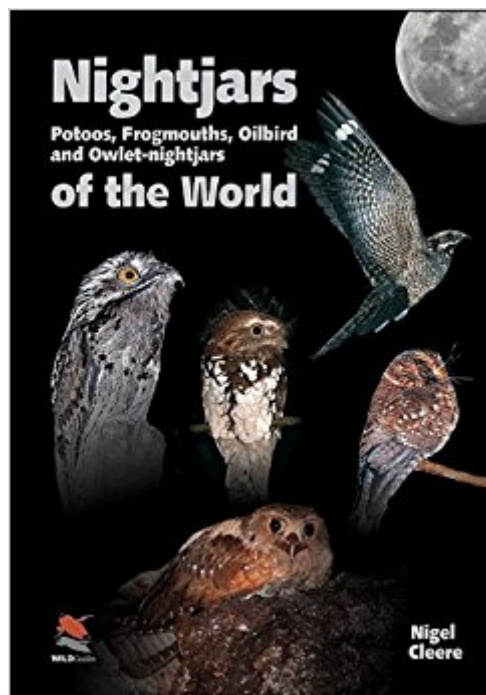




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# Nightjars, Potoos, Frogmouths, Oilbird, And Owlet-nightjars Of The World (Princeton University Press (WILDGuides))



## Synopsis

This is the ultimate identification guide to the nightjars, potoos, frogmouths, Oilbird, and owl-nightjars of the world. Covering all 135 known species of these elusive and cryptically plumaged birds, this illustrated guide features more than 580 superb color photographs depicting every species and many subspecies, including numerous images never before published. Photos of museum specimens are provided for birds for which no images in the wild exist, including species not seen since their original discovery. Detailed species accounts describe key identification features, confusion species, vocalizations, distribution, habitat and altitudinal range, breeding season and sites, egg type and clutch size, downy chick, status, and Red List category. This easy-to-use photographic guide also includes a color distribution map for every species as well as sections on plumage, taxonomy, and more. The ultimate identification guide to these elusive birds. Covers all 135 known species. Features more than 580 color photos. Provides detailed species accounts and a color distribution map for every species. Includes sections on plumage, taxonomy, and more.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"Features more than 580 superb color photographs depicting every species and many subspecies, including numerous images never before published. . . . A must have for those with any interest in nightjars! Tropical birders will also find it useful."--Ian Paulsen, Birdbooker Report" This is a

sumptuous volume which has brought together the best-ever collection of photographs of nightjars and their allies. Some of the images have to be seen to be believed, they are so brilliant. . . . In conclusion, this is a wonderful book, principally for the array of excellent images which it includes--for many of the species, there are no previous published photographs at all. It contains the latest thinking on the taxonomy of the Caprimulgiformes."--John Clark, *Birding World*"This thoroughly researched and beautifully produced volume is a must-have for every ornithologist, and for the customer in search of a gift a serious birding friend doesn't already have, this must be the ultimate find. The 464 page hardcover version has a value far greater than its \$45 price tag."--*Birding Business*"If you aren't already a fan of nightjars, this book will convert you."--Grant McCreary, *Birder's Library*"Nightjars of the World offers us a rare, detailed look at some of the most elusive nocturnal birds of the world. For those, like me, who can't get enough of birding, Nightjars of the World will be revisited over and over on those rainy or snowy days when outdoor birding is not feasible."--Brad Sylvester, *Birdwatching Examiner*"Reading this book was like taking a semester long ornithology course on the greater goatsucker order of birds. I really enjoyed learning the biology. This will be the world's go-to reference book for all things nightjar."--*Idaho Birding Blog*"The best bird book I've seen all year. . . . This book is a comprehensive photographic guide (check out the crazy variations these birds come in), but also gives information about this poorly understood group of birds in an easy to read fashion. . . . This book will appeal to hardcore and intermediate birders alike because this is a fascinating family of birds to study and the photos are incredible."--Sharon Stiteler, *Birdchick.com*"The avian order Caprimulgiformes includes an interesting collection of nighthawks, nightjars, potoos, frogmouths, and the enigmatic oilbird. Although these birds are familiar summer residents over most of the world, surprisingly little is known about the ecology and reproductive biology of many of them. This book is a step toward solving that problem. It also serves as an identification guide, with individual accounts that include a description, range map, and several pictures for each of the 125 known species of caprimulgids. Although bird guides that use paintings rather than photos are usually preferable, ornithologist Cleere has done a spectacular job of obtaining photographs that are beautiful as well as illustrative."--*Choice*"I highly recommend this book for birders at any level who find themselves lured to the obscure members of the order Caprimulgiformes. Even those of casual interest will find fascinating the large, full-color photographs of wide-eyed nightjars and frogmouths or potoos blending in perfectly with a vertical branch."--*Eyrie*"This book is a great inspiration and a help in sorting out what's possible in any location. What's known, what's unknown. Makes me want to spend more warm evenings staring at the sky in hopes that another bug-gulping nightjar speeds

