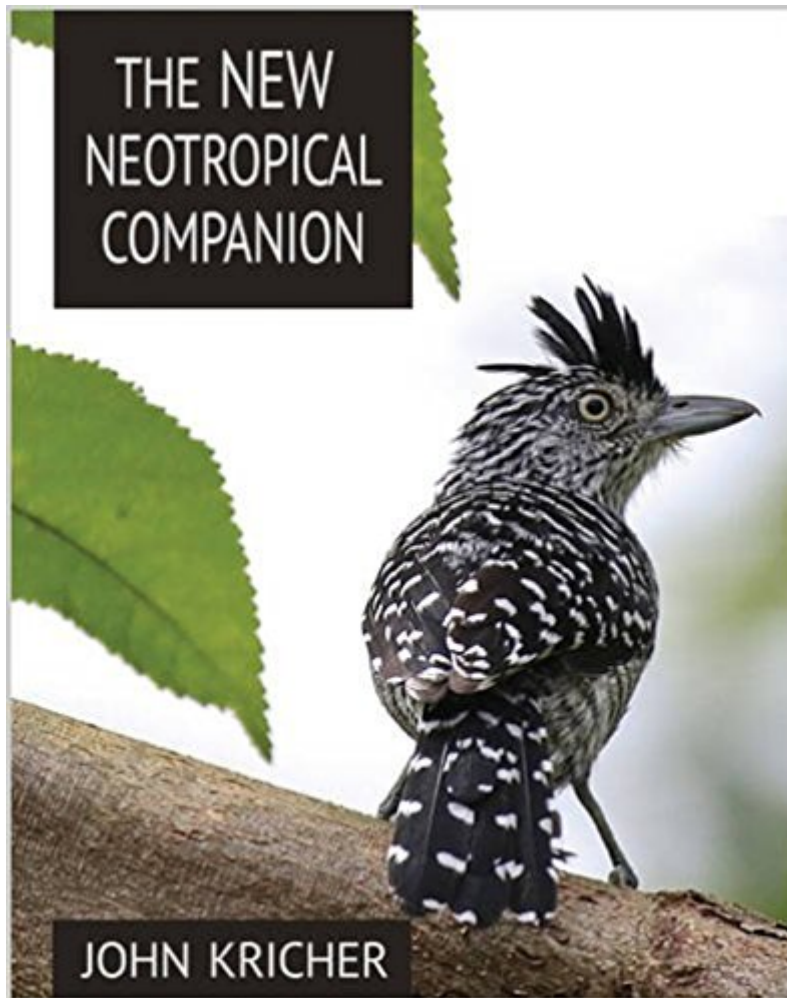




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# The New Neotropical Companion



## Synopsis

The acclaimed guide to the ecology and natural history of the American tropics is now fully updated and expanded. The New Neotropical Companion is the completely revised and expanded edition of a book that has helped thousands of people to understand the complex ecology and natural history of the most species-rich area on Earth, the American tropics. Featuring stunning color photos throughout, it is a sweeping and cutting-edge account of tropical ecology that includes not only tropical rain forests but also other ecosystems such as cloud forests, rivers, savannas, and mountains. This is the only guide to the American tropics that is all-inclusive, encompassing the entire region's ecology and the amazing relationships among species rather than focusing just on species identification. The New Neotropical Companion is a book unlike any other. Here, you will learn how to recognize distinctive ecological patterns of rain forests and other habitats and to interpret how these remarkable ecosystems function. Everything is explained in clear and engaging prose free of jargon. You will also be introduced to the region's astonishing plant and animal life. Informative and entertaining, The New Neotropical Companion is a pleasurable escape for armchair naturalists, and visitors to the American tropics will want to refer to this book before, during, and after their trip. Covers all of tropical America. Describes the species and habitats most likely to be observed by visitors. Includes every major ecosystem, from lowland rain forests to the high Andes. Features a wealth of color photos of habitats, plants, and animals.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"The New Neotropical Companion describes, explains, and provides insight into the unique

ecosystems of the Neotropics. . . . Written by an ornithologist who is also a birder and who embraces the world from an ecological viewpoint that sees birds as part of larger systems of evolution, succession, and mutualism, *The New Neotropical Companion* is the textbook-that-is-not-a-textbook you always wanted to read, though you may not know it yet. . . . [The New Neotropical Companion] will prepare you to walk through the rainforest and observe Neotropical birds. You may even begin to feel a sense of belonging in this very different world."--10,000 Birds blog

Praise for *A Neotropical Companion*: "John Kricher's *Neotropical Companion* is an incredible accretion of facts, figures and anecdotes. Kricher outlines the region's ecology, pharmacology, evolutionary theory, anthropology, climatology, ornithology and conservation, with lots of personal stories to bring it all to life."--Simon Garrett, *Times Literary Supplement*

