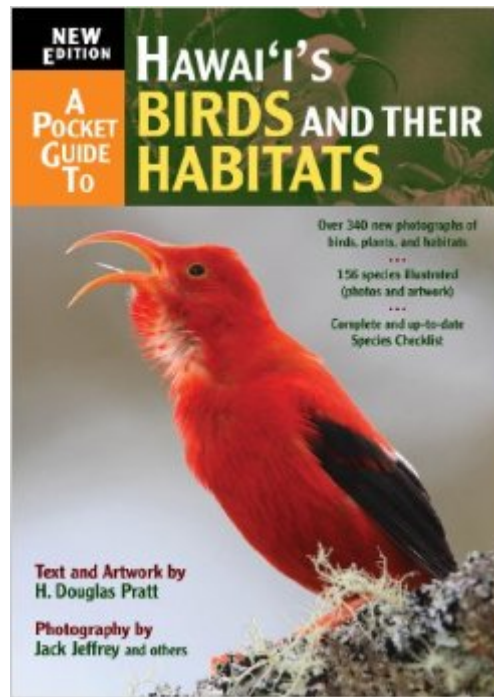


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# A Pocket Guide To Hawai'i's Birds



## Synopsis

This guide is an introduction to the beautiful and varied birds that inhabit America's only tropical state. Whether you are a visitor or a resident, you will find something in these pages that will broaden your horizons and increase your knowledge and appreciation of the birds and the environment of this unique archipelago. While not a "field guide" in the usual sense, this fact-packed volume helps identify all the birds likely to be seen while walking, hiking, or exploring the islands' many natural treasures. In fact, it covers more species than any other small guidebook available today. You will learn how Hawaii's modern bird community came to be, from the tragic history of the native birds of ancient Hawaii to the dozens of immigrant species seen today. You will learn the special nature of island forest and wetland birds, the long and sad story of the extinction of so many species, how seabirds have made these islands their home, base and how Hawaii came to have more introduced species than anywhere else in the world. You will find valuable information about where to see the remaining native birds as well their naturalized neighbors. Perhaps this book will be the start of a new passion for you, or just give you some interesting facts about the birds that can be seen every day. Either way, it is sure to open your eyes to island beauties you may have overlooked before.

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## Customer Reviews

This book is intended for the casual observer of birds, not the dedicated birder. (Serious bird-watchers should use Pratt's Field Guide to the Birds of Hawai'i and the Tropical Pacific together

with his *Enjoying Birds in Hawai'i* or Rick Soehren's *Birdwatcher's Guide to Hawai'i*.) But within its limits, this is a fascinating and readable book. Pratt discusses the native birds, especially the endemic passerines, and illustrates the evolutionary processes which produced their astonishing variety. Then he describes the introduced birds, including their effect on the native avifauna when that is significant. The result is a clear though brief analysis of Hawai'i's avian world. Pratt is a fine photographer and bird illustrator, and Jack Jeffrey is a true master of avian photography. The result of their collaboration is one of the best-illustrated books on birds I know. Pratt's writing style is direct and clear. His straightforward narration of the destruction of a large part of the native Hawai'ian avifauna is heartbreaking in its simplicity. This is an excellent introduction to Hawai'i's birds.

I bought this book in Hawaii because it was the only bird book I could find. It at least showed me some of the birds I would see, but the organization (if there is any--can't tell) is horrible. Next time I would go online ahead of time and buy an actual field guide to birds. It is a nightmare to find a bird in this book, and it doesn't give any information about them, such as their size, or male/female differences; also, it lists some birds more than once--weird. This book should be named differently...perhaps, "A glimpse into the history of birds in Hawaii." Overall, it did help me identify the birds I saw, so was better than nothing, but I would definitely not choose it again.

...which is how I found this book and became interested in the subject. The book is ubiquitous in Hawaii in ABC Stores you see everywhere, especially in Waikiki. I'm not a birdwatcher, however I am interested in conservation of native species. This book gives some historical background behind previous conservation efforts, has colorful pictures of most of the birds you're likely to encounter while on vacation in Hawaii (most of which are introduced species) and includes some sad footnotes about birds endangered or thought to be extinct. The latter are largely due to destruction of habitat and introduction of predators/diseases/non-native species. It also includes a chapter with some better-known "hotspots", which may have led some readers to believe that this little book is trying to masquerade as a field guide for serious birders. No, if you're an Audubon Society member or serious birdwatcher, this book won't sate you, and you should purchase a true field guide, as the other reviewers have suggested. And no, it is not perhaps as well organized as members of those aforementioned groups would like. But it is written in a personable style, and reads very well in a hotel room at the end of a long day of sightseeing. In fact, I've read it several times. If you're interested in a more thorough treatise of Hawaii's birds, then I'd recommend the encyclopedic (but dated) *Hawaiian Birdlife* by Andrew Berger, also an interesting read. It's out-of-print, but still

available used as of this writing.

I saw some reviews that complained that this was not a good field guide for identification purposes. Honestly, I suppose they are correct. However, if you are at all interested in the broader picture, and not just "what is that bird?", it is my opinion that this is an excellent little book. It packs a lot of information and gives the reader a good look at how diversified bird life is in Hawaii. It also provides much needed info about the plight of Hawaii's endemic and indigenous bird species. Hawaii has lost more endemic birds to extinction than anywhere else in the world. This book gives the reader much needed insight and for the price, it is a terrific buy.

Ooooooooo, I was so excited for this and then it certainly and there was souch disappointment. This is not a field guide at all. All of the pictures are small and some are poor and dated. If you are going to Hawaii for birding, do NOT get this book

Not a good field guide. Birds are not in family order and the photographs are usually one per species. Descriptions are not adequate, nor are ranges.BUT it is better than nothing!

This book is pretty nice though not quite what I had in mind. It isn't really laid out like most bird guides I am familiar with and will take more thumbing through it to locate some desired information. It is a nice size to take on the trail, I hope to find it helpful but will have to rely on some locals to steer me in the right direction.

I bought the book because I am going birding in Hawaii and wanted to become familiar with the birds I might find. It is a pocket guide, so it is small and I can carry it into the field. The book is very well organized by where you might find a bird - forests, wetlands, shorelines, etc., and is packed with information about the birds, how they came to Hawaii, etc. I am very pleased with my purchase.

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