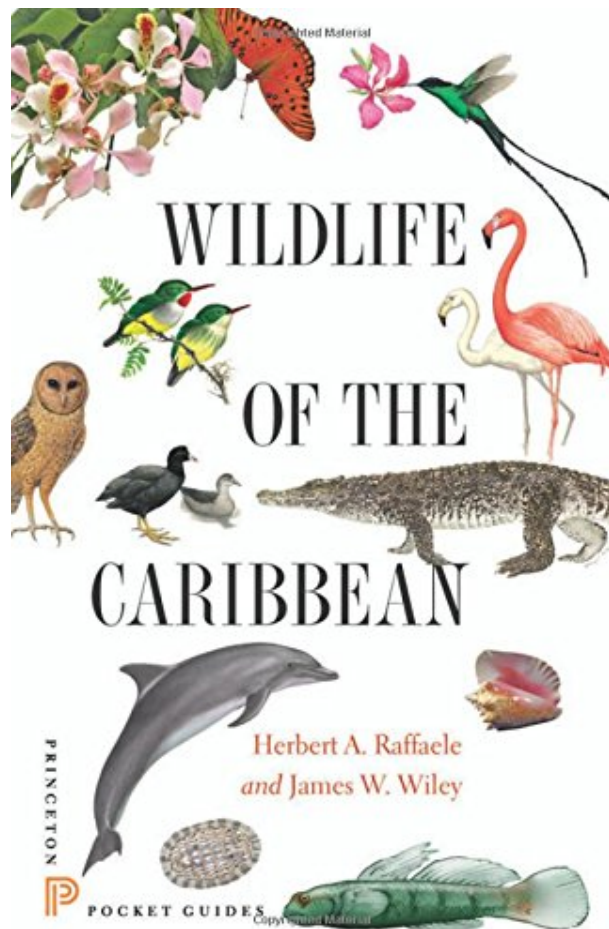
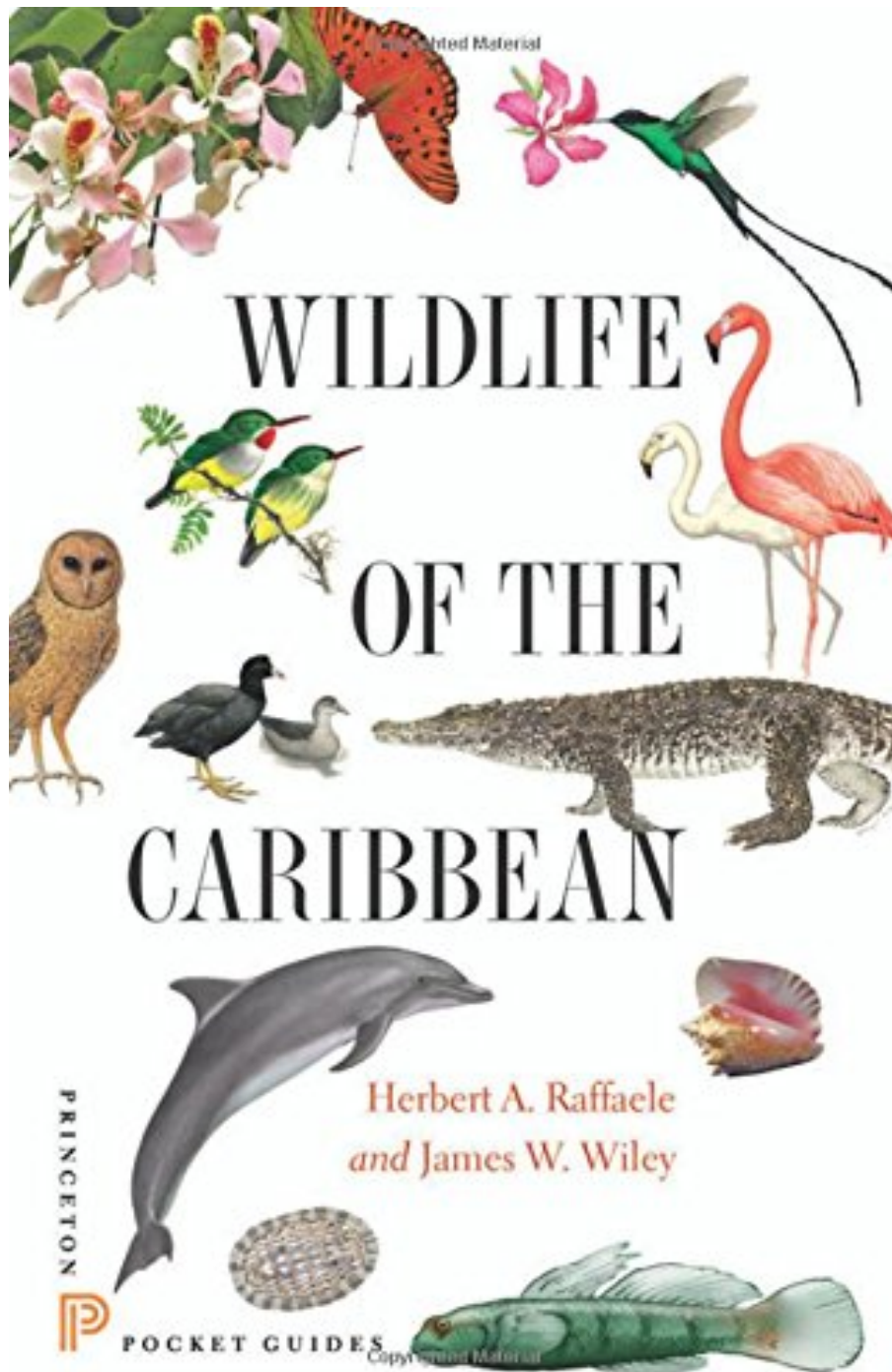


