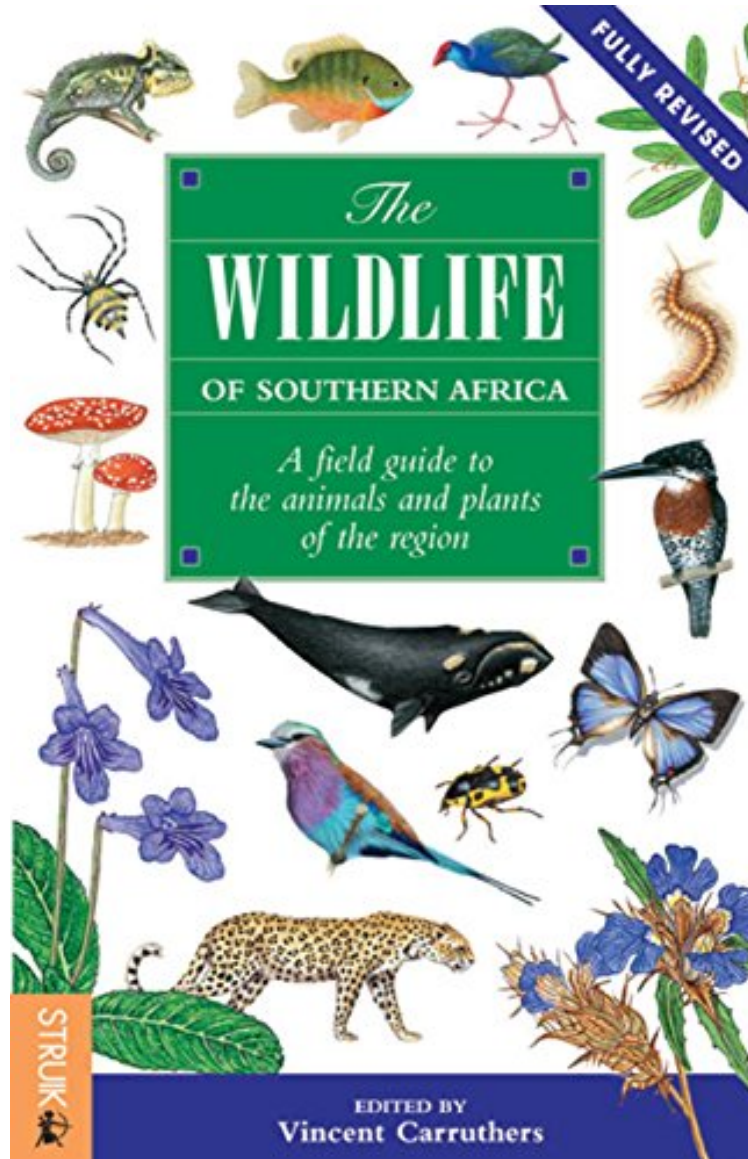


# The Wildlife of Southern Africa: A Field Guide to the Animals and Plants of the Region

From Struik

\*Download PDF | ePub | DOC | audiobook | ebooks



[Download](#)

[Read Online](#)

#425403 in Books 2008-09-01 Ingredients: Example Ingredients Original language: English PDF # 1 .74 x 7.20 x 8.40l, 1.22 #File Name: 1770077049310 pages | File size: 51.Mb

**From Struik : The Wildlife of Southern Africa: A Field Guide to the Animals and Plants of the Region** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Wildlife of Southern Africa: A Field Guide to the Animals and Plants of the Region:

