



Ecological and Behavioral Methods for the Study of Bats.

Author(s): Olaf R. P. Bininda-Emonds

Source: *The Quarterly Review of Biology*, Vol. 86, No. 1 (March 2011), pp. 63-64

Published by: [The University of Chicago Press](http://www.press.uchicago.edu)

Stable URL: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/10.1086/658461>

Accessed: 30/06/2011 15:12

Your use of the JSTOR archive indicates your acceptance of JSTOR's Terms and Conditions of Use, available at <http://www.jstor.org/page/info/about/policies/terms.jsp>. JSTOR's Terms and Conditions of Use provides, in part, that unless you have obtained prior permission, you may not download an entire issue of a journal or multiple copies of articles, and you may use content in the JSTOR archive only for your personal, non-commercial use.

Please contact the publisher regarding any further use of this work. Publisher contact information may be obtained at <http://www.jstor.org/action/showPublisher?publisherCode=ucpress>.

Each copy of any part of a JSTOR transmission must contain the same copyright notice that appears on the screen or printed page of such transmission.

JSTOR is a not-for-profit service that helps scholars, researchers, and students discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content in a trusted digital archive. We use information technology and tools to increase productivity and facilitate new forms of scholarship. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.



The University of Chicago Press is collaborating with JSTOR to digitize, preserve and extend access to *The Quarterly Review of Biology*.

EXTREME BIRDS: THE WORLD'S MOST EXTRAORDINARY AND BIZARRE BIRDS.

By Dominic Couzens. *Buffalo (New York): Firefly Books.* \$45.00. 287 p.; ill.; index. ISBN: 978-155407-423-5. 2008.

This is a beautifully illustrated account of over 130 species of birds and their associated morphologies and behaviors. Whether intended or not, the species chosen, due to their possession of a most "extreme" attribute compared to their evolutionary kin, span the breadth of avian diversity from a taxonomic perspective. Concurrently, through exquisite photographs of each species, readers gain a visual glimpse into the amazing diversity of bird morphologies and behaviors. Couzens couples each species image with a brief natural history account, focusing on one aspect of that species that fulfills the "most extreme" criterion used as the theme of the book. Although these species accounts are presented in a coffee-table book format, the knowledge relayed by the author is surprisingly current with respect to the scientific literature. As a professor of two different ornithology courses, I gleaned many pieces of new information on bird behavior and ecology that will make great fodder for various lecture topics. Overall, *Extreme Birds* provides a wonderful tribute to the astounding lifestyles encompassed by the world's birds through its fine photography combined with knowledgeable accounts of unique snippets of avian natural history and ecology.

MUIR EATON, *Biology, Drake University, Des Moines, Iowa*

BIRDS OF BORNEO: BRUNEI, SABAH, SARAWAK, AND KALIMANTAN. *Princeton Field Guides.*

By Susan Myers. *Princeton (New Jersey): Princeton University Press.* \$29.95 (paper). 272 p.; ill.; index. ISBN: 978-0-691-14350-7. 2009.

For years, the only available bird field guide that covered Borneo was MacKinnon and Phillipps's classic *A Field Guide to the Birds of Borneo, Sumatra, Java, and Bali, the Greater Sunda Islands* (1993. Oxford (UK): Oxford University Press), which has been out of print and difficult to purchase. This new volume by Susan Myers, who has over 15 years of experience with Bornean and Southeast Asian birds, fills this empty niche well. The style and layout of this book is similar to several other volumes of the popular Princeton Field Guides series. This publication is paperback, lightweight, and will take up little space in a field pack or luggage. The text is concise and to the point. Bolded sections quickly point readers to specific bullets of information, such as identification, similar species, behavior, voice, range and status, and breeding. The taxonomy largely follows Rob-

son's *Guide to the Birds of Southeast Asia: Thailand, Peninsular Malaysia, Singapore, Myanmar, Laos, Vietnam, Cambodia* (2000. Princeton (NJ): Princeton University Press), but has been updated with recent research. Two to three species are illustrated and described per page. Every species of bird recorded in Borneo is illustrated, including winter residents, passage migrants, and vagrants. When species have multiple distinctive plumages, such as sexual dimorphism, seasonality, distinctive subspecies, and juvenile plumages, they are illustrated. Readers may recognize many of the images, as many originally appeared in Robson's volume. Exceptions are Bornean endemic species (as Borneo was not covered in that work), and field-identifiable Bornean subspecies, which were prepared specifically for this volume. Sixteen different illustrators contributed to the book; accordingly, the images vary slightly in style from page to page, and in some cases within a page. The range maps are accurate, and a vast improvement over the text-based range descriptions in previous treatments of Bornean birds. Readers seeking further information may also consider the recently published Phillipps's *Field Guide to the Birds of Borneo: Sabah, Sarawak, Brunei and Kalimantan* (2010. Oxford (UK): John Beaufoy Publishing), and the massive and informative *Birds of Borneo* (a desk reference) by Smythies and Davidson (1999. Borneo (Malaysia): Natural History Publications).

PETER HOSNER, *Ecology & Evolutionary Biology and Biodiversity Research Center, University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas*

ECOLOGICAL AND BEHAVIORAL METHODS FOR THE STUDY OF BATS. *Second Edition.*

Edited by Thomas H. Kunz and Stuart Parsons. *Baltimore (Maryland): Johns Hopkins University Press.* \$100.00. xvii + 901 p.; ill.; index. ISBN: 978-0-8018-9147-2. 2009.

