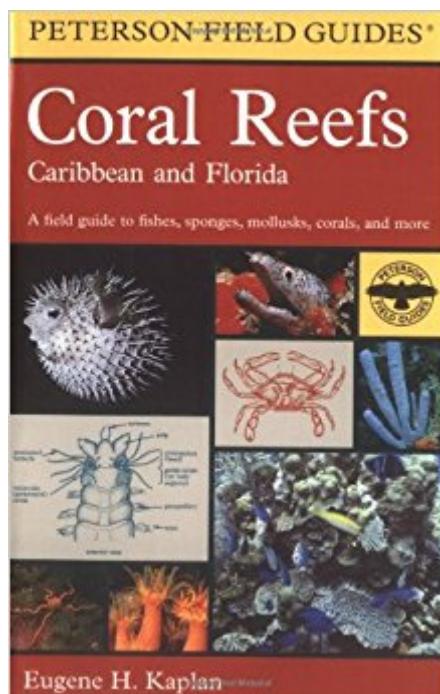


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A Field Guide To Coral Reefs: Caribbean And Florida (Peterson Field Guides)



Synopsis

With more than 500 species described and more than 400 illustrations, this guide provides quick and easy visual identification of fishes, mollusks, sponges, shrimps, lobsters, crabs, and much more of the fauna found on the coral reefs of the Caribbean and Florida.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Roger Tory Peterson, one of the world's greatest naturalists, received every major award for ornithology, natural science, and conservation as well as numerous honorary degrees, medals, and citations, including the Presidential Medal of Freedom. The Peterson Identification System has been called the greatest invention since binoculars. These editions include updated material by Michael O'Brien, Paul Lehman, Bill Thompson III, Michael DiGiorgio, Larry Rosche, and Jeffrey A. Gordon.

Should be a first year requirement for all marine biology students. I met a PhD who didn't know what this book presents simply: how coral grows.

Very poor pictures

I needed this book for a class that I am taking. I am very happy with my purchase! I received the book before the scheduled delivery date, and it is in excellent brand new condition. I was on a bit of

a time crunch to get the book before the class started, and I received it with plenty of time. Thank you!

I would feel confident recommending any of Peterson's field guides including "Coral Reefs." Many field guides simply discuss a single group of animals or plants. However Kaplan has succeeded in producing a pocket book explaining the most diverse habitats on earth. He writes from a broad knowledge base covering many topics important to coral reef watchers or biologists. Frequently he injects wit and humor into what might have been a dry text. He manages to hit on most groups of animals and uses many types of illustrations to allow the reader to identify and sort out the great number and types of animals that they will see on any coral reef within the area discussed. I am new to this book but have used quite a few field guides in my day. Now I can't wait to visit the reefs again, armed with my new education.

This field guide does not meet the expectations and standards of a Peterson Field Guide. The line drawings are inaccurate and amateurish, not enough pictures, the pictures are not placed in any logical association with the material and too many black and white pictures of poor quality which makes identifying similar corals and fish difficult. The information seems good but the organization is poor. I am sorry that for the sake of a few bucks I did not get Humann's book instead.

I like most peterson books, however this one is just as knowledgable, but I bought the book hoping to see color plates of corals, which it did not have. It had mostly color plates of starfish, sponges, sea biscuits, other animal life. I was disappointed in that, but as most of their books have, a nice description on how to identify it. It does seperate out the different types of corals, such as brain coral, then different subspecies (depressed, common, sharp hilled) but NO good pictures. It tells depth circumference and valley, color, nice descriptions. It does have some black & white photos of coral, but it really does not help much.

This is the ideal compact book for any diver or snorkeller travelling to the Caribbean who has any interest in the natural history of the area. Eugene Kaplan was for many years the director of the Hofstra University Marine Lab and the book reflects both his decades of field experience and his natural enthusiasm and ability to teach. His other book "Seashores" is the ideal companion.

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