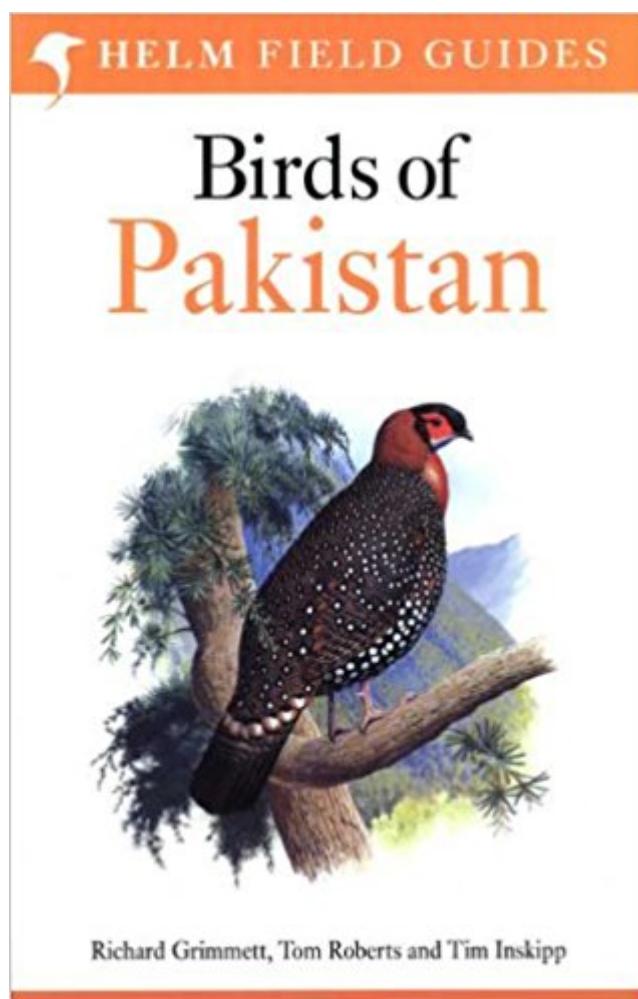


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# Birds Of Pakistan (Helm Field Guides)



## Synopsis

This is the first field guide devoted entirely to the birds of Pakistan. Compact yet comprehensive, it is the perfect companion for birders and ornithologists who need a portable tool to assist them in the accurate identification of birds in the field. For easy reference, the descriptive text and map on each bird species appears on the page facing that bird's illustration. Superb color plates depict hundreds of birds found in Pakistan, and the text offers identification, voice, habitat, range, distribution, and status information for each. The guide also provides summaries of the key characteristics of each bird family, advice on good birdwatching areas, and much more.

## Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.0 out of 5 stars (See all reviews) (5 customer reviews)

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## Customer Reviews

THE BASICS: softcover; 93 color plates show all 670+ species with good artistic quality; key plumage differences are shown between genders, ages, and subspecies; very brief but pointed identification material is given for each bird; a range map with four colors is provided with each species.

THE REVIEW: This book, like its four other sister-books (Northern India, Southern India, Bhutan, Nepal) is a reduced version of the author's previous and much larger work: *A Guide to the Birds of India, Pakistan, Nepal, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Sri Lanka and the Maldives*. This lighter Pakistan version is a true field guide-sized book that focuses on just those birds found within Pakistan. The same illustrations and nearly all of the same text are used in this Pakistan book as in the sister books. The color illustrations are shown in 93 different plates. These show good artistry for

the 670+ birds found in the country. What is also nice to see is that most birds are shown with multiple plumages when significant differences exist between genders, age, or subspecies. Each of the plates contain 3-10 different species and illustrate anywhere from 8-30 illustrations. The non-passerines, especially the raptors, gulls, and shorebirds, are shown with the most drawings. Plates for these groups of birds can be congested with 25-30 illustrations of perched and flying birds. This causes many of the birds to be a bit small on the page; however, they are still very useful for identification. Like the book's counterparts, the text accompanying each bird is the weaker part of this book. To be clear, the text is not bad, but, it is often very scant. Each bird receives as little as 3 lines or up to 15 lines to describe it.

This is a condensed guide of the same authors guide to the whole subcontinent with just the birds relevant to the country. The artwork will be familiar to anyone who owns one of their other guides. Two nice maps begin the book with one for geographical features and one for the districts and towns. Then information about the book, habitat types, important bird species and some nice information on birding areas. Information on national and international groups, acknowledgements, glossary and bibliography follow. The next section is one familiar from other books by these authors and that is the family summaries. Brief descriptions of each of the families concerned in this book are given with typical characteristics and habits and page references. Each of the families is represented by one small piece of artwork depicting a typical member of the family. The main body of the book begins on page 48 with the first of 93 plates. Each plate has good illustrations with a little crowding on a few plates and a few species represented with small illustrations but on a whole most are easy to see and detailed for identification. The text faces each plate with a good color range map. Four colors for summer breeder, year round, winter resident and passage migrant are shown. Most maps cover the whole country for those species spread across the range but if a species range is smaller, a regional map is used showing only the area of Pakistan where the species range is, a very good idea and one I wish more guides would do. The descriptions cover several plumages and subspecies where relevant and notes on habits, habitat, voice and range are all included though not separated by bold titles so it all flows together, a common theme with the authors.

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