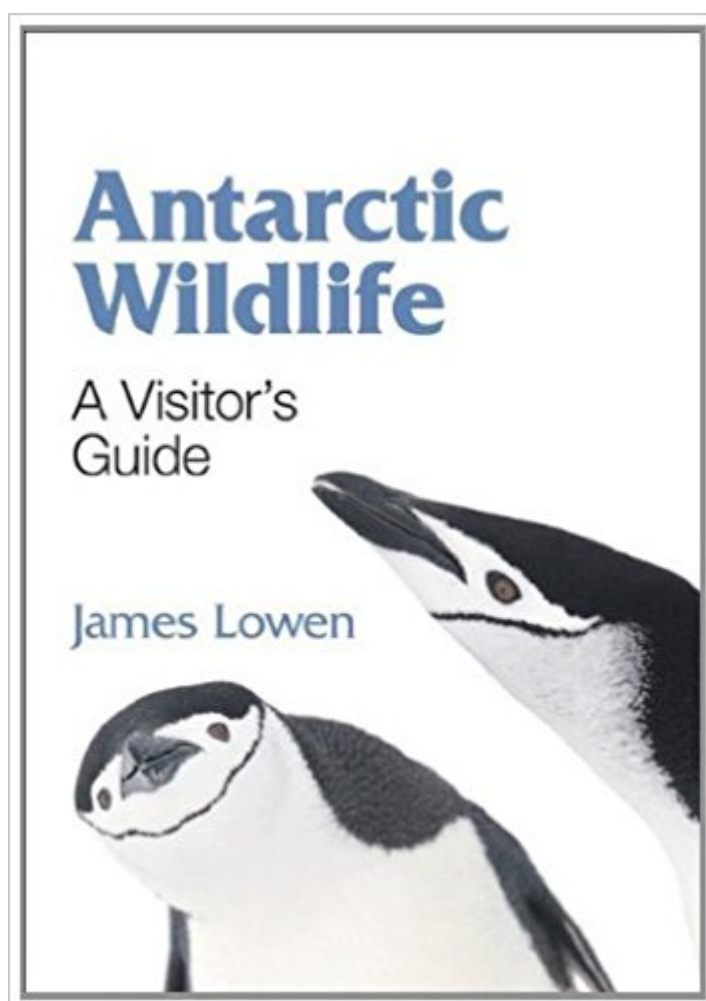


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# Antarctic Wildlife: A Visitor's Guide (Princeton University Press (WILDGuides))



## Synopsis

Antarctic Wildlife is the definitive identification guide to the birds and marine mammals of the Antarctic Peninsula, Drake Passage, and Beagle Channel. This easy-to-use photographic field guide enables visitors to this unique region of the world--newcomer and seasoned traveler alike--to identify with confidence the penguins, whales, seals, seabirds, and other stunning wildlife they encounter on their journey. Full-color photographs show typical views of each species of bird or marine mammal, together with the terrestrial plants likely to be seen. Detailed species accounts describe key identification features, give tips on where to look, and highlight interesting facts. This one-of-a-kind guide also includes introductory chapters that cover the wildlife of each Antarctic environment by season, as well as information on tourism and Antarctic cruising that will help visitors get the most from their trip. Antarctic Wildlife is a must-have photographic guide for travelers taking the standard cruise from Ushuaia, Argentina, to the great white continent, and for anyone interested in the diverse wildlife found in this remote part of the world. Covers the wildlife of the Antarctic Peninsula, Drake Passage, and Beagle Channel Features full-color photographs throughout Describes key identification features and gives tips on where to look Includes an introduction to Antarctic environments and information on Antarctic cruising

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"A must have guide for those visiting Antarctica!"--Ian Paulsen, Birdbooker Report"An eminently practical, accurate, useable and indispensable field guide perfect to bring on your Antarctic cruise.

Or even just to keep on your bedside table. . . . There's a lot of information effortlessly packed into this little powerhouse of a guide. . . . When it comes time to cruise, though, *Antarctic Wildlife, A Visitor's Guide* is the one to grab."--Cathy Taibbi, Examiner.com

"It's difficult to appreciate far off consequences of things like melting polar ice-caps, rising ocean levels, and other effects that happen far away or too slowly for the eye to see. That's one reason why I think books like James Lowen's *Antarctic Wildlife, A Visitor's Guide* are so important. They help provide context for and appreciation of the Antarctic as more than an abstract concept. . . . *Antarctic Wildlife* is a window offering a view of the southern end of the world. . . . By revealing its treasures, Lowen reminds us why even the most remote places on Earth are worth defending."--Brad Sylvester, Yahoo! News

