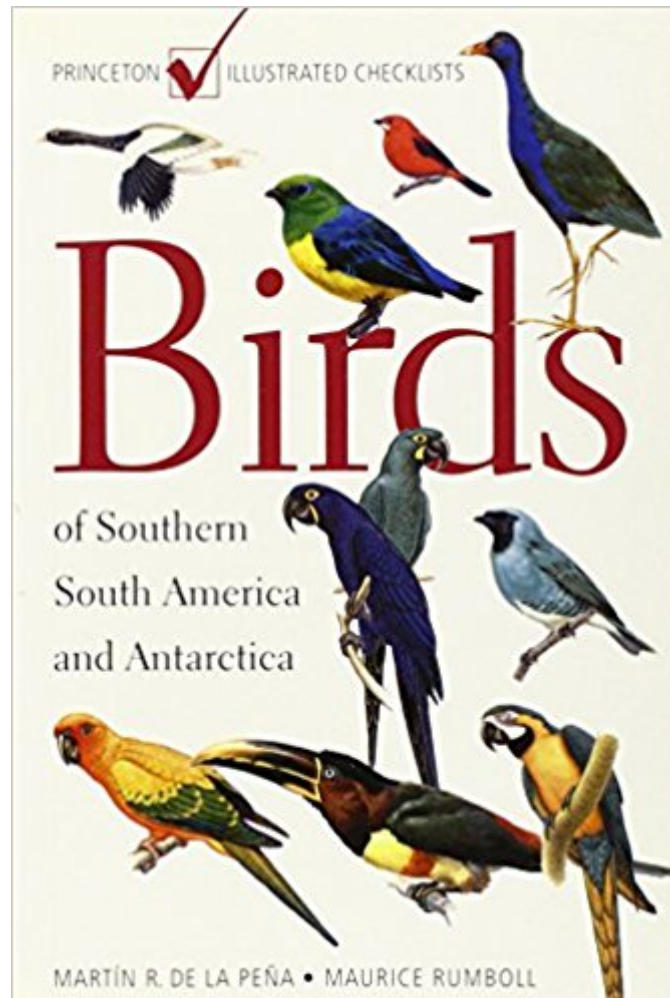




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Birds Of Southern South America And Antarctica.



Synopsis

South America, though home to about one-third of the world's bird species and twice as many endemic families of birds as any other continent, has the world's sparsest population of birdwatchers. *Birds of Southern South America and Antarctica* illustrates and describes all the known species--more than 1,000 of them--in a vast swath of this underexplored birder's paradise, from Argentina, Chile, Bolivia, Paraguay, southern Brazil, and Uruguay to parts of Antarctica. Just some of the birds it covers are teals, tinamous, chachalacas, conebills, cuckoos, macaws, parakeets, parrots, penguins, nightjars, hummingbirds, ovenbirds, tyrants, and tanagers. The habitats range from torrid rainforests and cloudforests to grasslands, the world's driest desert, second highest mountain range, and ice caps. The 97 color plates depict each species' male in breeding plumage, with the female and young often shown as well. On the facing page are concise textual descriptions of each species, highlighting not only salient physical features and behavioral patterns but the calls or songs of each. Casual birders and ornithologists contemplating a journey to the region, or simply interested in a one-volume overview of its bird life, will not want to miss this book.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"[A]n outstanding field guide that covers a vast geographic area and includes a wealth of information for more than 1,100 species of birds. . . . It should be purchased by anybody interested in the birds

of southern South America."--Floyd E. Hayes, Auk

Martín R. de la Peña, a veterinarian and ornithologist, studies the reproduction of birds, on which he has published three books, alongside a dozen others, in his native Argentina. He has also produced several films on the life of birds. Maurice Rumboll, one of Argentina's top naturalists, directs environmental education programs for students and plans interpretive trails, brochure texts, and visitor centers for his country's National Park Administration, whose Ranger Training Institute he formerly headed. Previously he directed visitors' services and research at Iguazú National Park and served as Traveling Naturalist for the Argentine Museum of Natural History.

