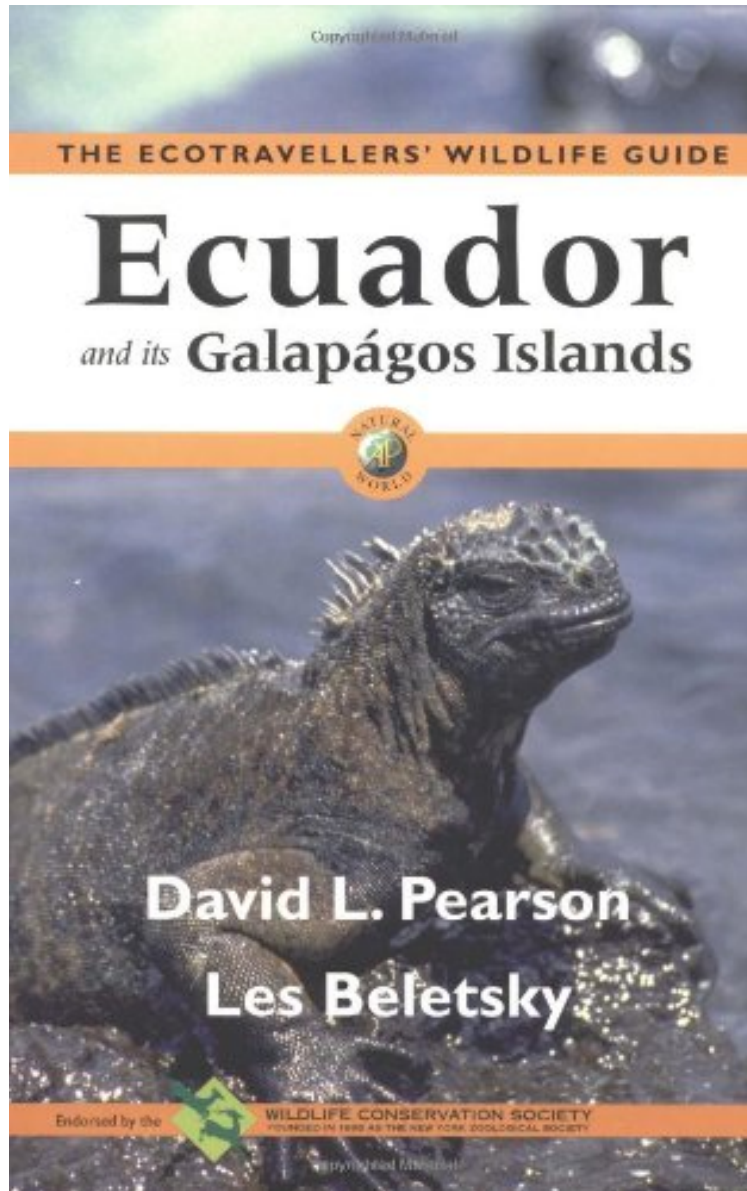


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Ecuador and Its Galpagos Islands: The Ecotravellers' Wildlife Guide (Ecotravellers Wildlife Guides)

David L. Pearson, Les Beletsky
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#3044918 in Books Academic Press 2000-03-29 Original language: English PDF # 1 1.05 x 5.43 x 8.481, #File Name: 0120848147485 pages | File size: 28.Mb

David L. Pearson, Les Beletsky : Ecuador and Its Galpagos Islands: The Ecotravellers' Wildlife Guide (Ecotravellers Wildlife Guides) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Ecuador and Its Galpagos Islands: The Ecotravellers' Wildlife Guide (Ecotravellers Wildlife Guides):

11 of 11 people found the following review helpful. Adequate; but heavy, and short on Ecuador-specific info
By Jim M. This is a pretty useful book and the only one in its niche that I am aware of. Others have described the good points (quality plates depicting the wildlife and thorough discussions of individual species), but I wanted to point out a few flaws. First, for a book designed for travelers it is annoyingly heavy at 2.1 pounds. This meant that I left it at home when I took my trip. Second, it has a surprisingly brief discussion of Ecuador's overall geography and natural environment. A mere five and a half pages are devoted to this topic (an additional six and a half pages are devoted to describing specific habitat types, but most of this text is a user unfriendly list of descriptions of plant species associated with each habitat type). Third, the weight of the book is particularly annoying because it includes a considerable amount of generic information that seems to be taken from a textbook but seems unnecessary in a travelers guide. For example, there are sections discussing "What Is Natural History?", "What is Ecology and What Are Ecological Interactions?", and "General Characteristics and Classification of Mammals". Fourth, the detailed descriptions of all the species covered are in a different section of the book than the plates. This means that you have to flip back and forth between the plates and the text if you want to see the animals you are reading about. Finally, though much of the book is devoted to discussion and depiction of birds, the list of "References and Additional Reading" oddly omits what is indisputably the best current field guide to the birds of Ecuador: "The Birds of Ecuador", vol II by Robert S. Ridgely Paul J. Greenfield (2001). In fact, it omits a reference to any field guide to Ecuador's birds but does puzzlingly include a reference to a field guide to the birds of Costa Rica.
0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Excellent Book!
By Customer I was so happy to find this book because for someone who is going into the jungles of Ecuador and not the Galapagos, or not just the Galapagos, there is almost nothing to use as a reference for wildlife you may encounter in the rainforest. But this book saved the day! It has many species and even plants. Keep in mind it is from 2010 and some scientific names have changed since then. Also, you might want to recheck other common names for some species. The book is kind of on the heavy side compared to most field guides. My only complaint is the book doesn't lay open on the table, making it a little difficult to study and flip back and forth. Other than that, this book is a life saver!!! 1 month until I'm out in the Rainforest!!! WooHoo!
0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. the illustrations aren't very good. I wouldn't really recommend it
By Lynette It is very basic, covering a wide range of subjects. Such a wide range that unfortunately it didn't cover any of them particularly well. I ended up using it very seldom because it only had the most common of any one taxa. Also, the illustrations aren't very good. I wouldn't really recommend it, to be honest.