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(PRINCETON POCKET GUIDES) BY
HERBERT A. RAFFAELE, JAMES WILEY**



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Review

"A fun all-on-one naturalist's guide to many of the plants, animals, and sea creatures that one may encounter in the Greater and Lesser Antilles of the Caribbean region. . . . The species accounts contains many interesting tidbits on natural history and conservation."--Jeff Wells, Birds of Aruba site

"This delightful pocket guide is a must-read for anyone planning a trip to the Caribbean region."--Lisa Miller, Reference Reviews

From the Back Cover

"This well-organized book is an exemplary resource on Caribbean wildlife. It fills a major gap in the literature for lay audiences and is most welcome."--Catherine Levy, Windsor Research Centre, Jamaica

About the Author

Herbert A. Raffaele has worked in the Caribbean for over four decades. He directed wildlife conservation for Puerto Rico's Department of Natural Resources and served as chief of Latin American and Caribbean programs for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. James W. Wiley has conducted ornithological research throughout the Caribbean since 1972. Raffaele and Wiley are coauthors of *Birds of the West Indies* (Princeton).

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This is the first comprehensive illustrated guide to the natural world of the Caribbean islands. It contains 600 vivid color images featuring 451 species of plants, birds, mammals, fish, seashells, and much more. While the guide primarily looks at the most conspicuous and widespread species among the islands, it also includes rarely seen creatures--such as the Rhinoceros Iguana and Cuban Solenodon--giving readers a special sense of the region's diverse wildlife.

Each species is represented by one or more color photos or illustrations; details regarding its identification, status, and distribution; and interesting aspects of its life history or relationship to humans. In addition, an introductory section focuses on the unique characteristics of the Caribbean's fauna and flora, the threats faced by both, and some of the steps being taken to sustain the area's extraordinary natural heritage.

Wildlife of the Caribbean is the essential field guide for learning about the living wonders in this area of the world.

- The only guide of its kind for the Caribbean islands
- 600 detailed color images feature 451 amazing species
- Straightforward descriptions suitable for general audience
- Compact size makes the guide easy to carry

- Sales Rank: #264221 in Books
- Brand: Raffaele, Herbert A./ Wiley, James W.
- Published on: 2014-05-25
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 8.25" h x 5.50" w x 1.00" l, 1.16 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 304 pages

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Most helpful customer reviews

8 of 8 people found the following review helpful.

Great value, handy pocket guide that will enrich your Caribbean vacation

By Christopher J. Sharpe

The Caribbean is a popular destination for travelers and, as well as beaches, it has a diverse and distinctive fauna and flora, with a large number of island endemics (species found nowhere else). Up until now there has been a lack of a field guide to enable the curious visitor to readily identify what he/she encounters. Sure enough, there are several slim photographic brochures covering different aspects of the natural world, and an old field guide to butterflies, but the only really good modern resource is a comprehensive bird guide. Two of the authors of that guide have teamed up to fill the gap with this handy little pocket guide which aims to cover pretty much anything the casual visitor might encounter, from conspicuous plants to reef fish and seashells.

The book is small and light enough to fit into a large pocket, pouch or handbag, so it can be taken almost anywhere. It is very well organized and carefully laid out, with text opposite or next to plates, so there is no need to flip back and forth to find a description. Chapters cover plants, birds, reptiles, amphibians, mammals and invertebrates, with a marine section covering whales, sea turtles, fish and so on. So, whether in the mountains, on the beach, or snorkeling, this guide should be of service. The 451 commonest and most widespread species have been chosen, leaving out a large number of organisms that are rarely encountered. Given the track record of the authors, with over 80 years' experience between them, the user can be sure that the text is authoritative.

Should the potential visitor to the Caribbean buy this book? Unquestionably yes! A 300+ page, full-color guide written by experts, for \$15 (on Amazon) is a real bargain. Don't think twice. This handy guide will add an extra dimension to anyone's Caribbean holiday.

Chris Sharpe, 13 July 2014. ISBN: 9780691153827

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful.

I highly recommend this book to anyone visiting the Caribbean

By Chris Lotz

I highly recommend this book to anyone visiting the Caribbean, even if you have only a vague interest in things natural. I wish that I had had this book so I could have got a feel for what fish I was seeing while snorkeling off Cuba. And to get a feel for the trees, snakes, insects and everything else - I sadly only had a bird field guide which meant that I lost out on being able to identify and learn more about all the other critters. I usually very much focus on birds, but I'm glad I've now got this book for future visits to the Caribbean, so that I can get a feel for all the other groups of fauna and flora. You can identify a great many of the plants and animals you're likely to encounter throughout the islands of this region (the book excludes the mainland Caribbean coast and also Trinidad and Tobago which are rather similar to the mainland, wildlife-wise because of their close proximity to the South American landmass). Look up the Solenedon - a weird and wonderful pair of mammals with no close relatives - one species in Cuba and one in Hispaniola. These general wildlife guides are in my opinion essential to have - the only disadvantage is that they don't

comprehensively cover every single animal or plant you'll encounter in a given region - but of course they give one a brilliant overview and are small enough to carry around in one's pocket...

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful.

Kindle Impractical for Field Use

By Bullwinklefody

I downloaded Kindle edition in a few seconds. Book looks great. Plates are beautiful. But if one wants to find a species in the midst of birding, for example, there is no simple access to the index. The index-finding process would be much easier if the index was at the front of the book or could be printed for quick reference in the field. On the other hand, the book can be studied on the plane enroute to the Caribbean. Unless one is pinched for space, it makes far more sense to buy a printed version of this book.

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