

Birds of Aruba, Bonaire, and Curaçao Named “Outstanding Academic Title of 2017” by *Choice*

Ithaca, NY—Cornell University Press is pleased to announce the selection of *Birds of Aruba, Bonaire, and Curaçao: A Site and Field Guide* as “Outstanding Academic Title of 2017” by *Choice*, a publishing unit of the Association of College & Research Libraries, a division of the American Library Association.

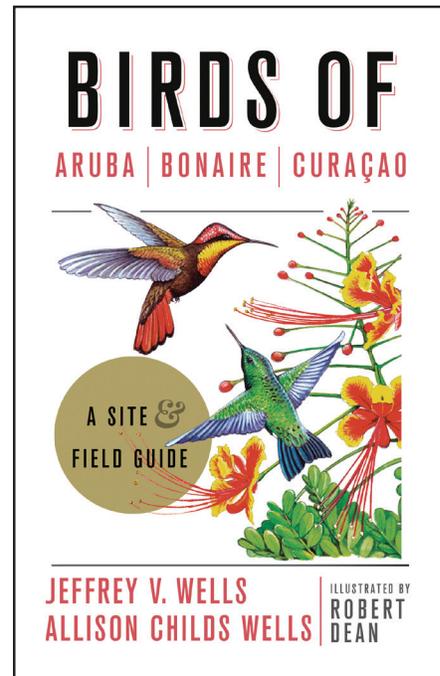
Birds of Aruba, Bonaire, and Curaçao is the essential guide for anyone traveling to the Dutch Caribbean. This book showcases the more than 280 species seen on Aruba, Bonaire, and Curaçao. With famous white sand beaches and coral reefs to hidden watering holes to the majestic national parks, these alluring islands are among the most visited places in the Caribbean.

The ABC islands, as they are sometimes called, host an unusual mix of bird species from South America and the Caribbean as well as migrants from North America, making them a popular birding destination for visitors from the U.S., Europe, and South America.

“We are honored to have received this distinction for the book that represents many years of research and a very special part of our lives,” say the authors, Jeff and Allison Wells. “The team at Cornell University Press and Zonatropical played important roles, taking a wealth of material and packaging it into a beautiful and compelling work. We are so pleased with the result.”

Only about 10 percent of the 6,000 books reviewed by *Choice* each year are selected for the distinction. This prestigious list, known until 2000 as “Outstanding Academic Books,” reflects the best in scholarly titles reviewed by *Choice* and brings with it the extraordinary recognition of the academic library community. *Choice* editors base their selections on the reviewer’s evaluation of the work and apply criteria including overall excellence in presentation and scholarship, importance relative to other literature in the field, and originality or uniqueness of treatment.

The book’s colorful introductory sections provide readers with a brief natural history of the islands, detailing the geography, geology, and general ecology of each. A detailed site guide directs visitors to the best birding spots with clear, easy-to-read maps. The identification section is arranged in classic field guide format and offers vivid descriptions of each bird, along with tips on how to identify them by sight and sound. The accounts also include current status and seasonality, if relevant, and common names in English, Dutch, and Papiamentu, often inspired by the unique voices of the birds, such as the “chibichibi” (Bananaquit) and “choco” (Burrowing Owl). The accompanying color plates feature the beautiful work of illustrator Robert Dean. The final section, on conservation, raises awareness about threats facing the birds and the habitats on which they rely and summarizes conservation initiatives and needs, offering recommendations for how each island can take action to protect the very nature and qualities that their tourism economy relies upon.



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