Peru and the Amazon Rain Forest


Comiskey, J.A., & Dallmeier, F. (Eds.). Forest Biodiversity in North, Central and South America, and the Caribbean. CRC Press, 1998. The second of two high-level, data-rich volumes documenting the latest findings on forest biodiversity. Hardcover, 792 pgs.


Emmons, L., & Feer, F. **Neotropical Rainforest Mammals.** University of Chicago Press, 1997. Illustrated field guide to 226 species, with 195 maps showing the distribution and geographic range of each. Includes info on identifying characteristics, similar species, vocalizations, behavior, natural history, geographic range, conservation status and more. Paperback, 396 pgs.


Gentry, Alwyn H. **A Field Guide to the Families and Genera of Woody Plants of Northwest South America.** University of Chicago Press, 1996. One of the world's top experts on tropical plants, Gentry filled this guide with illustrations and step-by-step keys to identification, focusing on characters that are present year-round, including bark, leaves and odor. Paperback, 920 pgs.


Hecht, S.B., & Cockburn, A. **The Fate of the Forest: Developers, Destroyers, and Defenders of the Amazon.** University of Chicago Press, 2011. Explores the role of humans in destroying, and saving, this vast, forested region. Centers on Chico Mendes, the labor and environmental organizer assassinated after successful confrontations with big ranchers. Paperback, 408 pgs.


Plotkin, Mark. Tales of a Shaman's Apprentice. Penguin Books, 1994. An ethnobotanist recounts his time with Amazonian shamans, telling of rituals, curare (lethal arrow poison) and the hallucinogenic snuff that permits communication with the spirit world. Shares his concern for the erosion of our environment and the culture of native peoples. Paperback, 328 pgs.


Schulenberg, T.S., Stotz, D.F., Lane, D.F, O’Neill, J.P. *Birds of Peru*. Princeton University Press, 2010. This comprehensive field guide features every one of Peru's 1,817 bird species and shows the distinct plumages of each in high-quality color plates opposite concise descriptions and distribution maps, making this book easier to use in the field. Paperback, 664 pgs.


Whitaker, Robert. *The Mapmaker's Wife*. Delta, 2004. An 18th century expedition to South America is launched by French scientists, one of whom falls in love with a Peruvian woman. This true story recounts the woman’s quest to find her husband in the jungle, after a 20-year separation. Her survival in the Amazon remains unprecedented. Paperback, 353 pgs.