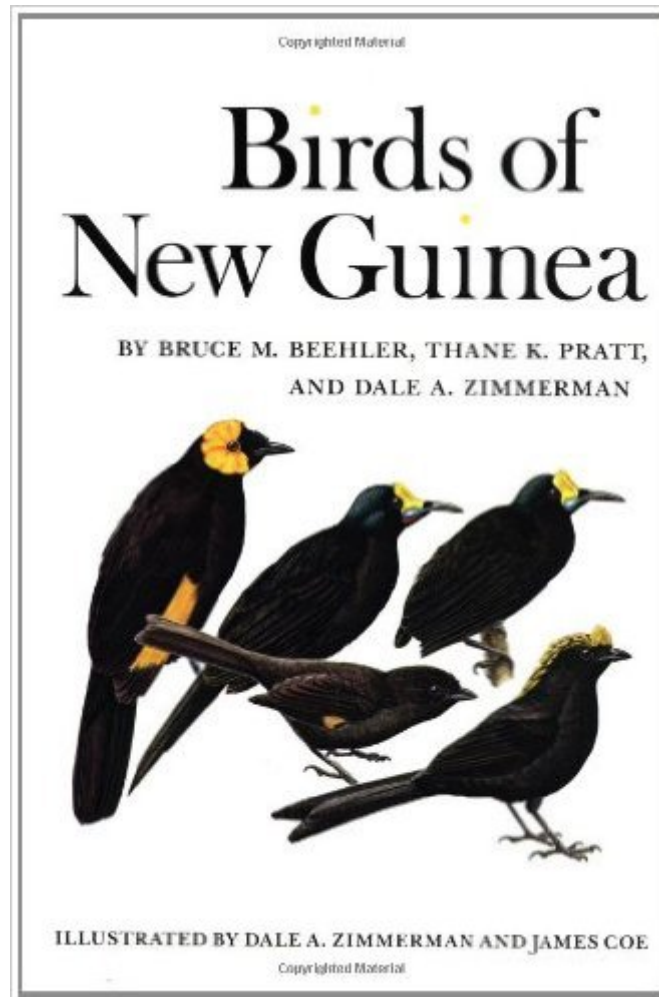


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Birds Of New Guinea



Synopsis

This book is the first definitive ornithological field guide to New Guinea, the world's second largest island and one of the richest tropical environments in the Old World. Because of its isolation, New Guinea's biota includes spectacular radiations of unusual plants and animals (of which the birds of paradise are perhaps best known). The region has long attracted naturalists, ecologists, and anthropologists. This book treats all of the more than 700 species of birds recorded from the region, illustrating more than 600 of them in forty-seven fine color plates and eight black-and-white halftone plates. The text contains species accounts treating identification, distribution, ecology, vocalizations, and behavior. This is preceded by a detailed introduction to the region, with sections on climate, biogeography, rainforest ecology, and conservation. A chief contribution of the book is the wealth of information on the habits of many of the region's little-known species. Included is an ornithological gazetteer, along with four maps showing natural features and important ornithological localities.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

What i appreciate most abt this book is tt it's chock full of information. from an introduction to papuan geography to taxonomy, as well as intros into racial variation of the very diverse groups of birds in NG. The book also delves into the country's natural history, environment and even island biogeography. another thing i appreciate is the significant introduction given to each family of birds before the species' details list. such info allows the birder to understand how better to expect, spot

and identify these birds in the field. contact information also provided for those interested in visiting the country. followed by a range of tips on how to best to identify birds in the Papuan terrain. the author even goes so far as to give mention of the significance of birds in Papuan culture and life, which is a great insight, little expected in a field guide. lastly, of course, the plates are wonderfully coloured, otherwise in black and white (but don't worry, of course the colouration is mentioned in the description) - i suppose to cut costs (this book is expensive) - but an indispensable edition to a complete guide to birds of the Indonesian archipelago.

Great source, a classic, but in a dire need of upgrading in organization and in drawings! The original was published in 1980's (we paid \$400 for the privilege of having the Original!). Supposedly, the new edition is in the print, according to our PNG guide Mimo (Mr. Michael Patrick Moore), who contributed to the new edition. Another outstanding resource is the book by T. Laman & E. Scholes: Birds of Paradise (2010). Washington, D.C.: National Geographic. However, this is a classic coffee table book, not appropriate for the field trips, but all 39 birds of paradise are listed and photographed in all splendour.

A helpful introduction to the birds of New Guinea for anyone from the beginning bird watcher to experienced ornithologist. It is useful for identification of and differentiation between birds, and for basic information about the known habits of the birds. Good as a starting point for those who wish to study further.

I just returned from 2 weeks in Papua New Guinea where the only comprehensive bird field guide was the Beehler book, which one of the travelers had checked out from their local library. Even the naturalist, who led the trip, had another book that wasn't nearly as good. We could not have identified as many birds without this valuable resource. A new edition is coming out in April 2008, but until then, the 1986 edition is the best there is.

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