

A PHOTOGRAPHIC GUIDE TO THE BIRDS OF JAMAICA.—Ann Haynes-Sutton, Audrey Downer, and Robert Sutton. 2009. Princeton University Press, Princeton, NJ. 304 pp. ISBN: 978-0-691-14391-0. \$29.95.

Nearly two decades after the publication of Jamaica's first photographic guide to its birds (Downer and Sutton 2009), author Ann Haynes-Sutton and photographer Yves-Jacques Rey-Millet have at last published a much more comprehensive revision, but sadly after the deaths of coauthors Audrey Downer (1918–2006) and Robert Sutton (1943–2002). Whereas the original 1990 photographic guide included 74 color photos of only 45 of the 200 species described in the text, the current photographic guide includes 488 color photos of all 220 regularly occurring species described in the text. The vast majority of photos were taken by Yves-Jacques Rey-Millet in Jamaica, but some were taken by other photographers and in other places.

Despite its compact size (12.4 × 18.9 × 1.7 cm), the book crams an amazing amount of photos and text into a small space, due to narrow margins and a small font (which is easy to read) for concisely written text. The layout is attractive and the use of space is so efficient that virtually no space is wasted.

The obligatory introductory sections begin with descriptions of Jamaica's climate, geology, geography, and habitats, which are amply illustrated by maps and photos. Additional sections discuss the composition and origins of the avifauna, migration, altitudinal and daily movements, breeding seasons, molts and plumages, conservation, and ornithological history. A brief section describes some of the best areas for birding followed by advice for visiting birders. The final introductory section describes how to use the book.

Most of the book comprises descriptions and photos of 220 species. The text for each species is divided into sections, not all of which appear for each species, including the local (or alternative) name, taxonomy, a description, similar species, voice, and habitat and behavior. The text of the book incorporates British English, including the English names of some species which may be unfamiliar to North Americans accustomed to official names of the American Ornithologists' Union (e.g., Grey Plover instead of Black-bellied Plover [*Pluvialis squatarola*]). There are also taxonomic departures from the American Ornithologists' Union (e.g., American Herring Gull [*Larus smithsonianus*] instead of Herring Gull [*L. argentatus*]).

A typical species account occupies a single page, but some take up two pages and others only half a page. Each species is illustrated by one to five (usually two) photos, all of which are excellent. Eighteen species are illustrated by a full page portrait. Proportionately more text and photos are allocated for the residents, especially the endemics, than the migrants.

A small but highly informative distributional map is provided for each species. The distributional maps are color coded with white for areas where the species doesn't occur or rarely occurs, green for the range of resident species, yellow for the range of "summer" migrant species (March to September), and blue for the range of "winter" migrant species (September to May). Furthermore, each color (white excluded) is darker for areas where the species is more common and paler for areas where it is less common. Such detail for distributional maps is unusual among field guides. The map for each species is linked to a small box briefly describing the global range and status in Jamaica.

The first of seven appendices includes an account accompanied by a color painting of three presumably extinct species. The second appendix provides non-illustrated accounts for an additional 77 rarely occurring or recently introduced species. Additional appendices include lists of endemic Jamaican species and subspecies, endemic Caribbean species and subspecies, scientific names of plants mentioned in the text, and a list of species whose vocalizations are available on a set of CDs recorded by George Reynard and Robert Sutton (available from the Library of Natural Sounds at the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology). The book ends with a list of 20 pertinent references and a single index of both English and scientific bird names.

Overall the book provides an accurate, informative, and authoritative introduction to the birds of Jamaica that will be prized by resident and visiting birders alike. And because of its small size, excellent photographs, and accurate descriptions, I highly recommend that it be used as a field guide rather than a larger regional guide that includes birds which do not occur on Jamaica.—FLOYD E. HAYES, Department of Biology, Pacific Union College, 1 Angwin Ave., Angwin, CA 94508, USA; e-mail: floyd_hayes@yahoo.com.

LITERATURE CITED

- DOWNER, A., AND R. SUTTON. 2009. Birds of Jamaica: a photographic field guide. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, UK.