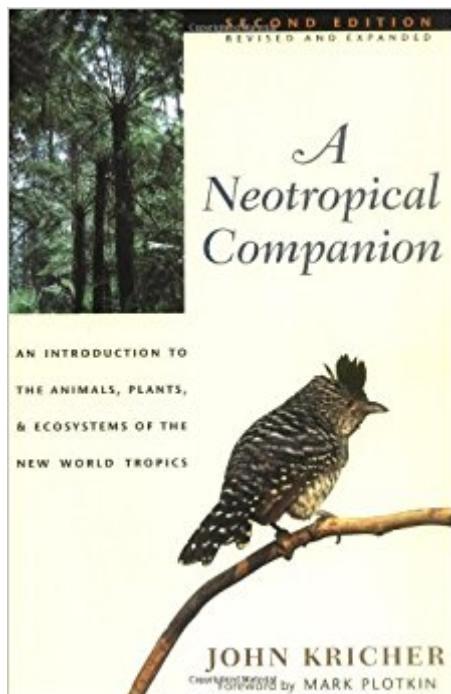


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A Neotropical Companion



Synopsis

A Neotropical Companion is an extraordinarily readable introduction to the American tropics, the lands of Central and South America, their remarkable rainforests and other ecosystems, and the creatures that live there. It is the most comprehensive one-volume guide to the Neotropics available today. Widely praised in its first edition, it remains a book of unparalleled value to tourists, students, and scientists alike. This second edition has been substantially revised and expanded to incorporate the abundance of new scientific information that has been produced since it was first published in 1989. Major additions have been made to every chapter, and new chapters have been added on Neotropical ecosystems, human ecology, and the effects of deforestation. Biodiversity and its preservation are discussed throughout the book, and Neotropical evolution is described in detail. This new edition offers all new drawings and photographs, many of them in color. As enthusiastic readers of the first edition will attest, this is a charming book. Wearing his learning lightly and writing with ease and humor, John Kricher presents the complexities of tropical ecology as accessible and nonintimidating. Kricher is so thoroughly knowledgeable and the book is so complete in its coverage that general readers and ecotourists will not need any other book to help them identify and understand the plants and animals, from birds to bugs, that they will encounter in their travels to the New World tropics. At the same time, it will fascinate armchair travelers and students who may get no closer to the Neotropics than this engagingly written book.

Book Information

Paperback: 451 pages

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Customer Reviews

One of Choice's Outstanding Academic Titles for 1998 "The book is exactly what it says it is, a companion to take with you on your travels in the New World tropics. . . . The author has written . . . with just the right amount of informality and humor." --Journal of Natural History "An intense and lively field guide. . . .compact and richly substantive"--Scientific American

John Kricher is Professor of Biology at Wheaton College, where he is the first recipient of the Bojan Hamlin Jennings Chair in the Natural Sciences and Mathematics. Among the many books he has written are *A Field Guide to Ecology of Eastern Forests* and *A Field Guide to Ecology of Western Forests*.

A book for someone who wants to be amazed by the world around them when in the tropical climes. This 2nd edition encompasses comprehensive descriptions of life from the cellular level to the largest life forms. I would recommend it for nature lovers who have a background in science and need to go further than the specie ID guides available. The only down side is this edition is about 15 years old and know that many new facts that could be incorporated into it.

Purchased for a college class and enjoyed the book and the class a lot! If you like ecology and other similar outdoor things this will be helpful when planning a trip to the tropics.

Excellent book to read before a trip to the tropics and a great guide to take along while traveling. Currently using as textbook for Tropical Ecology class in Upper level High School.

This product is a great source of information for anyone who is planning to travel south of the US border into Central or South America. The information it contains is advanced enough to answer serious ecology questions, and casual enough for those just wanting to learn more about the environments they will encounter in the tropics on a vacation. It does a nice job detailing how the ecosystems work and provides tips on how to conduct yourself while visiting the neotropics. The book is well written and an interesting read.

I've had to choose between 3 and 4 stars, but I'll stick to 4 stars. It's really a good introduction to the natural history of the Neotropics. Yet, I've got the feeling that Mr. Kricher wants to tell us about too many things in too few space, thus leaving much things for further explanation. Of course, it's a heavy task to pack such a diversity in so small a book. The general introduction is thorough, but in

the group description some groups remain heavily underexposed. He shouldn't be playing on words this much only to let every pun be followed by a hypocritical "no pun intended". There's nothing against making puns, though. The colour pictures do not add much to the book. I think he'd better have fewer and larger pictures than this stamp collection that give a somewhat disorderly impression. Nevertheless, I enjoyed reading it, making me wish to return to the neotropical rainforests.

Great book. Easy and interesting read.

This is a must have for any novice tropical ecologist. A great book that covers a wide range of topics and gives plenty of detail. Great as a required text for a class or just as a leisure read for ecology students or ecology lovers alike. Also has a section of full color photos that correspond with some of the readings. An overall great buy.

Well written and informative, not boringly technical.

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