For a group of such comparatively tiny animals, the second edition of *Ecological and Behavioral Methods for the Study of Bats* is a mammoth. Checking in at just over 900 pages, it is nearly double the size of the first edition that was published some 20 years ago. Indeed, the current edition builds on the previous one by updating the topics discussed there as well as supplementing them with new chapters that cover the important developments in the intervening time (think genetics). Thus, there are 14 new chapters, including one that describes techniques to promote both bat conservation and public outreach. The latter in particular is an important consideration for this often maligned and frequently misunderstood group. Altogether, Thomas Kunz together with his new co-

editor Stuart Parsons have done an excellent job balancing old and new, and traditional with cutting edge to produce an authoritative volume.

And the book certainly is authoritative, covering virtually all aspects of bat biology that one could imagine. Arranged into 11 parts, each containing numerous related chapters, there are contributions ranging from morphological analyses to monitoring and tracking to the analysis of a diverse suite of substances, to name but three. The topics and chapters will also appeal variously to the wide variety of bat enthusiasts, be they amateur bat aficionados, museum workers and curators, zookeepers, or senior research scientists. There is simply something here for everyone.

What is somewhat hidden in this book is that it has the potential to expand beyond its bat-centered audience to really include "everyone." Many of the chapters, although focused on bats, are excellent descriptions of diverse ecological and behavioral methods that could easily be applied to other organismal groups. Two particularly good examples here are the chapters on phylogenetic tools (Jones and Teeling) and morphometrics (Bogdanowicz). The former chapter doubles as a wonderful summary of phylogenetic comparative methods in general, whereas the latter does the same for morphometrics while simultaneously providing an invaluable list of diverse computer programs for morphometric analysis in the broadest sense. Other chapters contain similarly useful, global resources. In short, although bat biologists will love this book, and for good reason, many other biologists should as well.

OLAF R. P. BININDA-ÉMONDS, *Institut für Biologie und Umweltwissenschaften (IBU), Carl von Ossietzky Universität, Oldenburg, Germany*

THE EPONYM DICTIONARY OF MAMMALS.

By Bo Beolens, Michael Watkins, and Michael Grayson. Baltimore (Maryland): Johns Hopkins University Press. \$65.00. xv + 574 p.; ill.; no index. ISBN: 978-0-8010-9304-9. 2009.

I suspect that there are few people interested in picking up a dictionary for "fun" reading. *The Eponym Dictionary of Mammals* should be an exception, however. Although it is intended as a reference for professionals and students of mammalogy, it will also serve as an enjoyable, nontechnical read for all curious naturalists or anyone interested in mammals. You can check out your favorite species or just thumb through for a treasure trove of fun facts and fascinating folks.

In a brief, four-page introduction, the authors discuss their standard format of entries, including all mammalian species named for an individual, common and scientific names, descriptor, and date described. Each biography also includes

other nonmammalian taxa named for the person. All mammalian species extant within the past 500 years are considered—a reasonable decision to avoid fossil material—in the 2351 entries that honor 1388 people. Perusing page-by-page, well-known American mammalogists past and present are there, several with multiple species named for them. For example, C. Hart Merriam, the first president of the American Society of Mammalogists, has ten named mammalian taxa. J. A. Allen, curator of mammals at the American Museum of Natural History from 1885 until 1921, is associated with 11 species. Top honors, however, go to American naturalist M. R. Oldfield Thomas (1858-1929) with 29 mammalian taxa carrying his name; the German naturalist Wilhelm K. H. Peters (1815-1883) is honored with 23 mammalian taxa. Of equal interest are the supposedly eponymous species that in actuality are not named for a person. In fact, there are 62 species named for indigenous tribes, fictional characters, biblical references, or from classical mythology. For example, the Chachalero viscacha rat is named for an Argentine musical group. For a few species, the historical background is shrouded and entries are based on the author's best guess, and in ten cases the eponyms remain unresolved.

Kudos to Beolens et al. for a unique contribution to the mammalian literature that provides a rare combination of useful and interesting information that is also highly enjoyable reading. If any volume typifies the cliché "don't judge a book by its cover" (or title) this is it. At first blush, it suggests an appeal to a rather narrow range of academics—and given its appendixes of scientific and vernacular eponymous names, and short bibliographies, it meets the needs of scholars. But this volume will also appeal to anyone interested not only in nomenclature, but the stories and history behind the names that are forever immortalized—regardless of how obscure the species.

GEORGE A. FELDHAMER, *Zoology, Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, Illinois*

MAMMALS OF NORTH AMERICA. *Second Edition. Princeton Field Guides.*

By Roland W. Kays and Don E. Wilson. Princeton (New Jersey): Princeton University Press. \$45.00 (hardcover); \$19.95 (paper). 248 p. + 4 pl.; ill.; index. ISBN: 978-0-691-14278-4 (hc); 978-0-691-14092-6 (pb). 2009.

With the obvious exception of "charismatic megafauna" such as bison or bears, many mammalian species are small, cryptic, and fairly nondescript. In fact, about 62% of living mammalian species worldwide are rodents and bats. For many bats, mice, and shrews, species identification with any