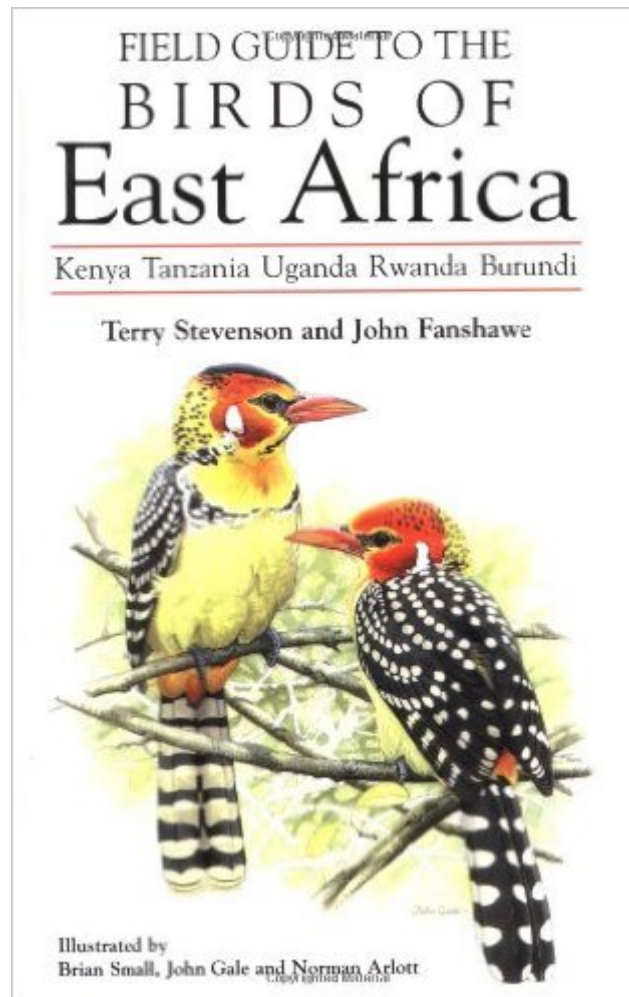


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# Field Guide To The Birds Of East Africa: Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi



## Synopsis

The Birds of East Africa is the first comprehensive field guide to the whole of this spectacular region. Small and compact, the guide covers a remarkable 1388 species, and three experienced artists have painstakingly prepared 287 plates with almost 3400 images illustrating all the plumages and major races likely to be encountered. Set opposite the plates are concise descriptive accounts dealing with identification, status, habits and voice, and range maps. Background sections include notes on how to use the species accounts, nomenclature, conservation, where to send records, and maps of protected and other important bird areas. This book includes:

- \* An overview of East African birds
- \* East African environment
- \* Seasonality
- \* Plumage
- \* Species accounts
- \* Common alternative names
- \* Conservation and threatened species
- \* The local scene
- \* Glossary, references, and an index

**Key Features**

- \* Small and compact
- \* Comprehensive
- \* 1388 species
- \* All distinctive plumages and races illustrated
- \* 287 colour plates
- \* 3400 illustrations
- \* All species ranges mapped
- \* Key protected and important bird areas mapped

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

After years of having one of the world's worst bird books, East Africa now has two of the best. The Zimmerman/Turner book on Kenya and Northern Tanzania, the work of 30 years, set a new standard of scholarship and illustration. This book draws on that one, but is even better for the tourist and field birder. It covers all of Uganda and Tanzania, as well as Rwanda and Burundi. It is smaller and lighter to carry. And the illustrations and their placement in related groups on the same

page are simply outstanding. This is one of the best bird books in the world and will dominate the market for years to come.

I think I have all the guides to the birds of East Africa in the last 30 years, but this most recent by Terry Stevenson and John Fanshawe is certainly the most comprehensive, artistically excellent and usable. Ber van Perlo's Collins Illustrated Checklist "Birds of Eastern Africa" is smaller and lighterweight but no comparison, nor intended to be, in description or plate detail. This new volume, with a 2002(!) publication date has amongst the best plates and abbreviated descriptions, in my opinion, ever published in a comparable volume on birds. Artists John Gale and Brian Small are fabulous (Norman Arlott lacks their skills, but does his subjects justice as well). It is an exceedingly worthwhile complement to Dale Zimmerman's larger format "Birds of Kenya and northern Tanzania" and includes all of Tanzania, Uganda, Rwanda and Burundi as well. Don't miss this book!

I used this field guide during my recent trip to Kenya and Uganda. Although it is by all means an excellent fieldguide I do have some remarks. A number of the plates contained errors, suggesting the artists didn't see these birds in the field. I realise it is virtually impossible for artists to see all species featured in a book such as this in the field, so that a lot of plates are drawn from skins. It is important however to use skins from the region itself, this may make a lot of difference. We came to the conclusion that for a number of species skins from west Africa were used. Especially the greenbuls had some misleading plates. For a number of species the Kenyan Zimmerman-book is probably better, although those plates lack in other respects. In addition a number of the maps were incorrect, especially for Uganda. Still, if you go to the region for birding, make sure to get this book, because it is definitely the best field guide around.

After reading glowing reviews on , we chose this book over Zimmerman's Birds of Kenya and Northern Tanzania. Initially, we were very excited about the book, beautiful birds, beautiful colors. But shortly after starting our birding in Kenya, we realized that the book was not very helpful as a field guide. Its main shortcoming is its inaccurate illustrations of birds. Often, the color is off, such as the blue of Blue flycatcher and of grey-headed kingfisher. The color differ quite a bit from the nature. African paradise flycatcher's eye ring is blue, in the book, it is grey. Plain-backed pipit's back is pale toupée in nature, but brown in the book. In addition to inaccurate colors, the shape are often wrong too. For example, larks look very exaggerated in the book, they simply do not match the general impression of the larks in the field. Bird ID in East Africa would be a real challenge, if one had to rely

on this field guide. During our 2 week trip in Kenya (Lewa Downs, Lake Baringo, Kakamega forest, Masai Mara), we had at least 6 birding/game drive guides. All use Zimmerman's book for its better illustrations. So during the trip, we used our guides' book and left ours in the tent. People rightly complain about Zimmerman's poor organization, but in the end that is a minor issue compared to the accuracy of the drawings (do not expect too much from Zimmerman either though: the drawings are nowhere near as good as Sibley's or as in Birds of Europe by Svensson/Zetterström/Mullarney) .

This guide has the best illustrations of the 20+ bird guides I own. If any book can make the problem of learning and distinguishing the roughly 1400 species in the region - Uganda, Kenya, Tanganika, Rwanda, Burundi - possible, this book is the one. A little heavy for the field, but contains only the essential material: species accounts and range maps on the left page, illustrations on the right. Even after some study I will still have to refer to the guide to identify which of the 38 species of *Cisticola* I am looking at, but with this guide the chances are very good.

everywhere you go in east africa you see birds. if you like them- you better be prepared for the trip! i got the guide a month before, and tried to get as familiar as possible with the birds before arriving to tanzania. when we went on safari our guide pulled out his worn and faded zimmerman- the descriptions on one part, the illustrations on another and the distribution maps at the end. when i pulled my guide and gave him a try- he was very attached to his zimmerman but had to admit that the stevenson is indeed a worthy companion, with all the info about a species is on the same page...compared to my european guide it is heavy and big- but the european contains only about 750 spp, while this one has more than 1200! the illustrations are bright and clear. i used it during my 30 day trip to tanzania and got more than 200 positive identifications, so i must go again to get the rest...recommended!

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