past, maybe circles once to give me another glimpse, then vanishes off into the dusk, and the mysterious dark that obscures so much about these fellow earthlings."--Towheeblog

"This new book by Nigel Cleere is a must-own reference guide for anyone interested in knowing more about the identification and natural history of the 135 species of nightjars, potoos, frogmouths, oilbird, and owlet-nightjars of the world."--Drew and Alex Lamoreaux, Nemesis Bird

"Finding a book that will improve my knowledge of these enigmatic creatures was . . . wonderful. . . . This is a good, and fun, source book for avid naturalist."--Roy John, Canadian Field Naturalist

"Nightjars, Potoos, Frogmouths, Oilbird and Owlet-Nightjars of the World is spectacular and I strongly recommend it. It's obvious that it will be a must-have for anyone interested in these birds, but it will also be cherished by those interested in birds more generally. It looks incredible and is just an amazing visual reference on a spectacularly odd and curious group of birds."--Darren Naish, ScientificAmerican.com's Tetrapod Zoology blog

"Cleere has synthesized a lot of information about a group of birds that are difficult to identify and study, and presents it in an easy-to-use format. He has done a tremendous job of collecting numerous photos of these enigmatic birds that show many helpful identification characteristics and also their subtle beauty."--Sophie Webb, coauthor of A Guide to the Birds of Mexico and Northern Central America

Excellent book with tons of amazing photographs of these bizarre and elusive birds. Each species is accompanied by information about size, a written description to go along with the photos, similar species that can cause confusion, vocalization, habitat, breeding, and conservation status, along with a range map. The only negative thing I can say about the book is that the title and images on the dust jacket are not also printed on the front of the book itself, which is solid black with just the title on the spine. (Though if you don't mind dust jackets I guess this isn't really a negative. I personally find them annoying.)

Highest recommendation.

All those interested in birds or in nightjars and their allies should read this book. The abundant color photos and maps are excellent and very helpful in the field identification. Each species has a profile with the popular name, the scientific name and the book where it was published, length, identifying characteristics, similar species, vocalization, habitat, reproduction, distribution and status. In the

beginning of the book there is a great text on general biology of Caprimulgiformes. This book covers all species of Caprimulgiformes in the world.

This is Nigel Cleere's second Nightjars book following on from his 1998 illustrated family guide. This newer guide features 580 + photographs, which in itself is a major feat, and updated information. Considering the difficulties with locating many of these cryptic and well camouflaged species shows the difference digital photography has made to those now taking photos of birds. In the past it would be quite difficult to do a photographic guide. As much more is known about habits and roost preferences it has made locating these species less complicated than it used to be but by no means easier. Being able to put together a guide using photos of these nocturnal birds is quite impressive. That said this book does have a few drawbacks from its earlier cousin. Several of the less common species are only represented by shots of museum skins. You don't get a feel for what they look like in the wild. Then again since very few people have seen them in the wild it's understandable that there are no photos of these birds. The second drawback over the previous book is that the text is quite limited. The previous guide has much more detailed information. The range maps are massive and well detailed which could easily be made smaller to add more text. There is much to like about this new guide though. The taxonomy of this complex group has been updated in this guide as newer information has become available. Several name changes in common and scientific have been implemented here to keep up with the latest taxonomic updates. The fact that there are photographs of all these species is quite commendable as well as there being 16 species covered in this new guide that are new since the first book. You'll not take this in the field as it is really a reference guide and far too heavy to lug around. It will make a nice addition to any ornithological library and you can spend hours poring over the amazing photographs within this book. That said keep his earlier book handy for more detailed information. Also by Nigel Cleere: Nightjars : A Guide to the Nightjars, Nighthawks, and Their Relatives A Sound Guide to Nightjars: CD

