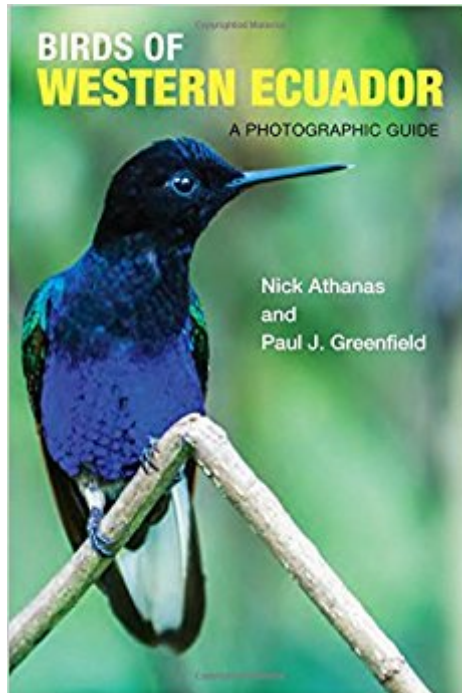




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Birds Of Western Ecuador: A Photographic Guide



Synopsis

Western Ecuador is famed for its astonishingly diverse birdlife, from colorful hummingbirds and outrageous toucans to more difficult groups like raptors, flycatchers, and ovenbirds. Here is the ultimate photographic guide to the spectacular birds of this region. Featuring nearly 1,500 stunning color photos of 946 species, this richly detailed and taxonomically sophisticated field guide will help you with even the toughest identification challenges. Species accounts, photos, and color distribution maps appear side by side, making it easier than ever to find what you are looking for, whether you are in the field or preparing for your trip. Features nearly 1,500 photos of 946 species Includes facing-page species accounts, photos, and maps Provides photos of multiple plumages for many species Helps you to differentiate between similar species

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"An excellent new photographic field guide. . . . The most comprehensive and authoritative field guide to the birds of the region."--Birding Ecuador blog "What is incredible is that even the rarest and most difficult birds are depicted with high-resolution photos. . . . This book is much more than a compilation of high quality photographs--it is a true field guide. This is not surprising since the two authors are both leading experts on Ecuador's birds, and Nick Athanas is a leading bird guide for Tropical Birding."--Frank Lambert, Birder's Library

"A well-written, reader-friendly photographic guide."--Roger Ahlman, freelance bird guide in

Ecuador" The authors should be applauded for producing such a complete, up-to-date, and well-organized text. The dazzling photographic collection--which took decades to amass--is truly a treasure trove."--Mitch Lysinger, tour guide with Field Guides

It's everything I wanted in a book. I would like it if it had Eastern Ecuador, but it's already pretty heavy. The descriptions are a little sketchy, but with over 900 birds this is a good balance for book size. Now if I can just get there and check it out. BTW my bird guide in Costa Rica recommended this book. He said it is the best available.

Used extensively on trip and had requests for copies from guides and lodge owner. More than met expectations.

A truly amazing accomplishment. The photos are outstanding, perfect size and just the right amount of description similar to the quality US field guides. A glossary is also included which is also helpful. This is now the standard Western Ecuador field guide. Bravo Señores Athanas y Greenfield!

Fabulous book! I wish I had it when I birded the Northwest Slope last year. Tha photographs by Nick Athanas, Roger Ahlman, et,al are superb.I hope this crew will do an Eastern Ecuador book.Naseem Reza

This was an extremely helpful guide. The photos, general locations of birds and the possible lodges they may be found was great. All the data was up to date. I am ordering a second guide as a gift for my guide in Costa Rica.

If you are going to Ecuador you need this book! The photos are exceptional and confirmed many bird id's for our group. Great job Nick! Are you winning over Ian?

Considering the wealth of species in Ecuador it makes sense to have a field guide covering each half of the country. That idea combined with the wealth of knowledge of both Nick and Paul makes this is a very welcome field guide. Though the old Ridgely and Greenfield guide is very good this considerably lighter tome will be much easier to haul around. Nick's years of photographic endeavors shines through with the many fantastic photographs of often tricky birds to see let alone photograph. This speaks to the effort put into this guide along with the further efforts of sixty

additional photographic contributors gives the guide the most complete photographic record of the region. Like most of the current field guides the format of the book follows with text on the left page with range maps and plates of photos on the right. Most of the photos are large enough and capture enough detail to make ID in the field much easier. The text is concise and covers the main points of ID and abundance. Added to this is the most up to date taxonomy with additional text in appendices, glossary and index. With so many colorful species this book is worth the photos along and is a must for any neo-tropical birder.

Just returned from a trip to Mindo, Ecuador, and used this new guide in the field. Photos are generally of excellent quality (color, pose) and worked well for identification. Range maps were accurate for my locations. The elevation data and descriptions were also helpful and, based on my experience, accurate. For example, for Fasciated Tiger-Heron, "[m]ay be encountered perched on boulders in rapids, especially at dawn and dusk" (p. 42)--exactly as I observed one! The book is lighter and not as unwieldy in the field as *The Birds of Ecuador* (2001; Ridgely and Greenfield), though, granted, covers only western Ecuador and not entire country, and includes much more information than *Fieldbook of the Birds of Ecuador* (2013; McMullan and Navarrete), though the latter is very lightweight and can easily slide into a daypack pocket. I carried in the field *Birds of Western Ecuador*, my wife carried the *Fieldbook*, and we left *The Birds of Ecuador* in the cabin for later reference. The one minor challenge I had was using the guide for hummingbird identification. With about 130 species (across Ecuador, but most also in the west), and the usually brief, momentary glimpse in the field (not including viewing at the ubiquitous feeders!), one needs to rummage through 34 pages, as most facing pages cover only 4 to 6 species. A single plate in *The Birds of Ecuador* covers 19 or more species, and the *Fieldbook* displays 16 species on facing pages. Certainly, with more familiarity of the various taxa--for example, Violetears, Brilliants, Pufflegs, Thornbills, Woodstars--and memorization of the pages where they are found, one can become more efficient at id-ing quickly. My recommendation for the next edition is to retain the current format but include in addition a handful of pages with, at reduced scale, cropped duplicates of 12 of the current images/page--thus 24 on facing pages--for quick perusal and comparison of more species at a glance. Overall, I was very pleased with this new field guide and applaud the authors for compiling a wealth of information that will serve foreign travelers and Ecuadorians, as well as help inform conservation initiatives.

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