FIELD GUIDE TO THE WILDLIFE OF COSTA RICA. By Carrol L. Henderson. Illustrations by Steve Adams. Univ. of Texas Press, Austin. 2002: 539 pp., numerous color photographs and line drawings. $39.95 (paperback).—The *Field guide to the wildlife of Costa Rica* is a beautifully illustrated reference to the fauna of Costa Rica. The introduction includes sections on “Historical Perspective,” “Geography,” “Biogeography,” “Endemic Species,” “Major Biological Zones,” and “Wildlife Overview and Species Coverage.” The introductory material is extensive, and goes beyond the scope of a general field guide. For example, the history section includes information about a number of individuals and organizations that have been instrumental in Costa Rican research, the establishment of educational organizations in tropical biology, the preservation of Costa Rican forests and wildlife, and the importance of nature tourism. The section on major biological zones includes a diagram of where each zone is found, illustrative photographs of the habitat, and a description of the habitat types and locations. The author also includes information about how elevation affects species diversity and climate and a description of each of the elevational zones.

The fauna of Costa Rica is divided into the following groupings: “Butterflies and Moths,” “Other Invertebrates,” “Amphibians,” “Reptiles,” “Birds,” and “Mammals.” Within each species account is the common, scientific, and Costa Rican names where available; the size and description of the species; the geographic and elevational ranges; a description of the organisms and some information on its natural history; and a location map. For the reptiles, birds, and mammals, the author also includes information on his own sightings of the species during his trips to Costa Rica. The species described also are illustrated by stunning photographs. The author recognizes that he covers only a fraction of all the species found in Costa Rica. For example, he covers only 24 species of butterflies and moths, which represents only a very small percentage of the more than 9,000 Costa Rican species.

An extensive glossary will be useful to readers who are not familiar with many of the biological and local terms used in the text. After the glossary, the author includes several appendices, which cover conservation organizations and field stations, sites included in distribution maps, wildlife vocalization resources, and a checklist for a Costa Rican trip.