Ecotravellers to Ecuador want to experience tropical forests and other stunning habitats and catch glimpses of exotic wildlife, such as toucans and parrots, monkeys and anteaters, frogs and toads, and crocodiles and snakes. On the Galpagos Islands, curious visitors want to see with their own eyes the exotic, unique, and tame wildlife that stimulated Charles Darwin to formulate the theory of evolution. This book provides the information you need to find, identify, and learn about Ecuador's magnificent animal and plant life. The authors, professional biologists, selected for color illustrations more than 500 of Ecuador's most common insects, amphibians, reptiles, birds, and mammals--the species you are most likely to see. In one easy-to-carry, entertainingly written, beautifully illustrated book, you will have as constant companion on your journey, information on identification, behavior, habitats, common plants, and parks and reserves in the region. Key Features* Includes identifying and location information on the most frequently spotted animals* Up-to-date information on the ecology, behavior, and conservation of these animals* Information on Ecuador's habitats and on the most common plants you will encounter* Brief descriptions of the region's most frequently visited parks and reserves

"...these books would be my first choice as an introduction to the natural environments of these beautiful parts of the world. For those who enjoy well-illustrated field guides, these volumes are a visual treat."--COPEIA (2001)"Having recently returned from a wonderful trip to both areas, the arrival of this book just prior to departure could not have been better timed. Chapters deal with essential topics such as the geography, habitats, climate, parks and nature reserves. This is clearly a well researched and easily read book and a very welcome addition to this relatively new series."--David Clugston, for SCOTTISH BIRD NEWS (December 2000)"They neatly fill a niche in the travel market, concentrating on the species most likely to be seen, but also covering a wide range of taxa. ...indispensable to all travellers interested in the natural world."--BTO NEWS"I have just returned from those Enchanted Isles and found Beletsky's guide omnipresent, dog-eared and tightly clutched in the sea-salted hands of many a visitor. I am surprised that the Sea Lions and Blue Footed Boobies did not have their own copies! This guide is a truly indispensable accessory for those fortunate enough to have visited those Islands of wonder and enchantment. It is also a great whetter of one's appetite! Other books have their strengths, but when push comes to shove, or in this case just going around..., one wants a thorough compliment to one's naturalist (to make all those notations when one gets back home, of course) and also a look into what is to come. Accurate and beautifully illustrated."--A Reader at AMAZON.COM
From the Author Even though I'm a professional wildlife biologist, I've always found it difficult while travelling to identify animals I'm not familiar with and to get good, on-site information about them, unless I'm with an

expert guide or willing to lug around several heavy books (a bird book, a mammal book, etc.). I've produced the Ecotravellers' Wildlife Guides to help solve this problem. The books in the series are aimed at travellers with an interest in animals, at people for whom some of the best moments of any trip to places like southern Mexico are unexpected encounters with birds and mammals, reptiles and amphibians, fish and other marine organisms. You will find in these books information on (1) common animals likely to be seen, (2) those that are commonly pointed out by tour-guides and tourist literature, (3) some threatened ones that are, for example, subjects of conservation attention, and (4) some that are of special ecological significance. The books, endorsed by the Wildlife Conservation Society, are real field guides, with extensive color artwork produced by some of the world's top wildlife artists. To give you an idea of the "depth" of coverage, the Tropical Mexico book (which covers the Yucatan Peninsula, Cancun region, Oaxaca, Chiapas, and Tabasco states) includes detailed information and color illustrations on 104 plates of about 250 bird species, 55 mammals, 95 species of amphibians and reptiles, and 150 coral reef fish and other marine organisms - the book truly covers most of the animals you might encounter in this large region. Additionally, initial chapters in each book introduce the country or region, its habitats and climate, its common trees and other plants, and describe conservation projects and ecotourism there, as well as major eco-attractions (national parks, nature reserves, etc.). My hopes are that these books will be put to good use in the field by ecotravellers, will make trips more enjoyable, and will assist in conservation in a small way by helping to educate people about the wildlife and habitats in the countries through which they travel. From the Back Cover Travellers to Ecuador want to experience tropical forests and other stunning habitats and catch glimpses of exotic wildlife: toucans and parrots, monkeys and anteaters, frogs and toads, crocodiles and (yes) snakes. On the Galapagos Islands, curious visitors want to see with their own eyes the exotic, unique, tame wildlife that stimulated Charles Darwin to formulate the theory of evolution. In this book is all the information you need to find, identify, and learn about Ecuador's magnificent animal and plant life. In one easy-to-carry, entertainingly written, beautifully illustrated book, you will have as constant companion on your journey.