



A Field Guide to the Larger Mammals of South America

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Webb R. & Blincow J. 2024. *A Field Guide to the Larger Mammals of South America*. Princeton University Press. ISBN 9780691174099. 488 pp. \$49.95/£42.00.

Why is mammal identification important? Besides just being fun and enriching to watch wildlife, field guides can serve as a starting tool to help determine the presence–absence of species in a particular area to build distribution models (Gu & Swihart 2024). Previous field guides of mammals in South America include the books of Reid, Emmons and the classic of Eisenberg (Eisenberg 1989, Eisenberg & Redford 2000, Emmons & Feer 1997, Redford & Eisenberg 1992, Reid 1997) all with excellent illustrations.

Additionally to iconic mammals such as jaguars, pumas, tapirs, and giant anteaters, photographs can be used for most people to identify many large mammals. The Webb & Blincow's book includes species accounts with a detailed description paragraph of key features and information on subspecies, comparisons with similar species that overlap in range, details of the habitats in which the species occurs, a map of its distribution in South America, and a paragraph describing main regions where the species is found and finally information on its conservation status. Each species is illustrated with carefully selected photos or illustrations where suitable photos were not available. The book includes about 400 large wild mammal species and a few introduced and domesticated mammal species. The book also includes a glossary which is very useful to non-biologist and lots of bibliographic references for additional information.

This field guide provides a concise, well-organized, and useful resource for identifying large mammals by distribution and photos. Its size, 488 pages, 15 x 22 cm is a little bit large for a pocket guide but considering that you can cover all South American countries it is a good choice for the field, fitting nicely in a backpack to take into the field. The cover and pages are coated paper so it should be reasonably weather-resistant or suitable for use in the field. Considering the cost of specialized books and these features, the price of nearly 50 US dollars is reasonable for many people visiting South America, but pricy for a student in Latin America.

Among those that I recommend purchasing this book are mammalogists, wildlife enthusiasts, wildlife enforcement officers, and anyone interested in nature and identifying large mammals.



Figure 1. Cover of the book.

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