14 of 14 people found the following review helpful. I found this book frustratingBy Dr. TedI just returned from a

wonderful two week trip to South Africa and Botswana. In Botswana we spent 6 nights at camps in the bush. Here is my impression of this book. Pros: Sturdy, well-constructed book with excellent illustrations. Cons: Because this book tries to be all-inclusive and compact, it necessarily makes significant compromises. As a birder, I carried a separate bird book (by Ian Sinclair) which I enjoyed and used frequently. I therefore was not too concerned about the birding aspect of this book. However, if you tried using this book for birding you would be very frustrated. Many female and juvenile plumages are omitted. From a practical standpoint, many of the individual birds you are likely to see would not be identifiable with this guide. For the identification of large mammals, this book is fine-- but honestly, how hard is it to identify lions, elephants, hippos and antelope (ok, the antelope can be tricky). It would be nice, however, if the descriptions discussed more about the lives of these creatures and their taxonomic relationships. A guide to animal tracks would have been wonderful. Looking at animal tracks on the dirt/sand roads that we travelled occupied a significant amount of our time. This book was no help. Out of 310 pages, only 21 are devoted to mammals. Identifying flowers was also difficult. We came across a very common lily-like flower in the Okavango Delta which was in bloom in late March. It was interspersed with grass and presumably was arising from a bulb. I still don't know what it is. It wasn't in this book. If you only want to carry one book (and field guides are heavy), this would be fine. If you have special interests, I would carry other guides as well (interestingly, the back of this book has an extensive list of suggested reading). If I were doing it again, I would probably still bring this book (for the insects, reptiles, amphibians, trees, and flowers), but I would also bring a guide for mammals. Also, check with the camps you are going to-- they may have books on their shelves.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. but it is great to have one that includes the common insects

By Cassandra I also have field guides for birds and mammals, but it is great to have one that includes the common insects, reptiles, flowers, trees, fish, etc. all in one book. I used it often, and other travelers eagerly borrowed it from me.

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Remarkably good for trying to cover everything

By Susan Straley We took this book on a 13-d wildlife safari through the Moremi, Delta, and Chobe parks in Botswana. Even though we had expert guides, we found ourselves continually checking it when writing up journal notes to remind ourselves of identifications or spellings for animals, plants, birds, trees, and occasionally reptiles we had seen or ones we were seeing again but wanted to be sure we identified correctly. It also helped in distinguishing similar-sized antelopes from each other. I used it to identify an interesting weed without having any previous input from the guide. For each item the book did an excellent job of encapsulating key information. However, with such broad coverage, some compromise had to be made, and I did find myself wishing for larger illustrations. I did once make a misidentification of a tree because I misinterpreted the small picture. On balance, however, it was a valuable resource which was shared among the four of us, and I didn't regret the decision to carry it around in my daypack.

This new edition of the best-selling and well-known illustrated field guide to the animals and plants of southern Africa is fully updated with all the latest taxonomy and common names. It features over 2,000 carefully selected plants and animals, large and small, that are likely to be encountered during a visit to any part of the region. More than 1,200 species are vividly illustrated and many more are identifiable from the text through reference to similar species. Each chapter has been written by a leading expert in the field, most of whom have published major works in their own right. Each group is color coded for easy reference; for quick identification, diagnostic features are in bold text within the concise descriptions. It would be hard to find a more useful field guide that covers all the major groups of plants and animals in the southern African region. This is the ideal companion for all who venture outdoors: visitors to game parks, hikers, vacationers, birders, game viewers and gardeners.

"A handsomely illustrated field guide to the birds, mammals, reptiles and amphibians, insects, fish and plants of Southern Africa all in one compact volume. While necessarily condensed, it features 2,000 illustrations and short descriptions of each species including habitat and range. With contributions by experts and good color plates. A nice overview for even the keen naturalist; it covers -- for example -- over 600 of the 900 species of birds found in the region."--Longitudebooks.com

About the Author VINCENT CARRUTHERS is a well-known environmentalist and author. He co-authored *South African Frogs: A Complete Guide*. He served for seven years as a director of the North West Parks and Tourism Board and was Vice Chairman of the Magaliesberg Advisory Committee. He is a past executive director of the Wildlife Society of SA and chairman of Birdlife SA. He currently consults on environmental and tourism matters and is the author of several books on wildlife, history and conservation. He is on the board of the Delta Environmental Centre and the Sustainable Tourism Research Institute of SA.