

Birds of Thailand by Roland Eve and Ann-Marie Guigue. Times Editions (1997). 178 pp. Hardcover.

This is a long-awaited companion volume to *Birds of Singapore* (reviewed in NHBSS 35, p. 87) with which it shares a similar format. Introductory chapters providing brief descriptions of Thailand's biogeography, on bird biology and on bird habitats are illustrated with photographs. The ensuing species accounts in which the text is "wrapped around" the illustrations are readable and informative, concentrating mainly on the birds' habits. The real surprise for me was in Roland Eve's delightful paintings. In most cases these have clearly been drawn from life, display a remarkable "feel" for the birds portrayed, and are a welcome departure from the usual "field-guide-type" illustrations. Only 123 (mainly commoner) species of birds are covered, but a check-list in the back lists 922 species known from Thailand. All in all, this book will make a welcome addition to any library on Thai wildlife. My only criticism is that it should have received a more rigorous proof-reading: spelling mistakes and inappropriate hyphenations creep in from time to time.

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