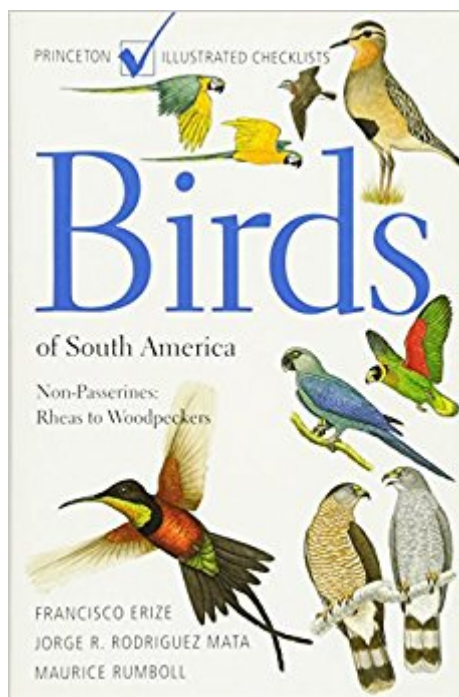




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Birds Of South America: Non-Passerines: Rheas To Woodpeckers (Princeton Illustrated Checklists)



Synopsis

Here in an easy-to-use format is the first guide to the nearly 1,300 species of non-passerine South American birds. It complements Robert Ridgely and Guy Tudor's large reference volumes on the passerines (1,800 species), which will soon be available in a single-volume field guide format. One of things that makes this book special is its use of masterful and alluring illustrations; most neotropical birders will want the book for the illustrations alone. The text concentrates on the key identification features of each species and follows the layout of other books in this series. The book may be used in conjunction with regional and country field guides. First guide to nearly 1,300 species Easy-to-use format Complements volumes on passerine birds Contains key identification features More than 150 color illustrations More than 1,270 maps

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"Anyone with a strong interest in the birds of South America should have this book."--Frederic H. Brock, Wildlife Activist
"An excellent compilation of information that is well presented and generally accurate.... I was very pleased to see detailed coverage of large groups of confusing birds, such as the hummingbirds and the parrots, parakeets, toucans and allies.... Without question I recommend buying the book."--Geoff Carpentier, OFO News
"This handy guide complements the two larger volumes on the passerine birds previously published by S. Ridgely and Guy Tudor. It, in essence, finishes those works and now completes the avifauna of the entire South American continent. The plates are well-done and finished the bulk of the book with succinct identification remarks on the

accompanied pages. For those interested in the varied birdlife of South America it is a must."--Charles E. Keller, Indiana Audubon Quarterly

Francisco Erize is a well-known conservationist in Argentina and author or coauthor of numerous books on the wildlife of both Argentina and South America, including *The National Parks of Argentina and Other Natural Areas*. His photographs have appeared in hundreds of publications. Jorge R. Rodriguez Mata is a freelance artist specializing in bird illustration. His work has appeared in a number of Argentine publications, and he is currently working on a definitive guide to the country's birds. Maurice Rumboll, also based in Argentina, is an environmentalist, bird-tour leader, and freelance writer. He is coauthor of *Birds of Southern South America and Antarctica* (Princeton).

This is a great and thorough guide to all the non-passerines in South America, a continent with astonishing avian diversity. I love this book, as I have loved every book I get from Princeton. The illustrations are incredible and each page has great information!

This Princeton Illustrated Checklist covers only "Non Passerines: Rheas to Woodpeckers". In their introduction the authors are rightfully proud to have compiled illustrations, range maps and useful information for almost 1,300 non-passerines in such a compact, field-worthy "pocket-sized volume", but they concede that "in the other pocket one will have to carry a regional, country, or local guidebook as well to complete the information regarding the other 1,800 or so species". What they fail to note is that almost any such guide would include coverage of the non-passerines, as well. If you plan to travel to more than one South American country or if you're traveling to a country or region not adequately covered by a contemporary field guide, you should certainly pack this volume. If your travels are limited to northern South America, the field guide volume of the two-volume set by Restall, Rodner & Lentino would be a reference for the passerines (and the non-passerines). If your travels take you to southern South America, an illustrated Princeton checklist (which I have not seen) covers all species found in that region, including of course the passerines. Back to the guide under discussion: the plates are for the most part well-organized and the artwork attractive and presumably accurate (based on a random sampling of species with which I am familiar). The facing-page species accounts concisely offer ID clues and habitat preferences (often quite informative), along with continent-wide range maps. I have not yet visited South America, but I'm confident that during my visits there this guide will be of considerable value. But of course I'll bring at least one guide for the other pocket! Until someone publishes a compact guide to the passerines of

South America (a formidable task indeed), this illustrated (and well-annotated) checklist will be a volume in search of a companion.

I recently traveled to Brazil for a conference and some birding-oriented travel, and waffled between purchasing this book (accompanied by Ridgely and Tudor's *Songbirds of South America*) or the single-volume *Birds of Brazil* by Ber van Perlo. At the advice of a few birder friends who had recently spent time in Brazil, I chose this book - and I am so glad that I did! Most other people I birded with had van Perlo's book, so I was able to compare the plates side-by-side. These two books were superior, often by orders of magnitude, in every single case - better, more accurate drawings; more accurate color rendition; more updated and precise range information; and more in-depth natural-history descriptions. My one complaint - beyond the size (which is unavoidable, given the expansive material covered) - is that some of the poses were, well, cheesy. Such as hawks and eagles depicted in aggressive screeching poses, as you might see in a Bald Eagle image on a cheap set of matching patriotic plates sold from the back of *Reader's Digest*. But don't let this dissuade you - this is the book to buy, no doubt about it!

This book is a perfect combination of completeness and beautiful art work. The plates are great, accurate and useful in field. It's a good idea to put some hummingbirds in flight because the majority of cases it is the way that we see in field, so you learn to identify this complex family in these postures. The introductory chapters say the essentials and the review of birds families is a good point to start. Maybe I would have liked that the book had a more recent taxonomic treatment for the families, but this is a minor problem if you are familiarized with the systematics of south-american birds (for more details or doubts simply look the American Ornithologist Union South American Checklist SACC). Additionally the maps of geographical ranges are small but if you know the fundamentals of the continent topography you don't have problems. In synthesis it's a great book and very portable in field if you consider your size...

Print a little small, hard to look things up in the index.

I had only found a few problems with the text and maps, and I used this in conjunction with a friend's local guide to birds - the illustrations are amazing and accurate. I did find that a few other poses would have been helpful, but then it wouldn't be a field guide, would it? Great size and weight, the book really held up to 4 months of abuse. I'm considering getting the guides to passerines as well.

A+++++

TrÃfÂ's bon bouquin...

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