"Spectacular. It covers all wildlife within Antarctica, not just birds. But for the birders reading this, the section on birds is done well."--Jerry Liguori, Utah Birders blog

"The identification text is split into two sections, one basic summary for the amateur and beneath this a more detailed description for the avid enthusiast. The supporting images are excellent, chosen for clear field identification, and it's impressive to note that the author took many of them himself. . . . This is an excellent field guide, well laid out with photos and easy-to-access information. . . . It will definitely accompany me on my next trip to Antarctica."--Luxury Travel Review

"Thanks to this book, I now want to go to Antarctica more than ever! And if (hopefully, when) I go, it will not be without this book. *Antarctic Wildlife: A Visitor's Guide* should be required for any cruise-based visitor to the great white continent. And if you want to risk being compelled to pay big bucks to go on such a cruise, I'd also recommend it to anyone even slightly interested in the wildlife of Antarctica."--Grant McCreary, Birder's Library

"Recommended for either the real-world or armchair traveler interested in the natural history of the Antarctic. . . . Portable and approachable."--Jean E. Crampon, Library Journal

"With a soft flexible binding perfect for thrusting into a knapsack, this book is a primer for all manner of wildlife one might encounter on the seventh continent. . . . Features glorious full-color photos and is chockaÃÂ block with charts and indices, tips on choosing a cruise and the best spots to seek out wildlife, as well as an examination of the environmental threats to the region's indigenous residents. With a lively map as end papers, this book works just as well for the armchair traveler as for the hearty explorer."--Christopher Schoppa, Washington Post

"This handy ID guide comes as a timely aid to anyone venturing into the Southern Oceans. It covers the areas usually included in tour itineraries, from the southern Tip of Argentina to Antarctica proper. The book uses a photo-montage style for the illustrations, an increasingly popular method, which works well here and covers everything from lichens through to whales and birds, so a truly comprehensive guide. Essential for anyone visiting the area."--About Birds, British Trust for Ornithology

"Ideal guide for the first-time

visitor. . . . The moment you pick up this book it feels good . . . exceedingly well-chosen images. . . . Buy it and then start saving for your trip!"--Birdwatch"[D]oes the job admirably. . . . [S]tunning colour plates. . . . [D]etailed and yet written in an easy-to-read and interesting way."--World Birdwatch"

I could write this review in just two simple sentences. If you have already experienced the Antarctic, then after reading James Lowen's visitors' guide, you will be packing your bags and booking your next visit. If you haven't been there before, you will still be packing your bags and booking your visit. It's as simple as that. Antarctic Wildlife is a clean, concise and very practical guide to the wildlife of the Antarctic Peninsula, Drake Passage and Beagle Channel. . . . A refreshing view of this fascinating continent."--David Lindo, Birdwatching Magazine"[A] fantastic guide . . . rich in photography. . . . [T]he penguin behaviour gallery is a joy."--Birds"[S]pecifically designed for anyone travelling from Ushuaia to the Antarctic and who has even the slightest interest in wildlife."--Wildlife Extra"[D]efinitive identification guide. . . . [E]asy-to-use. . . . [O]ne-of-a kind guide. . . . [M]ust-have guide for those visiting Antarctica!"--Guardian.co.uk"[T]akes a quite different approach from that of all previous guides to the area. . . . [H]igh-quality photographic images, skillfully arranged. . . . [F]or those with a general interest in natural history and wanting a small guide, the book succeeds admirably."--British Birds"

This book joins a short list of good quality guides that concentrates on the Antarctic region. . . . [H]undreds of superb illustrations. . . . If you are headed far, far south, you will certainly want to have this attractive, informative, and handy book with you."--Avian Review"

The book is a must for wildlife enthusiasts who are planning a trip to the southern tip of South America and the Antarctic. However, someone with an interest in this part of the world will find it a nice addition to their library."--FHB, Wildlife Activist"

Those of us planning a trip to Antarctica will take this book along and turn to it first when an identification question arises. Those who have already been to Antarctica will wish this book had been with them."--Barbara Williams, IOS Wings Over the Prairie"

For those who are contemplating that once-in-a-lifetime trip to the Antarctic, this book provides a handy photographic guide to the birds and mammals that you are likely to encounter. . . . It will be invaluable on deck. It provides more than enough information to satisfy the general visitor, and would serve very well as a field guide for birders."--Birding World"

I would . . . recommend this book to travellers and experienced naturalists, as the information on the natural history of the area is very good."--Geoff Catpentier, Ontario Birding News"

This is a well-done guide and an excellent purchase for academic and large public libraries."--Frederic F. Burchsted, American Reference Books Annual

James Lowen is a wildlife writer, photographer, and lecturer. He is the author of Pantanal Wildlife: A

Visitor's Guide to Brazil's Great Wetland. An Antarctic naturalist guide for Polar Star Expeditions, he lived in Argentina for a number of years before moving back to the United Kingdom.

