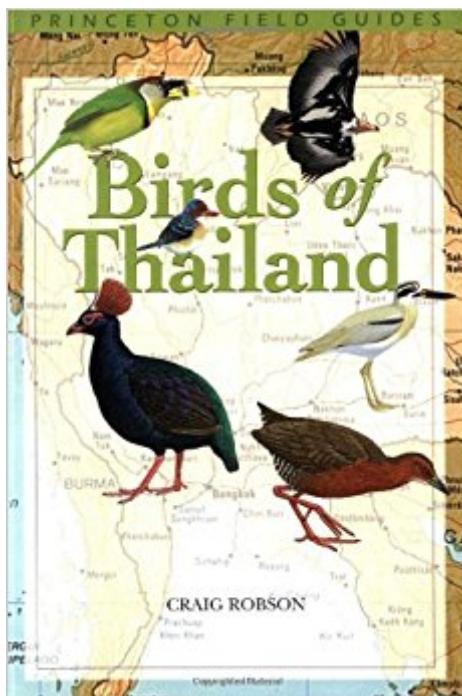


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Birds Of Thailand (Princeton Field Guides)



Synopsis

Thailand is the mecca of birding in Southeast Asia. It's convenient to get to and get around, and its birdlife is wondrously diverse, exotic, and plentiful. With Birds of Thailand, Craig Robson and fourteen leading illustrators give us the most up-to-date, comprehensive, and concise field guide to this magnificent country's rich avifaunal heritage in recent years, covering the more than 950 species recorded as of early in the new millennium. Facing each of the 128 striking, full-color plates are species accounts accompanied by maps for each, illustrating precise distribution within Thailand. The accurate text covers identification, voice, habitat, behavior, range, status, and breeding for all species and subspecies. Illustrations and entries on a number of species recorded only quite recently are also included. The country's varied habitats assure something for every birder, from freshwater marshes to coastal areas, from fields and rice paddies to lush jungles and mangrove forests. In Thailand, one can delight in the brilliantly colored pittas, broadbills, and sunbirds; the deep, dazzling green of barbets, parrots, parakeets, and leafbirds; the aptly named frogmouths; the roosterlike resplendence of the (male) red junglefowl; the ruff, whose breeding male in full plumage sports a truly singular head; and much, much more. Birders and all ecologically minded travelers daydreaming of a voyage to this gem of a country will want the latest source of thorough information on its birdlife--in a highly portable, pithy, and vividly illustrated guide. What they will want is Craig Robson's Birds of Thailand. Comprehensive field guide written specifically for this magnificent, bird-rich country 128 full-color plates by expert artists covering every major plumage variation, with juveniles also illustrated where notably distinct from males and females Over 950 maps for individual species illustrating their precise distribution within Thailand Accurate, up-to-date, and concise text covering identification, voice, habitat and behavior, range, status, and breeding of all species and distinctive subspecies

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Customer Reviews

Winner of the 2002 Best Bird Book - Asia, Worldtwitch

"A guide of exceptional quality that should prove very handy in the field. One can't ask for more."--Hugh Dingle, University of California, Davis --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

BIRDS OF THAILAND is the reason the prestige university press and its zero-tolerance approach to schlock products exists. Princeton University Press has done itself proud with this condensed and focused version of author Robson's BIRDS OF SOUTHEAST ASIA. If you're interested in the birds that inhabit a medium-sized country like Thailand, you don't have many choices in field guides and you may not have many friends. At least, friends who share your precise and tiny interest. For that reason, this review should be read as a referendum upon the PRINCETON FIELD GUIDES as much as on this individual volume. A field guide's physical quality matters more than with other books since you're meant to carry the thing around. The PFG is quality construction through and through and just compact enough to make for convenient traveling. The choice of a small font size in Garamond BookCondensed is a wise one, providing exceptional clarity and saving space for the beautiful and competent illustrations (drawn, not photographed). Because the majority of birders are English speakers by first or second language, bird guides that cover species native to non-English speaking countries often read as though the people who live there (with the birds!) don't exist. This may be a pecadillo rather than a felony, since - after all - such a book is about *birds*, not people. Yet Robson's guide adds the nice touch of Thai indices and page headings, no doubt appreciated by the local colleagues who are necessary participants in a project of this high quality. The Princeton Field Guides include volumes on mammals as well as birds, with a penchant for out-of-the-way locations. If your interest takes you there, any one of these Guides is a worthy investment you'll not regret.

Supposedly this is the best field guide to Thailand birds, and maybe it is; I've never used another one. Having used the National Geo for North American birds for so long, I guess I'm spoiled. By comparison this book has many deficiencies. Range maps are so small they aren't as useful as you'd like; it's particularly annoying that, when a bird is very localized, there's no regional view to help you out, only a tiny map of a big country. Behavioral descriptions, which can be so helpful with unfamiliar genera of birds, are nearly nonexistent. Numbering of individual drawings is very hard to correlate with text, although there are a good number of alternate plumage drawings. Worst of all, some of the drawings just don't capture subtleties of field marks well enough. Overall, most of the problems can be attributed to attempts to save space, and with so many species to cover that's understandable. Authors should have just broken down and made a thicker book. Most birders are hardy; we can handle a few extra ounces.

Paintings, descriptions, and range maps are very good. Multiple views of each bird are helpful, but it would be better to have the name of the bird on the same page as the paintings. No information about abundance. No front matter about the geography of Thailand.

I like this version as it is a paperback and so light to pack on my travels. There is enough information for the beginner as well as that little bit extra for those who do this birdwatching seriously. I am originally from Africa and so Asian birds are mostly unknown to me. This is exactly as I hoped it would be: compact, informative and easy to transport. One small complaint would be the size of the maps. A tad bigger would have been better, but that is personal.

Currently the best guide for Thailand. However there have been numerous re-classifications in the last 10 years; I had to make a lot of corrections to be up to date. Also I found it easier to bubble in pencil the plates that show the species as in many cases it isn't obvious. A new guide is definitely due for this area.

Excellent!

Great book! I recently returned from Thailand and found it to be very helpful for someone who didn't know much about Southeast Asian birds.

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