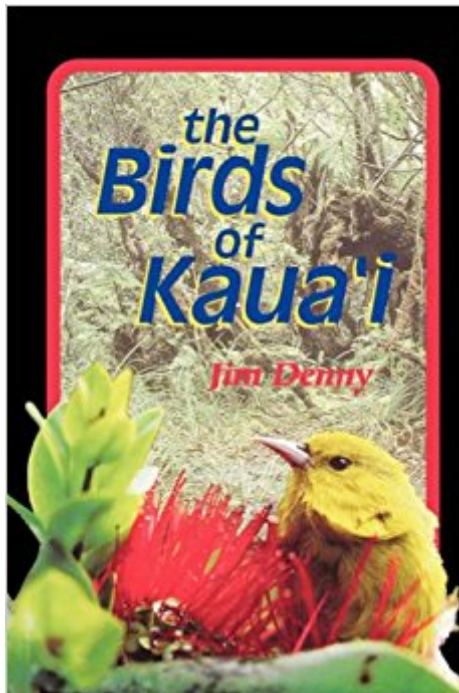




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The Birds Of Kauai (Latitude 20 Books (Paperback))



Synopsis

Kaua'i is the place for birdwatching in Hawai'i. Let *The Birds of Kauai* be your guide! Written in an appealing, informal style, *The Birds of Kaua'i* offers readers an enjoyable look at the avifauna of Hawai'i's oldest island. Two of the most important and impressive sites for birdwatching in the State are located on Kaua'i: Kilauea National Wildlife Refuge and Alaka'i Wilderness Preserve. Kilauea, on the island's windward shore, boasts substantial populations of seabirds, which can be viewed up close; Alaka'i is the most pristine native rain forest in the Islands and until two short decades ago its valleys still echoed with the songs of every native bird historically known to reside there. Today many species continue to thrive in the lush ancient forest. Superbly illustrated with more than 80 color photographs, *The Birds of Kauai* covers every avian species that can be seen on the Garden Island. The author's knowledge and enthusiasm are evident on each page as he describes native forest birds, seabirds, alien birds, and migratory visitors. One of world's rarest birds is the Kaua'i 'O'o, the victim of predation and extensive changes to its environment. These and other threats to the Island's fragile bird populations are discussed.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"In *The Birds of Kaua'i*, Denny shares his knowledge, passion and photographer's eye. The book is a comprehensive must-read for anyone interested in Hawaii's avian species." "For anyone planning to look at birds on Kauai, this is the volume you need ... Here are wonderful, detailed closeups of

some of the rarest birds in the world.-- "Honolulu Advertiser" In Birds of Kauai, Denny shares his knowledge, passion and photographer's eye. The book is a comprehensive reference and a must-read for anyone interested in Hawaii's avian species.-- "Honolulu Star-Bulletin"

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What I like about this book is that it contains only birds found on Kauai so I do not have to sift through dozens of species I am unlikely to see there. What I dislike is that there is only one photo or illustration per bird, and some of them exclude parts that would really help ID, such as the shame thrush's distinctive long tail. This is a great overview for basic birding on Kauai but a serious birder might want to supplement it with a more extensive volume of birds of Hawaii.

We bought this book prior to our trip to Kaua'i because we wanted a field guide to help identify the native birds. The author of this book, Jim Denny, also works as a guide for birdwatching tours on Kaua'i, and we were able to spend a morning with him. What a wonderful experience! He took us to areas we could have never found on our own, and we did see most of Kaua'i's endemic species. If you are a serious birder and interested in hiking the back-country of Kaua'i, please look him up and schedule a tour.

Comprehensive with good pictures and enough detail to help you identify the birds. Added six birds to my life list!

This book is direct and to the point with color photos and a brief description of the bird, its habitat, etc. One bird is on one page. Easy to use. No leafing through pages to find what you want. We'll be carrying this book as a reference wherever we go.

love this book

We bought this for a trip to Kaua'i and it was a great help. Only suggestion would be a CD with their songs as the birds of Kaua'i love to sing (and who wouldn't when living in paradise) and that would

have a been a great help in identifying them.

great book... will be using it in 2 weeks to ID birds!!!

THE BASICS: softcover; 71 color photos and 5 color illustrations of 65 species (17 endemic, 21 native and 27 alien); 14 color photos show various habitats and scenery; the text covers behavior, habitat, and natural history of each bird but provides no identification material

THE REVIEW: This book is not a field guide; or, at least not a complete one since it (a) focuses on only the resident and more commonly occurring species and (b) provides only the simplest of descriptions of the bird, if any. Instead, this book can be regarded as a brief natural history overview of 65 (74%) of the birds on Kauai's checklist. Effectively, it is an annotated checklist that is supplemented with nice photos for some of the birds and for some of the plumages. For the birder wanting to know what the entire island's list is, a complete checklist is found at the end of the book. There are 17 endemic birds discussed in the book and 12 of them shown with a good color photograph. The remaining five endemic species are extinct and are shown with a single color illustration. Each of the photos shows the bird quite nicely with most birds shown in a single photo only as the adult male. A few of the birds also have the female displayed. Even though not all plumages are portrayed, the photos should be sufficient to identify most of the birds seen by the casual birder. However, there are many other seasonal and age plumages not shown in this book that belong to the immature native birds as well as the migrant shorebirds, terns, and gulls. The text written for each bird consists of one brief paragraph. The focus of this material is to outline the natural history of the bird. General information is given on the habitats in which the bird lives, the bird's status or population strength, and its feeding behavior. Other historical notes are typically included about when the bird was introduced to the islands or, for the endemic birds, the circumstances that lead to the demise of their population or even to their extinction. If any information is given on the description of the bird, it is typically rather generic and not nearly as detailed as the information found in a field guide. As noted above, the focus of this book is not for identifying the birds, but for reading about them while enjoying the photograph. For anyone who appreciates a little more information on the birds of Hawaii, this book will be appreciated for its nice photos and brief overview. It's a nice, simple reference with good photos. - (written by Jack at Avian Review with sample pages, December 2009)

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