**BASICS:** flexcover; focuses on the birds and mammals of the Antarctic Peninsula and its waters adjacent to South America; very good color photos of 83 species of birds, 8 seals, and 24 cetaceans; most plates composed of multiple individuals digitally inserted together over a common background; text on each species is dedicated primarily to identification. This book joins a short list of good quality guides - of either birds or mammals - that concentrates on the Antarctic region. More specifically, this book addresses just those species found in three particular regions which are (1) the Beagle Channel, (2) the Drake Passage, and (3) the Antarctic Peninsula. With hundreds of superb photographs, 83 species of birds, 8 seals, and 24 whales/dolphins are presented. The selection of photos is to be commended with their sharp colors, large size, and overall quality. For the birds, 44 plates show an amalgamation of individuals that are skillfully, digitally superimposed over a single background. Most of the pelagic birds are shown with 2-3 photos each and with both dorsal and ventral views in flight. They are also arranged so the more similar species are compared on the same plate, which can be very handy. Another 78 individual photos of equal quality provide additional views of the birds. In a separate 24-page section, 44 of these photos are dedicated to just the penguins. Presented here is a nice selection showing adults, young, nests, feeding, fighting, swimming, and other behaviors. In a photo too good to be true (it's a digital collage), all eight of the region's penguin species are arranged together in a line-up, showing their size differences. Each species is reviewed in its own account which may be up to a half page in length. Nearly all the information focuses on describing and identifying the bird. Besides describing the plumage, this material provides valuable insight into particular flight nuances or behaviors that would prove helpful in identifying the bird at sea. It was nice to see good effort was put into distinguishing the birds from other similar species. With many birds, an additional 2-3 lines offer clues on "Where to Look". This information provides general descriptions of where (e.g., near cliffs, Drake Passage, exit of the Beagle Channel) the birds may be seen. And, with some of the birds, a brief side-box gives "Talking Points." These cover various bits of trivia such as populations, name origin, flight, etc. For the cetaceans (17 plates) and seals (8 plates), the same good quality of photographs are used. As one would expect, the whale and dolphins are typically shown only breaching the water which is how they'd be seen at sea. A wonderful little feature that might at first escape your attention is found along the bottom border of many of the whales' accounts. These dark blue strips are composed of small, narrated silhouettes of the whale at the surface of the water. These silhouettes show the

distinctive shapes, movements, and profiles you'd witness as the animal progresses through its sequence of surfacing and diving. The shape of the head is shown as it first breaks the surface, the arch, angle, and shape of the back in mid-dive, and, the tail at the conclusion of the dive. These will prove to be very useful for identifying the quick moving swimmers. Enhancing the usefulness of those little silhouettes are behavioral descriptions found in the account for each species. Besides a visual description of the whale/dolphin, the author has included additional tips on how the animal may move, roll, or jump, helping to identify the particular species. The first 76 pages of the book will be of interest to the Antarctic naturalist and traveler. This information gives a general overview of the region, its conservation, tips on tourism and when to go, a quick review of the key bird and mammal families, and a checklist for each of 7 distinct areas of the Antarctic. One aspect of this book should be mentioned. The birds, seals, and whales are grouped (i.e., divided) into three sections (Beagle Channel, Drake Passage, Peninsula). This strategy has its pros and cons. It can be handy for the sea farer to focus on just those species expected in that particular region - assuming there is little or no overlap. But, it also requires the reader to flip through the book to examine a particular family of species. As an example, if you want to compare the three species of terns, you must go to pages 186 and 206. To compare the seals, you must look at two sections beginning on pages 78 and on 160. The cetaceans are the most scattered with different multi-page sections beginning on pages 80, 144, and 172. As a last few tidbits, the names of all species are provided in English, German, Spanish, and scientific. Lastly, no range maps are provided. If you are headed far, far south, you will certainly want to have this attractive, informative, and handy book with you because it is good and, because there are few alternatives. This book has much better photographs and more information than Todd's "Birds & Mammals of the Antarctic, Subantarctic & Falkland Islands". Another book, "The Complete Guide to the Antarctic Wildlife" by Shirihai is excellent and is superior to anything else; but, it covers the entire south polar region which may be excessive depending on your destination. And, the book is somewhat large, making it slightly cumbersome for travel. - (written by Jack, shown with sample pages at Avian Review, May 2011) I've listed several related books below...