Praise for *A Neotropical Companion*: "The book is exactly what it says it is, a companion to take with you on your travels in the New World tropics."--*Journal of Natural History*

Praise for *A Neotropical Companion*: "Well-illustrated and beautifully written. . . . [A *Neotropical Companion*] contains a wealth of information, explanations and curious facts about the region's natural history, and is the kind of overview that Alfred Russel Wallace, Henry Bates and other early scientific explorers of the area would have given fingers from their collecting hand to have possessed."--Adrian Barnett, *New Scientist*

Praise for *A Neotropical Companion*: "Kricher has created a highly readable, comprehensive overview of Neotropical ecosystems, which can serve on many levels: as a traveler's companion, as an introductory text for students, or as recreational reading material for those interested in tropical ecosystems."--Choice

"For visitors from the temperate zone, the nature of the American tropics is exciting but very confusing. The dazzling diversity of plants and animals can seem overwhelming. In *The New Neotropical Companion*, John Kricher, a gifted scientist and communicator, brings order out of this chaos. With clear, lively language, he describes the patterns of tropical ecology and natural history in an accessible and engaging way--it's both tremendously educational and fun to read. Now enhanced with abundant photographs, *The New Neotropical Companion* is essential reading for anyone intrigued by the wonderful biodiversity south of the border."--Kenn Kaufman, author of *Kaufman Field Guide to Birds of North America*

"My original copy of John Kricher's 'little green book' is stained and battered from three decades of tropical travel--which is why I'm delighted that Kricher has produced *The New Neotropical Companion*, a truly landmark revision of his classic: bigger, better, lushly illustrated, but with the same chatty, accessible tone that makes John the perfect guide to the most biodiverse regions on the planet. Whether you're going to the tropics for

the first time or the twentieth, this superb new edition is utterly indispensable reading."--Scott Weidensaul, author of *Living on the Wind*"Seeing my beloved Neotropical Companion updated, laced with new studies, and bursting with lavish color photographs is an answered prayer. Kricher is the ebullient professor we all wish we'd had, truly our companion on a quest to understand what makes the tropics so hot, and so cool. In this compulsively readable volume, he has constructed something much like the tropics themselves: astoundingly diverse, mysterious, colorful, and rich with the unexpected."--Julie Zickefoose, author of *Baby Birds: An Artist Looks into the Nest*

Wonderful update to a classic reference book for travellers to the neotropics. Clear and interesting writing explaining the complexities of the ecosystems encountered. Great photographs. Excellent Kindle version for reading on iPad. Maintains color and resolution of original photographs.

Outstanding! Easy read and scientifically accurate!

Having long been a devotee of John Kricher's work and his numerous previous productions, it is hardly surprising that I was similarly impressed with the outstandingly colorful and extensively revised newest version of his previous *A Neotropical Companion*. A long-time user of the previous editions - both of which survived extensive trips to the tropics - my only concern about the new volume is that it's almost too handsome to throw in a backpack or a rain forest tent! Despite its large format, the book's completely legible font, brilliant photo images, and Kricher's inimitable sense of humor make this a book to take with you to the tropics. Don't leave it at home! The organization of the text, the extensive bibliography, numerous cross-references, and the carefully selected graphics make the book extremely useful to both first-time visitors to the Neotropics as well as experienced Neotropical travelers. There is hardly a biological theme or an ecological topic that is not touched upon or described in this new and lucid contribution to what is already an extensive Neotropical literature. I heartily recommend this handsome and informative volume for anyone traveling south of the U.S. border, or else simply seeking a fine overview of tropical biology!

I bought this before heading to Ecuador and I'm glad I did. It's a bit heavy but well worth the weight. Very accessible, clearly written, nice balance of background and theory to basic description. It anticipated and answered the questions I would have.

I looked at the Kindle sample and was discouraged when I found several errors and confusions.

Hurricanes are referred to as "anticyclonic rainstorms". Wrong-- they have cyclonic circulation, which is counter-clockwise in the Northern hemisphere. In the next sentence it is stated that hurricanes in the Old World tropics are called "monsoons". Wrong-- the author meant to say typhoons or cyclones. Evapotranspiration is referred to as an adaptation that keeps plants "tolerably cool", when it has to do mostly with movement of water from roots up to the leaves and the fact that stomata have to open to admit carbon dioxide. Tropical air rises, it cools and becomes increasingly dense. Moisture condenses, falling as rain. Partial credit: Air parcels do indeed cool as they rise, but they do not become more dense. If they did they wouldn't rise. They become less dense. Whether they rise or fall depends on the density of the surrounding air.

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