Ok. It is great in size and area coverage - no other book (Chile-Argentina) will give you this much as reference for a first birding trip, without going above in permitted pounds for luggage in some local flights. I got more books to study the birds in the area (one for each country and this one as a summary of the region) before leaving for the trip - but sure, this is the only book I will take for the trip - because it has the info of two countries, in one book. note for : very difficult to decide the most recent print. note for printer: error in map distribution for Buff-necked and Black-faced Ibis, they both have the map of the other.

I am going birding in Bolivia -- which does not yet have it's own field guide -- later this year. So instead of carrying one guide I need to figure out which combination of books will strike a balance between usefulness and space/weight. I have a feeling this is going to be one of my main resources. It is very portable and so far about 85 percent of the birds I may potentially see are in here. In no way is this book intended to replace a full scale field guide such as "Birds of Columbia" by Hilty or "Birds of the High Andes" but then again it is less than one quarter the size and weight. Also, FYI -- it is quite a bit more than merely an illustrated checklist: you do get a small one paragraph description for each bird, a range map at the back which is a little inconvenient but many full size guides use this format also. The book is probably a little out of date as far as some of the finer points of taxonomy -- but many of the recent arguments are at least explained. All in all -- I feel this will be a very useful book to have along, though it will definitely not be the only book I'll have along.

I took an extended trip (2 months) through Argentina, Chile, and Uruguay. This book was adequate and quite useful. I wish the range maps weren't in the back of the book, it slows you down a bit.

However, from what I have seen, this is probably the best book to carry if you will be traveling over a large part of the region. The pictures are pretty good, but not great. The descriptions are also pretty good, but not great. I understand some concessions had to be made in order to make it a compact field guide. Overall I think a good job was done of balancing information/size of the book. If you can get by without regional range maps then "Birds of Chile" might be the way for you to go. It is a slightly better quality guide. If you want the range maps for the entirety of South America, and you need a compact, "backpacker friendly" guide, then don't hesitate to purchase this one.

My copy of the book was published in 1998 with Maurice Rumboll listed as coauthor in addition to M. R. de la Pena. Great reference book, but needs to be worked out with B. of Chile by A. Haramillo. Many changes in bird names and taxonomy. For example: Light-mantled sooty albatross. In addition to the bird measurements in centimeters, the lengths and wingspans should be also provided in inches. Blue eyed cormorant (*Phalacrocorax atriceps*) and King cormorant (*Phalacrocorax albiventer*) are given, but South Georgia Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax georgianus*) is missing!? Picture of SGC is included, taken on 31. October 2015 at Cooper Bay, SGI.

This book is a very good guide. The thing I like most about it is its size. It is actually smaller than "Birds of North America". It is a field guide not a desk reference like Howell and Webb "Birds of Mexico", that is about 3x larger or Hilty "Birds of Venezuela" 4x larger. These two books are actually too large to use as field guides. Many rip out the illustrations and bind them separately, because the books are too big to lug around. The only reason it did not receive 5 stars is because the range maps are in the back of the book. But "Birds of Costa Rica" does not even have range maps and it is considered excellent by many.

Having looked at several volumes in book shops I chose this book as I wanted a conveniently sized and weighted volume to take with me on a trip. It appears to cover all species and localities that I am due to visit even though some of the illustrations are a little small to show much detail and the descriptions are brief. For potentially a once in a lifetime trip it should prove adequate.

In 50 years of birding I have never found a less helpful book. The illustrations are almost useless. The written descriptions are only slightly more helpful. The area maps and raptor silhouettes were useful.

De la Peña & Rumboll's "Birds of Southern South America and Antarctica" is a well illustrated field book with more than 1,000 species of birds from Argentina, Chile, Paraguay, southern Brazil and southern Bolivia, plus Antarctica. Easy to use and carry in the field, one can identify any species fast, being either a male, a female or a juvenile in many cases. Illustrations from Non-Passerine birds are more accurate than Passerine birds. Each plate has the English vernacular name, the latin name and some key informations about the bird sighted as colors (male and female, whether this is the case), habitat and even vocalization in some cases. Unfortunately, the distribution maps for all species are useless and should come after the description of any bird. Despite of the maps, this book is really a good purchase, a mandatory book for South American birders.

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