- 1) A Visitor's Guide to South Georgia by Poncet/Crosbie
- 2) The Complete Guide to Antarctic Wildlife by Shirihai
- 3) Birds And Mammals of the Antarctic, Subantarctic and Falkland Islands by Todd
- 4) Birds of Patagonia, Tierra Del Fuego and Antarctic Peninsula by Couve/Vidal
- 5) Aves de Patagonia y Antartida by Narosky
- 6) Birds of Southern South America and Antarctica by Pena

When I pulled out this book (on our ship in Antarctica) to do some wildlife identification, one of the

staff's resident naturalists said, "That's the best book to have here." By the end of our trip, at one of the landings at a research station, our program director bought this book, since he had been searching for the best to buy and was convinced this is it. It's durable yet compact enough to keep handy for reference in a small pack or carry-on luggage. There are multiple photos of most species, greatly assisting in identifying and verifying. Most photos are very clear. It has a great 2-page spread showing all 8 varieties of penguins, giving the reader a clear perspective of their relative sizes and appearance. Most tours will not encounter all 8 varieties (we saw 4), but seeing them all is still a benefit.

This book is a must have if you're planning on visiting Antarctica. It has great pictures and diagrams on how to spot whales and tell them apart. I found myself referencing it every day to identify the animals that we saw during our journey.

Frankly, many of the books I've read on Antarctic Wildlife has been disappointing. I'm interested in wildlife identification so I know what I'm looking at, and to find out details about the animals to understand what I'm seeing. I also want to be able to know, in advance, what I can expect to see as I travel through Antarctica. This book is very good in the attributes I want, and its photographs are excellent for adult animal identification. I wish it had just a bit more detail, especially about the animal's life cycle and more photos of the animals to see more differences between juveniles and sexes. It's talks about these subjects, but I would have liked even more. I'm a pretty tough critic when it comes to books on wildlife.

Easy to use, nice pictures, and a great way to ID critters by either organism type (bird, whale, etc.) or by travel region (Shetland Islands, Upper Peninsula, etc.). As a non-birder, I appreciated that the bird IDs included clear pictures of birds of different sexes/color variants in flight, swimming, etc. This book made it easy to ID what we were seeing on our trip to Antarctica.

Small and light enough to be carried into the field easily. Very good coverage of wildlife with accompanying photographs and text that is short and to the point. Other books may have more detailed accounts, but this reference is great for a quality quick look and comparison.

A very good way to find out what on an Antarctic/Beagle Channel visit. Beautifully illustrated and broad informative.

I bought this book so I could identify wildlife on my recent Antarctic expedition cruise, and it was very helpful. The organization and photos made animal recognition easy, and I used this book almost every day. It opens with a brief history and discussion of the regions included on a typical Antarctic cruise, which was also interesting and helpful.

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Antarctic Wildlife: A Visitor's Guide (Princeton University Press (WILDGuides)) Wildlife of Ecuador: A Photographic Field Guide to Birds, Mammals, Reptiles, and Amphibians (Princeton University Press (WILDGuides)) Red Kite Country: A Celebration of the Wildlife and Landscape of Mid Wales (Princeton University Press (WILDGuides)) Nightjars, Potoos, Frogmouths, Oilbird, and Owlet-nightjars of the World (Princeton University Press (WILDGuides)) Visitors Book: At A Glance Visitor Log Book / Visitor Register / Visitor Notebook Record Guest Sign-In Register Book / High Quality Ideal for Offices ... (Visitor Registration Book) (Volume 4) Antarctic Wildlife: A Folding Pocket Guide to Familiar Species of the Antarctic and Subantarctic Environments (A Pocket Naturalist Guide) Visitor's Companion to Gateway: A Visitor's Companion (National Park Visitor's Companions) Pantanal Wildlife: A Visitor's Guide To Brazil's Great Wetland (Bradt Wildlife Guides) Spinal Cord Injury and the Family: A New Guide (Harvard University Press Family Health Guides) (The Harvard University Press Family Health Guides) New York Wildlife Viewing Guide: Where to Watch Wildlife (Watchable Wildlife) Arizona Wildlife Viewing Guide (Watchable Wildlife) (Watchable Wildlife (Adventure Publications)) Visitor's Guide to Iceland & Greenland (Visitor's Guide to Holland) Visitor's Guide to the Bahamas (The Visitor's Guides Book 2) Visitor's Guide to the Bahamas - The Out Islands (The Visitor's Guides Book 5) Visitor's Guide to Bermuda - 4th Edition (The Visitor's Guides Book 1) Visitor's Guide to Bermuda (The Visitor's Guides) Visitor's Guide: Rhine and Mosel (Visitor's Guides) Visitor's Guide to Malawi (Visitor's guides) Edinburgh Visitor Guide 2016/17 (7 Cities of Scotland Visitor Guides) A Visitor's Guide to Savannah (Visitor's Guides)

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