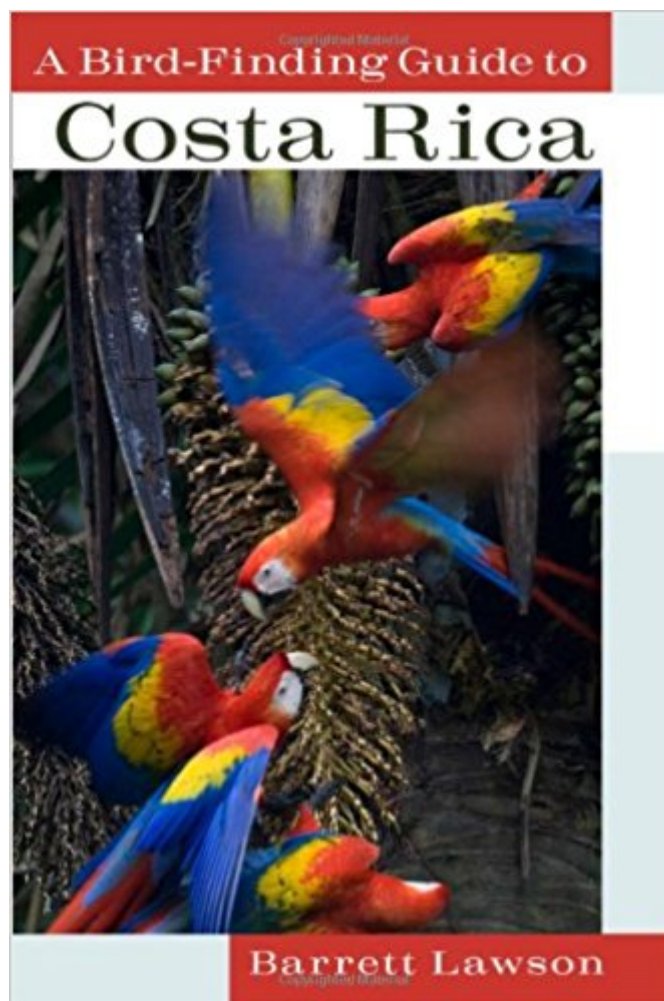


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# A Bird-Finding Guide To Costa Rica



## Synopsis

Marked by its superb natural beauty, Costa Rica has the greatest percentage of preserved land of any nation worldwide; nearly a third of the country is protected in national parks, reserves, and refuges. The wildlife that abounds in these tropical areas includes a stunning diversity of more than 820 bird species. In *A Bird-Finding Guide to Costa Rica*, Barrett Lawson offers detailed information that makes it easy for both expert and novice birders to plan and enjoy an exciting trip to this birders' paradise. Lawson describes fifty-three of the best birding destinations in Costa Rica. Birders will appreciate the detailed descriptions of how to bird each area, as well as the site-specific lists: "Target Birds" and "Species to Expect." The site descriptions are structured for ease of use and clarity; each provides a general introduction, exact driving directions, road maps, and lodging information. Other important elements include a general introduction to Costa Rica, an overview of tropical birds, sample itineraries, a comprehensive checklist to the birds of the country, and information about the best locations to find endemics and other sought-after species. The sites are grouped into six regions that reflect general patterns of avian distribution; this helps readers understand Costa Rica's complex bird diversity as well as plan a dynamic trip. This useful handbook includes numerous features: • details on fifty-three top birding locations from across the country; • "Species to Expect" lists inform readers of birds that can be found at featured sites; especially common birds are presented in bold; • "Target Birds" lists alert birders to rare and exciting species; • all bird lists include plate references to the two most respected field guides, *A Guide to the Birds of Costa Rica* by F. Gary Stiles and Alexander F. Skutch and *The Birds of Costa Rica: A Field Guide* by Richard Garrigues and Robert Dean (both also published by Cornell); • eight sample itineraries and 107 maps are accompanied by information-birding times, driving times, and road indications-that will help readers customize their own itineraries; • a complete checklist to the birds of the country with abundance ratings for eight representative sites.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"Though I'm an old Panama hand, the appearance of this comprehensive birdfinding guide to Costa Rica's avian riches has me salivating to return to that wonderful country. Meticulously researched, Barrett Lawson's well-organized book describes the country's amazingly wide range of accommodations that are suitable, indeed ideal, for birding. Planning a birding trip to Costa Rica has now been made easy, and that should entice even more birders to get on the next plane bound for San José." — Robert S. Ridgely, World Land Trust USA, coauthor of *The Birds of Ecuador*  
"This is a comprehensive bird-finding guide that contains a wealth of information on many sites. Costa Rica has one of the richest avifaunas in the world. There is no better place in the world to begin birding the tropics." — Victor Emanuel, Victor Emanuel Nature Tours

Barrett Lawson, a graduate of Bowdoin College, lives and birds in Costa Rica.

I have been hoping for a long time to get to Costa Rica for some outstanding birding. I purchased this book after reading other positive reviews and I'm very glad I did. This book gave us the information and the confidence to schedule a three week trip in 2010 that includes the Caribbean Slope, the mountains, the Pacific slope, and the Pacific Coast. Detailed, current, and right to the point. Great maps, driving directions, bird lists, and pointers. Our kudos and thanks to the author. Update: We just came back from our 20 day trip to five different Costa Rica locations! We had a wonderful time. We saw 188 species of birds, explored mountains, remote beaches (including Corcovado), and various rain forest habitats. I can definitively say that the reason everything went so smoothly was in part because of the detail, thoroughness and accuracy of this book. Even if you are going on a guided trip arranged for you by someone else, I would read and bring this book!

I spent about 2 weeks in Costa Rica, and used this book to pick out my main destinations. This book is strictly text and maps; there is not any information about bird biology just in case you are expecting it. This book is really helpful for figuring out general birding destinations because it gives a

birders eye view of different locations rather than someone who is looking for a resort atmosphere. What the book is lacking is critical information on strategic places to stay near the national parks so that you can experience both the culture of costa rica and the birds. The author does give one or two recommendations per location, but often does not tell you which nearby towns are interesting enough to stay in. Also, I went around the country by bus, which I highly recommend if you speak some Spanish. But the book is only useful for directions if you are traveling by car. All in all this book is a critical piece of your travel planning, but you must have a general travel book as well. For those interested, my favorite spot was Tapanti National Park. I stayed in the quaint town of Orosi nearby. The advantage is that this area is close to San Jose, easily accessible by bus, extremely safe and quiet, and full of low mountain elevation birds.

This is my bible. I am in the process of relocating to Costa Rica and have so far spent two months here. This book has been an enormous help in planning my birding trips and excursions. I couldn't hope for anything better. A lot of thought must have gone into compiling this book, it has so much information. The only negative I can come up with would be that the internet site that was to give updates doesn't seem to be up and running.

Great service. The book was brand new .

The best info you can find for birding, lodges and DIRECTIONS!!!!!!

An invaluable tool in planning a birding trip to CR, or even if you just plan on doing some birding while you are there.

it was a lovely book but it wasn't what I thought it was. I wanted pictures I returned it and ordered a different one.

Gives locations, target and should see birds, and comments. Good if you are a birder and haven't been to Costa Rica before.

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