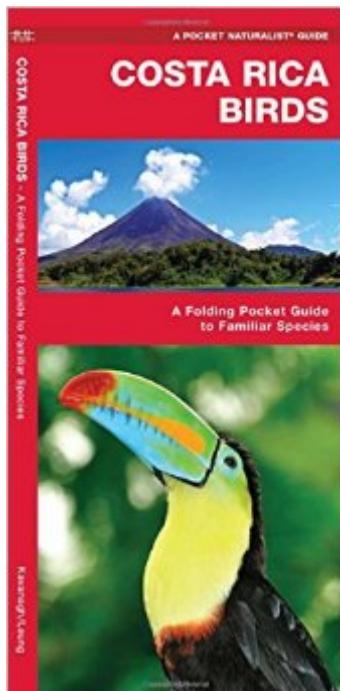


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# Costa Rica Birds: A Folding Pocket Guide To Familiar Species (Pocket Naturalist Guide Series)



## Synopsis

The stunning resplendent quetzal – a species atop every birder's life checklist – is one of over 900 species of birds inhabiting this tropical paradise. This beautifully illustrated guide highlights over 140 familiar and unique species and includes an ecoregion map featuring prominent bird-viewing areas, including the world-famous, Montverde Cloud Forest. Laminated for durability, this lightweight, pocket-sized folding guide is an excellent source of portable information and ideal for field use by naturalists of all ages. Made in the USA.

## Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars – See all reviews (66 customer reviews)

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## Customer Reviews

The pocket guide is just as promised, an easily carried introductory guide to the more familiar Costa Rican bird species. Don't expect to get the same information and detail as in a softcover or hardcover book, but the guide appears to be durable and easy to carry in any pocket. The last time we were in Costa Rica we lugged a hardcover birding guide along and got smart this time for our trip down to the Osa Peninsula.

I gave this with a pair of binoculars to a relative who's going to Costa Rica, and I wish I'd spent the money for a real bird guide. The illustrations are small and not well detailed, don't seem to be arranged in any particular order and there's virtually no information here. It's waterproof and will fit in a pocket, but there's little else to recommend it.

On my visit to Costa Rica, this was helpful in identifying butterflies and moths, of which there are many, many species. This laminated card contains many of those I saw, but, of course, was far from a comprehensive guide. It is sturdy and fits easily in a backpack.

You get what you buy, and this is as advertised. People that complain about being surprised they aren't holding a 300-page field guide in their hands when they receive this are apparently unable to read the clear description on this page. Excellent, lightweight, and exactly what it says it is.

We keep a copy of this in our Costa Rican home not only for our benefit but for that of our renters. Unfortunately, one of our renters liked it sooo much that they took our copy (despite our name being on the front). We looked at all the options and choose to simply buy another one as this covers most (but not all) of the species that we get to enjoy there. I would recommend it for anyone planning a trip to the region. When we ask what the name of a particular bird is from a local, they give us the name they know it by. Sometimes that doesn't give us enough information to locate information in our books or on the web. This guide gives us birds often of the same family that allows us to find others that are similar in our other reference materials. Materials that are often too bulky to take with us when we are out and around. I highly recommend this guide.

I went to Costa Rica. I wanted to see as many new birds as I could as a birder. I also wanted to get some great photos. I took the photos and then used this Nature Guide to help me identify the exact bird I saw. This came in handy to actually tell you the name of the bird, the description, and even to carry with you.

I wasn't sure if I was going to find this foldout identification guide and another I bought very useful for my trp to Costa Rica - they don't contain a lot of information. But I ended up buying two additional ones while I was there. These are perfect for identifying what you see on the spot or later while resting or having a cup of coffee. They don't have every species but most of the common ones and others you want to see. And they're so easy to carry in a purse or backpack when corresponding field guides are too heavy or take too much room when you're trying to travel light. Other travelers on our trip borrowed mine and were inspired to purchase their own copies. I recommend carrying a Sharpie to mark on them so you can look up more details about what you've seen later.

This is compact and relatively easy to carry in a deep pocket. Among its shortcomings are that there were many common birds that were not included, the pictures are too small to clearly see important identification features, the colors are not always accurate and one scientific name was out of date. Our group saw about 130 species of birds in Costa Rican rain and cloud forests so many were not included in this brochure. Its utility depends on your goals as a bird watcher -- if you are an avid bird watcher choose a more comprehensive (and expensive) guide, because this one is not that useful, but it was not intended for this use. If you are a casual bird watcher, you may find this guide somewhat useful, but you are likely to be disappointed with absence of some common species and detail.

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