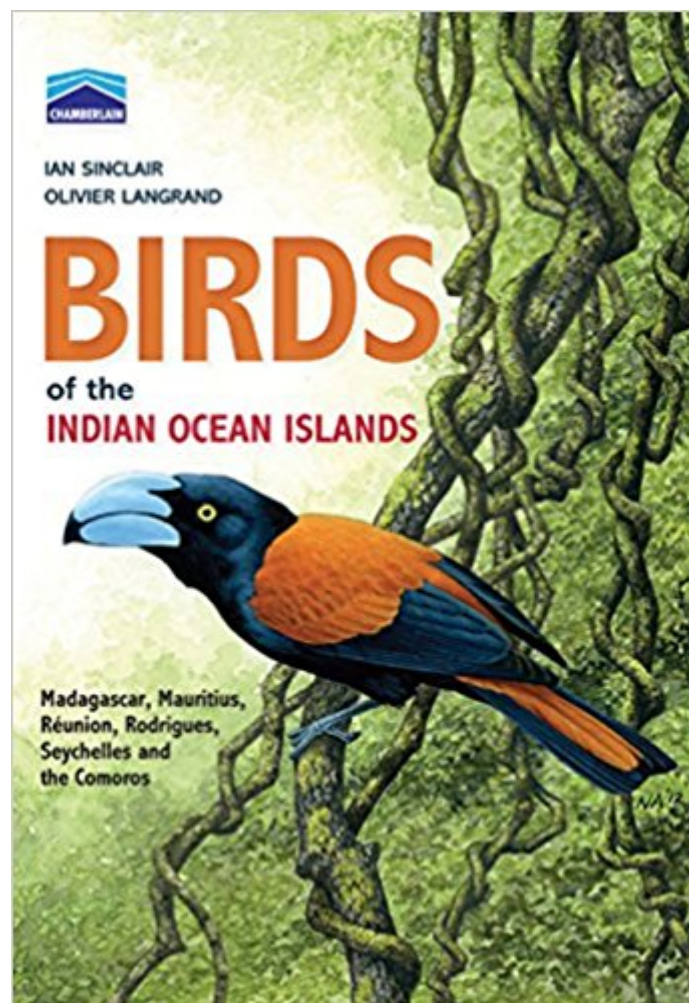




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Chamberlain's Birds Of The Indian Ocean Islands: Madagascar, Mauritius, Reunion, Rodrigues, Seychelles And The Comores



Synopsis

This book describes the bird life of the region embracing Madagascar, the Seychelles group, the Comoros and the Mascarenes (comprising Mauritius, Reunion and Rodrigues) – a region that hosts nearly 400 species, many endemic. All are fully described, giving ID features, preferred habitats, status, calls, distribution maps and full-color illustrations. The book includes useful guide-type maps and practical birding tips. The 70+ superb plates are by Norman Arlott, Hilary Burn, Peter Hayman and Ian Lewington - among the world's leading bird artists. *Birds of the Indian Ocean Islands* is the comprehensive guide to the bird life of a region that embraces Madagascar, the Seychelles group, the Comoros and the Mascarenes (comprising Mauritius, Reunion and Rodrigues). Together, these magical islands and the warm surrounding ocean host a total of nearly 400 regularly encountered species, many of them endemic to the area. All bird species of the region are fully described, giving identification features, preferred habitats, current status and vocalization. Accurate distribution maps accompany all species. Full-color illustrations show diagnostic plumage features. A special chapter, incorporating useful guide-type maps, discusses the practicalities of birding in the region's main locations.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Following in the format of *Sasol Birds of Southern Africa*, this guide presents all the birds of Madagascar and the other Indian Ocean islands (Seychelles, Reunion, Mauritius and Mascarenes), a great many species of which are endemic to these islands. In field guide form, this text presents concise descriptions of each species, highlighting diagnostic features for ease of identification.

Differences between sexes and plumages are discussed as well as the status of the bird, its habitat and call. Distribution maps accompany each entry. The birds are illustrated in full color and where necessary are depicted in all plumages relevant to identification (male, female and immature). In-flight illustrations present the bird from above and below, providing comprehensive coverage of the birds in the field. IAN'S RECOMMENDATION: The text and range maps are opposite the color plates. A useful guide to the region. (Ian Paulsen, Guardian Newspapers)

IAN SINCLAIR is renowned in African birding circles for his field knowledge and expertise in identifying the region's many bird species. His vast experience has been gained in expeditions to every corner of Africa, as well as to the Himalayas, Antarctica and Marion Island. He has authored or co-authored many successful bird books, including the hugely successful Field Guide to Birds of SA and the equally successful Birds of Africa South of the Sahara.

I thought I would try the Kindle version to save weight on my trip. A very bad idea. It is basically impossible to find birds, and the table of contents by bird family and the index are missing so you have to type in the bird name and search to find things. I'll deal with the weight of the physical book.

Possibly the best bird field guide I have ever used, and there have been quite a few. Admittedly, with relatively few birds, searching the book was fairly easy, but the addition of the quick reference inside the two covers was so helpful to a non expert like myself. With the text, map and drawings all on the same page (drawings opposite) made it so easy to quickly eliminate non residents. My only criticism was the lack of behaviour notes at the start of each family, which would help the country novices like me.

I was very disappointed in this book when I visited Madagascar. The range maps are virtually useless and the comments on bird frequency are preposterous. Everything that is not endangered is listed as common. The pictures are generally good, but the text is often hard to comprehend. This has the marks of something that was thrown together quickly to make money. Hopefully the new guide due out in May 2016 will be better.

Very good for identifying birds of Madagascar. These illustrations are better than photos for identifying species. Helpful quick-find aids for similar groups of birds, at front and back of book. French names of species are included, which is useful in this francophone territory. As in any guide,

not all subspecies are listed but this volume seems comprehensive enough yet is handy size for field trips.

This is a very nice field guide with excellent illustrations, range maps and everything you need to identify the birds you see. It is not (for me) a real comfortable size to have in the field - it seems rather heavy, but I would take it with me anyway. I always want to know what I'm seeing when I'm in the field, and I'm grateful to have a good book that covers this area.

A pretty inclusive Guide for the area -- worth having and reading.

Great information

Perfect field guide. Excellent illustrations across from text and maps. What else do you need?

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