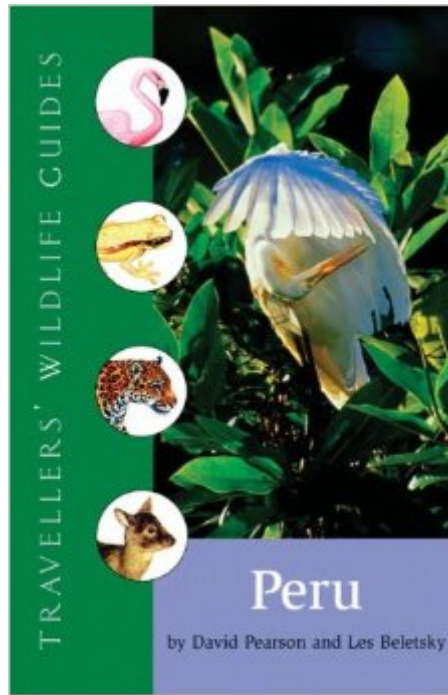


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# Travellers' Wildlife Guides Peru



## Synopsis

From the world-famous Machu Picchu Incan ruins high in the Andes Mountains, to Lake Titicaca in southern Peru, to the Iquitos area of northern Peru, travellers want to experience tropical forests and other stunning habitats and catch glimpses of exotic wildlife. In this book is all the information you need to find, identify, and learn about Peru's magnificent animal and plant life.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

The "Traveller's [sic.] Wildlife Guides" are designed for travelers who desire more background on a country's flora and fauna than one can typically glean from a national park brochure or even a good guide. The main strength of these guides is their relatively low price. Illustrated field guides for exotic destinations can easily cost over \$60. These guides, by comparison, are a steal at just under \$20. The main weakness is that they are not comprehensive. They provide information and illustrations for common birds, reptiles, mammals, and insects, but not for exotic species. Hence, serious birdwatchers will also need to purchase James F. Clements and Noam Shany's "A Field Guide to the Birds of Peru." In every other sense, however, the Pearson guide is marvelous. The introductory chapters on Peru's ecotourism business, its geography and habitats, parks and reserves, and ecology and natural history are extremely well-written and highly informative. The second half of book is a field guide with pictures on one page and descriptions on the adjacent page. The descriptions are brief and to the point. They also contain symbols for the habitat types each species prefers. For common bird identification, I found this guide to be much easier to use in

the field than the Clements and Shany guide, which provides pictures in one part of the book and descriptions in another. This book worked well as a companion to Clements and Shany because it enabled me to focus on common birds first and if I could not find my bird in the Pearson list, I then cracked open the Clements and Shany guide. In addition to the Peru guide, Interlink Books also publishes "Traveller's Wildlife Guides" for Australia, Costa Rica, Belize and Northern Guatemala, Brazil, and Ecuador and the Galapagos.

I purchased this book to take with me to the Manu Reserve in Peru. It offered a very nice overview of the wildlife of the area, though I did see quite a few birds, reptiles and mammals that were not included. The illustrations and narratives are well done. I wish the section on snakes was larger and the guide just touched on plant life. My biggest wish is that the insect section would be expanded. There are 1,000 kinds of butterfly in Manu alone, yet the guide hardly touched the subject. An all inclusive guide to all the plants, insects and wildlife would be far from portable, so if you are looking for a travel guide this does its job nicely. Hopefully you can carry this and let your guide haul around the Birds of Ecuador and other more comprehensive guides.

Part the Interlink Books "Travellers' Wildlife Guides" series, Peru provides identification and location information on Peru's most frequently seen animals. This 502 page identification guide offers full-color illustrations of more than 500 of Peru's most common insects, amphibians, reptiles, birds, and mammals. Enhanced with a species index, Peru provides up-to-date information on the ecology, behavior and conservation of the animals listed, as well as information on Peru's habitats and the most common plants visitors will encounter. With brief descriptions of Peru's most frequently visited parks and wildlife reserves, this handy, highly portable manual will prove to be an invaluable companion for appreciating the diversity and wonderful of Peruvian wildlife in their native settings.

Our Peruvian guide (who had been in the business for about 20 years) saw this book and salivated so much that we gave it to him at the end of our trip. Very complete, very well organized, pictures were wonderful. Great help in identifying species. Another guide said it was the bible of Peru Wildlife.

Half of the book is pictures and small descriptions of the birds and other wildlife which is what I wanted (this is what the sample page showed). But the larger half of the book isn't very useful in the

field, thus will make it too heavy to carry on our excursions.

...but I just can't get excited about it. My grumps:1. This is a heavy, heavy guide. I've never seen a field guide so big and I'm not that excited about carrying it while hiking!2. I'd be more willing to carry a big, heavy guide if there were more pictures. As it is, I'd guess that 2/3 of the book is text. The text is intricate and well-written, but as a field guide I want PICTURES and little text blurbs. I don't need extensive climate descriptions or pages on mating habits. Totally overkill.3. It seems only the popular/common species are pictured. And it is an odd collection of pictures too... insects are photos (VERY overexposed), plants very light colored simple illustrations, and mammals are intricately painted. No continuity. And spiders? Totally absent. With the hundreds of species of arachnid in Peru, why aren't a few of them included? At least? I think flowers are pretty absent, too. I was verrrry close to returning this book but I wasn't able to find anything else that seemed comparable to bring along. So I have decided to keep it and give it a try for my 2-week trip in March. We'll see how that goes.

This guide covers many of the species I saw on my journey in the Peruvian . Serious Birders will need to supplement with a Peruvian Bird Guide. But if you are just on one of those pansy riverboat tours where you don't even step out on land, don't bother, because you'll never see any real wildlife anyway.

This wildlife guide provides photo identification, habitat description, and a good overall feeling for Peru's wildlife. My only "complaint" would be the weight of the volume for travelers. I ordered a used copy so that I could cut out the photo id's to lighten my load. : )

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