Basics: hardcover, 2010, 464pp; 580+ very good color photographs of all 135 species; 16 species shown only as museum specimens and only 15 shown in flight; limited text on identification, voice, habitat, and other natural history features; nice color range map tailored to each species with subspecies noted. If you've been looking for a good book to shed light on those notoriously hard-to-see nocturnal Caprimulgids, you'll be impressed with this book. The book's strength is its hundreds of quality photos that show all 135 species of nightjars, nighthawks, et al. As

demonstrated by the pictures inside, this is a photo guide; however, what this book is not is an identification or a field guide. This larger format work (10.5 x 7.5 inches) is almost 1.5 inches thick and 2 pounds in weight, meaning it'll be most effectively used at your desk or armchair. Each of the species is shown with 2-7 photographs. The majority of these photos are at least a half-page in size if not a full page. The lighting and colors are very good, too. This collection of high quality photographs is to be commended. No species suffers from being shown with only dim, grainy, or out of focus photos. There are many additional smaller photos shown for most species. As for the selection of photos, two points stand out that should be mentioned. One, 16 of the species are represented by only museum skins. These birds are typically the rarer of species, newly described species or, those represented by single reports from many decades ago such as Vaurie's Nightjar (1929) and the Prigogine's Nightjar (1955). Newly recognized species such as Solomon's Nightjar and Todd's Nightjar are shown only as skins. What I can't explained is the not uncommon Tawny-collared Nightjar of Mexico which is shown by only four skins. The second note about the selection of photos is only 15 out of the 135 are shown in flight or with the tail/wing exposed. All others birds are shown only as perched. Now, it is fair to point out that if these birds are seen at all in the field, this perched position is how they're likely to be encountered. For the birds that are known for being more active in daylight, such as the nighthawks, 7 of the 10 nighthawk species are shown with their wings open. One of those, the Plain-tailed, is shown only as a museum skin. The text provided with each bird takes a secondary role with this photographic book. For many birds, the information is limited, if not even scant. The "Identification" section receives the most attention with 5-10 short lines. I would not really classify this material as identification, but rather as "description" due to its brevity and, too often, due to generalities (e.g., female lacks white markings in wings and tail; immature and juvenile are paler than adults.) At first, I was slightly disappointed with this ID material but, after considering the many species of nightjars and how very similar they appear, it would take some very detailed -- and extensive -- descriptions to do the job properly. I reminded myself this book is a photo guide and, considering only that, I recognized this is a very good book, filling a niche that cannot be found anywhere else. The rest of the text provides a quick mention of potential confusing or similar species in the region and the briefest notes on habitat, breeding, range, and status. I found the notes on vocalizations to be a bit thin, often with a dozen or fewer words. Considering vocalizations can be one of the key, if not only, means of identifying these hidden birds, this particular section is relatively lacking. Again, to be fair, it should be pointed out that identification and vocalization material is presented in much greater depth in the author's earlier "Nightjars" book. Perhaps it is wise to consider this newest photo guide as a compliment to the

earlier text/plate publication. Lastly, two other good points about this book are its updated taxonomy and its range maps. This book covers 135 species versus the earlier "Nightjars" book that discussed only 119 species. This newer book reveals 13 new species (e.g., Mexican and Eastern Whip-poor-will), provides recommended changes in family arrangement and with modifying the Genus name for many birds. Additional taxonomic notes are presented at the bottom on the page for many species. The second praise regards the range maps. I like the attention given to tailoring the maps to each bird. These maps show political boundaries and rivers for greater geographic detail. These maps are also of a nice size and are shown in color. No doubt, this is an impressive collection of 580+ photographs for a formidable group of birds to be captured on camera. I eagerly awaited this book's release when I first heard about it nearly 2 years ago. I found this book to be worth the wait. - (written by Jack at Avian Review / Avian Books, July 2010) I've listed several related books below... 1) *Nightjars: A Guide to Nightjars and Related Nightbirds* by Cleere 2) *A Sound Guide to Nightjars: CD* by Cleere 3) *Nightjars and their Allies: The Caprimulgiformes (Bird Families of the World)* by Holyoak 4) *Systematic of Smaller Asian Night Birds Based on Voice* by Marshall 5) *Birds by Night* by Martin

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