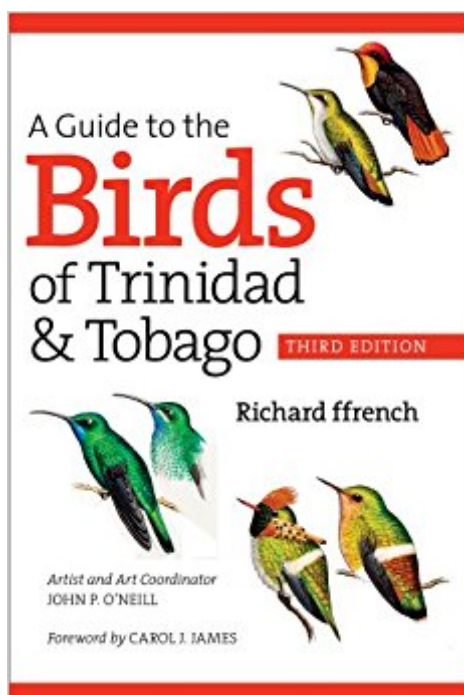


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# A Guide To The Birds Of Trinidad And Tobago



## Synopsis

From reviews of the previous edition • "The island nation of Trinidad and Tobago has long served as a window on South American birdlife. Birders have been visiting the two islands in large numbers since the 1960s, when Asa Wright converted an unproductive plantation into one of the first neotropical 'ecotourist traps.' Anyone traveling to Trinidad and Tobago shouldn't leave home without this work." • *Journal of Field Ornithology* "This book will be wanted by any birder visiting Trinidad and Tobago, as well as by many ornithologists as a general reference." • *Wilson Bulletin* Members of nearly all the families of South American birds can be found on the two beautiful West Indian islands of Trinidad and Tobago, where the pleasant climate, varied habitat, and avian diversity create a "birder's paradise." This easy-to-use book is the third edition of a comprehensive yet compact field guide to all 477 species of the islands' birds, including 35 new species accounts added to the country's bird list since the last edition. Richard French's work has been a "bible" to birders since the appearance of the first edition in 1973. This new edition incorporates five decades of his notes and records of the island's birds to present in a handy and readable form detailed and comprehensive information about the birds of Trinidad and Tobago. Showcasing 40 all-new color plates by the very best bird artists working under the direction of John P. O'Neill, the third edition now includes illustrations of not only the island's endemic and resident species, but also the many migratory species that visit the islands from both the north and the south. The taxonomic arrangement and treatment of families and species has also been brought in line with the most recent determinations of the A.O.U. Committee on Nomenclature for a thoroughly up-to-date presentation. In his introduction, Richard French offers a full treatment of the history of ornithology in Trinidad and Tobago and sets the scene by describing the island's physiography, climate, and vegetation. Individual species accounts, arranged by family, make up the core of this identification guide. The accounts cover habitat and status, range and subspecies, field description and basic measurements, voice, food, nesting, and behavior. Richard French's summary of the distribution of species and their breeding and migration, as well as local conservation and protection measures, makes this volume much more than a typical field-guide treatment, and invites visitors to this premier ecotourism destination.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"For a book to go to a third edition forty years after it was first published speaks volumes for its author [and] it will remain as a fitting legacy to this doyen of Caribbean ornithology. With an expanded Introduction, updated Species Accounts and the inclusion of all accepted records up to 2010, it is valuable as both a reference book and a most enjoyable read. . . . The greatest change from the previous editions are 40 brand new color plates, illustrating all but the rarest birds recorded in Trinidad & Tobago. The larger format of the book (yet still small enough to be carried in the field) has allowed the eight artists to beautifully and accurately illustrate the birds of these delightful islands. It will certainly accompany me on my next trip there." • Moss Taylor, British Trust for Ornithology's *About Birds* • (May 2013) "Trinidad and Tobago provides wonderful birding and this guide does the island's brilliant bird life justice. . . . If you are planning a trip, I can thoroughly recommend this book. If you're not planning a trip, I thoroughly recommend it too." • Dr Rebecca Nesbit and Phil Gould, *The Biologist* (Dec/Jan 2013) "As in previous editions, there is a store of information within these pages and a lot of natural history data that are not to be found elsewhere. . . . [French's] legacy is well preserved in this posthumous edition." • Christopher J. Sharpe, *Neotropical Birding* #14 (Spring 2014)

The late Richard French first went to the West Indies in 1955, and pursued his avocation of ornithology for the rest of his life; after returning to the UK he frequently led field trips to the neotropics. John P. O'Neill is an acclaimed bird artist.

A reference more than a field guide. Color plates are excellent with short descriptions on the opposite pages. The majority of the book is comprised of biological / ecological descriptions that

include habitat & status, range & subspecies, description, measurements, voice, food, nesting, and behavior. For those who are used to a standard bird ID guide comprised of color plates with short descriptions in taxonomic order such as National Geographic, Sibley, and Peterson, this book goes way beyond for a "normal field guide". The book is not a carry along guide but one that would be found in your vehicle. A very good reference. But too much information for quick IDs while on foot.

Good info on the birds. At first I was disappointed that the colored plates were not on the pages with bird descriptions. However I did find it easier to ID birds by families when they are all on one or two pages. I would have liked a smaller book that could be carried into the field. This is too big.

My only complaint is how heavy the book is. I decided I couldn't carry it with me. It's bigger than I expected, but it is THE book to have if your interest is the birds of Trinidad and Tobago. I noticed a room at the Asa Wright Nature Center is named for the author. When we had a question about a bird our guide (who is not affiliated with the Asa Wright Nature Center) referred to this book. He keeps it in his car.

This well-illustrated book covers all the species found in Trinidad and Tobago. The text and illustrations are excellent and the size is conducive to being a guide to carry in the field. Overall excellent birding resource for the area.

I needed an informative book on the birds of Trinidad & Tobago and based on advice from many I ordered the Richard French 'bible' on Trinidad & Tobago birds. What an informative and well put together compendium of birds in the twin island state.

Easy to understand. Written by the foremost expert on the birds of Trinidad. Most up to date resource on the subject. Has proved to be a very helpful resource in preparing for a trip to Trinidad and Tobago.

it was a gift and he seem satisfied wit the book

Looking forward to putting it to use in Nov. It arrived in great shape. NO complaints. Very good resource.

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