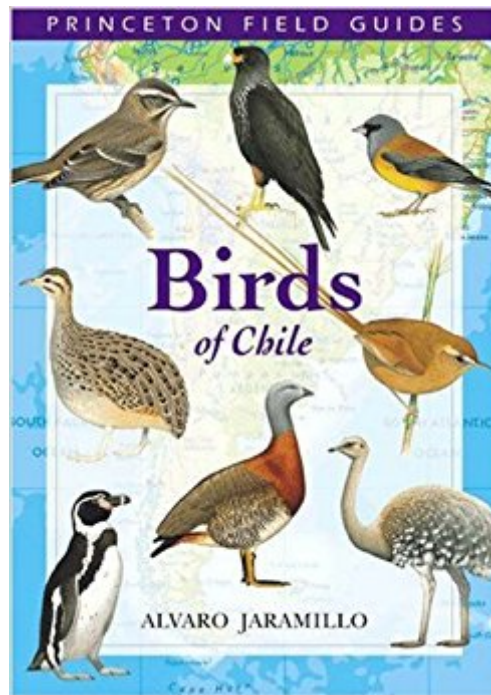




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Birds Of Chile (Princeton Field Guides)



Synopsis

This is the essential new field guide to the birds of Chile. Representing a great diversity of habitats, from the Andes in the north down to the tundra and sub-Antarctic rainforest of Tierra del Fuego in the far south, Chile is the breeding ground or temporary abode of 473 known species including 9 found nowhere else in the world. Birds of Chile covers them all, embracing not only the mainland but points offshore such as Easter Island as well as the Antarctic Peninsula and adjacent islands, plus the Falklands and South Georgia. In addition to being a friendly and fruitful birding destination in its own right, Chile is the starting point for many Antarctic cruises. Succinct, identification-focused text and distribution maps share a page opposite each of the 97 color plates to allow quick and easy reference. Between the boldfaced English name and the scientific name comes the Spanish name as used in Chile; this is important, for birders will find their quest far more enjoyable and effectual if they can explain to Chileans exactly what they are looking at, think they are looking at, or hope to be looking at. Since Chile's list of resident species is yet far from conclusive, vagrants and rarities are also included. Indeed, some birds once thought to be accidentals in Chile have since proved to be regulars, including the Westland Petrel, Least Sandpiper, Cliff Swallow, and Golden-billed Saltator. Compact, comprehensive, and easy to use, Birds of Chile is the essential field guide to the birds of this spectacular and tourist-friendly country. The essential new field guide to the birds of Chile 97 color plates with succinct text and maps on facing pages for quick reference and easy identification All 473 known species breeding in or visiting Chile, from the Andes in the north down to the tundra and sub-Antarctic rainforest of Tierra del Fuego in the south Also covers points offshore such as Easter Island as well as the Antarctic Peninsula and adjacent islands, plus the Falklands and South Georgia Compact, portable, and user-friendly

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Customer Reviews

Winner of the 2003 Best Bird Book - South America, Worldtwitch

"Rarely does a field guide of this caliber debut as its country's first. Birds of Chile offers not just perfect field-portability, beautiful and accurate artwork with facing text, and clarity and conciseness throughout: it presents genuinely new scholarship on the field identification of several cryptic and difficult groups, as well as on the modern geographic distribution of Chile's birds. Those who bird Chile will find the combined brilliance of Jaramillo, Burke, and Beadle indispensable in the field and by the fireside."--Ned Brinkley, Editor, North American Birds --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

When I finally delve into the South American temperate zone I'll want to choose as my destination a country with an affordable, compact and thorough field guide to the birds known to occur there. Collaborating with two accomplished illustrators, Alvaro Jaramillo has authored such a guide, and it is the kind of guide most useful in the field: organized in an essentially familiar sequence, with species accounts facing the illustrations on the plates. When combined with the genus accounts included at the top of each page, they concisely describe habitat preferences and identification clues (plumage, structure and to some extent behavior). Illustrations are attractive and seemingly accurate (at least for those few species that I've seen). Range maps are somewhat innovatively split into three zones, which when combined cover the entire country from north to south. Species more restricted in distribution may be mapped in only one or two of those zones. Color codes are used to differentiate between residents, Austral summer visitors, Austral winter visitors, migrants, and species of a decidedly sparse or erratic occurrence. There's a very good mid-book chapter on "Ageing Gulls, Tern and Jaegers" that any beginning and intermediate birder will find helpful, and the same is true of the excellent introductory chapter on field identification. Another introductory chapter describes Chilean habitats. Perusing this guide, I realize that the South American temperate latitudes are occupied by a wonderful variety of bird species that will not be found in the tropics. I've always thought of the American tropics as being a sort of opposite experience to my North American

temperate experience, but in some ways that can also be said for temperate countries like Chile.

I bought this field guide after a trip to Tierra del Fuego and Antarctica. One of the tour guides on my trip had it and I wish I had. It is, by far, the best field guide for that area, even if it says only Chile. It covers all of the birds I saw in TdF in Argentina and the birds of Antarctica. Great pictures and has several views of each Albatross which can be confusing to id. My only wish is that it had more color phases of the giant petrels. Great guide overall and I'm kicking myself I didn't buy it before my trip.

Basics: 2003, softcover, 240 pages, 96 color plates, 473 species, range map for each bird. In case I fail to make it clear in my review of the book, I'll state it now: This book is a necessity for your birding trip to anywhere in Chile. The illustrations are excellent and cover every bird - both resident and migrant - found in the country. It also covers 13 extra species found in the Antarctic Peninsula, the Falkland Islands and South Georgia. The illustrations are done superbly in detail, structure, and color. If I had to pick on something for criticism, it would only be the vaguely angled outline to some of the birds' nape/crown and the necks of the swans, but this is minor. The plates do a great job of displaying the many subspecies and seasonal plumages. The many in-flight views are definitely helpful. The majority of the text consists of excellent notes on identification and of comparing similar species. The detailed notes proved to be very helpful when examining the various cinclodes and miners in the field. An admirable effort is given to describing the vocalizations. These notes are effectively written and are more detailed than most other field guides of any country. The range maps are unique due to the shape of Chile. To properly display the 2,500 miles of coastline, the country was broken into thirds: northern, central, and southern. These are placed adjacent to each other in one box. To help provide some orientation, the 12 regions (i.e., provinces) are outlined and Santiago is dotted. For birds with a small range, the map zooms in to that particular area. These maps use five different colors to denote seasons and sparseness. There are a couple of other books you could use for Chile, but I found this one to be superior to all in terms of illustrations, text, and book size. It will definitely accompany me again. Any other book I bring will be only for back-up reference.

Other Related Books: 1) Las Aves de Chile: Nueva Guia de Campo by Martinez and Gonzalez (ISBN 9568426000) 2) *Á* Birds of Patagonia, Tierra Del Fuego and Antarctic Peninsula *Á* by Couve 3) *Á* Birds of Torres Del Paine National Park, Chile *Á* by Couve 4) Birds of Chile and Adjacent Regions of Argentina, Bolivia and Peru -- Vol. I-II by Johnson 5) *Á* Birds of Chile: A Field Guide *Á* by Araya 6) *Á* Guia de campo de las aves de Chile *Á* by Araya

I've just gotten back from traveling a couple weeks by myself in Chile and was so glad I had this book with me. Because I was traveling on my own (without a birding guide) it was very satisfying to be able to look up the beautiful unfamiliar birds up in this book. Easy to use with great illustrations, maps and descriptions. Plus there is an English and a Spanish index. This is great even if you don't speak a word of Spanish because even English speaking Chileans familiar with birds probably only know the Spanish name for the bird in which case you can look it up in the Spanish index and find out what it is in English. And its size allows it to be complete with plenty of details but also easy to carry on the trail. If you are planning to travel to Chile with birding as even one of many goals bring this book. By the way Chile was great and easy to travel by yourself in.

This is an excellent book. I was easily able to use it without anyone else helping me identify the birds. I used it in Patagonia, Torres del Paine, Puerto Natales, Punta Arenas, and other places. The illustrations are clear and the text is helpful.

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