

The Kenneth E. Behring Family Hall of Mammals

Annotated Resource List

A select list of books and Web sites covering every continent's mammalian fauna has been assembled for educators. Notes on content, photos and illustrations, references, reading level, and the special strengths and weaknesses of each resource are provided.



Smithsonian Institution Press

- *Mammal Species of the World: A Taxonomic and Geographic Reference, 2nd edition (Smithsonian Series in Comparative Evolutionary Biology)*

Wilson DE and Reeder D, Smithsonian Institution Press, 1993

This book provides an authoritative yet non-dogmatic account of the classification of all the world's species of mammals. Included with the species accounts are common names and scientific synonyms, geographic distribution, references to the first published accounts, and the most relevant literature on taxonomy. This is the bible for naming and classifying every mammal species. An asset to the researcher, the book is also a useful reference for anyone teaching about mammals, but it is not meant for the younger reader.

- *Common Names of Mammals of the World*

Wilson DE and Cole FR, Smithsonian Institution Press, 2000

Ever wonder about all the different common names given to the same type of mammal, and which one to use? Is the little ground squirrel a gopher, striped gopher, or a thirteen-lined ground squirrel; is the big cat a cougar, puma, mountain lion, or catamount? *Common Names* reduces the confusing array of choices to one standard common name for every species.

- *North American Tree Squirrels*

Steele MA and Koprowski JL, Smithsonian Institution Press, 2001

Two research biologists comprehensively describe tree squirrel natural history. Based on researching and observing two well-known species of eastern squirrels over a 20 year period this book illuminates the lives of fox squirrels and eastern gray squirrels. These two tree squirrels are also compared and contrasted with the rest of the squirrel family. Through the pages of this book, squirrels will be seen in a new light.

- *Bats*

Richardson P, Smithsonian Institution Press, 2002

Phil Richardson brings 30 years of bat research to the pages of this fascinating book. Bats account for nearly one in every five species of mammals, yet people have so many misconceptions and fears about them. This book removes the misconceptions and draws back the curtains on some of the most remarkable flying mammals. 100 color photographs show bats making their way in the world—a journey worth making. Intended for a general audience, but the photographs are a treasure for any age group.

- *Raccoons, A Natural History*

Zeveloff SI, Smithsonian Institution Press, 2002

As wildlife continues to invade the urban landscape, even city-dwelling folks are coming in contact with coyotes, opossums, foxes, groundhogs, raccoons, and more.

After reading *Raccoons*, one understands how this most adaptable of the carnivores is suited to life in the woods and city alike. Written with the general reader in mind, the book brings an understanding to a species with human like hands.

General Texts

- *The Encyclopedia of Mammals*

Macdonald D., Andromeda Oxford Limited, 2001

With photos and illustrations this book captures all the essential characteristics of mammals, and is especially good at depicting the diversity of mammalian behaviors within an evolutionary perspective. This is perhaps the best combination of photographs and illustrations for mammals of the world. There are well written overviews for each order and family, and in-depth treatments of representative species. A Linnean styled species list, index, glossary, general references, and maps round out the volume. Readers at every level will appreciate this book.

- *Walker's Mammals of the World, 6th edition*

Nowak R.M., Johns Hopkins University Press, 1999

This book has long been the standard reference for all the world's mammal species. Detailed accounts are given for each and every species' natural history, from weights and measures to diet, reproduction, habitat, and conservation status. Writing is more academic in style, and reading text is the only mode available for digesting facts and concepts about mammals, so this book will appeal to a mature or advanced audience.

- *The Life of Mammals*

Attenborough D, Consumer Publishing, 2002

Based on the BBC series by the same title the book plumbs the depths of what it means to be mammalian. Using interesting mammal cases, both the unity and diversity of mammals is explored. Good photographs and a very readable writing style make this book a great companion to more comprehensive or academic volumes. Middle and high school age students will enjoy lessons learned from this book.

- *Mammal Evolution, an illustrated guide*

Savage R.J.G. and Long M.R., Facts on File and The British Museum, 1986

After glimpsing the fantastic evolutionary history of mammals through this book, one may wonder why dinosaurs get so much attention. Savage and Long combine evidence for past mammalian life with wonderful color illustrations that bring the past alive. The images will appeal to all ages, but the text is intended for a more mature audience.

- *Mammalogy, 4th edition*

Vaughan T.A., Ryan, J.M. and Czaplewski N.J., Saunders, 2000

In use as a college textbook for many years, this book is particularly valuable for the detailed scientific illustrations. Those images depict details of anatomy not found in most other books on the subject. This book is a great reference to support any collection of mammal skulls and skeletons.

- ***An Introduction to Behavioural Ecology 3rd edition***

Krebs J and Davis N, Blackwell Scientific Publications, 1993

The basic relationships between behavior and the forces of nature that shape the social arrangements of animals are explained. This book makes sense of the ways animals have evolved different behaviors as adaptations within different ecological contexts. The principles covered in this book are fundamental to understanding patterns of behavior.

- ***Small Mammals***
(Nature Detective)

Ganeri A and Parsons J, Franklin Watts, Inc., 1993

More familiar small mammals such as squirrels, rabbits, bats, and mice are discussed in terms of their distinguishing characteristics and all aspects of their natural lives. This book invites the reader to participate in the enjoyment of observing small mammals through tracking, observing other clues, and by making observations. Investigation into the world of small mammals covers such commonly found animals as, and more. The target audience is 10 - 12 year old readers.



Africa

- ***East African Mammals: An Atlas of Evolution in Africa***

Vol. 1

Vol. 2, Part A: Insectivores and Bats

Vol. 2, Part B: Hares and Rodents

Vol. 3, Part A: Carnivores

Vol. 3, Part B: Large Mammals

Vol. 3, Part C: Bovids

Vol. 3, Part D: Bovids

Kingdon, J, University of Chicago Press

The seven volume set represents Jonathan Kingdon's able hand at both writing and illustrating. Illustrations capture anatomical details, such as musculature and the animated postures that mammals use to communicate. Zoogeography, evolutionary

history, and the lives of African mammals are portrayed in this series as in no other work. This is fascinating reading for adults accompanied by illustrations for everyone.

- ***The Kingdon Field Guide to African Mammals***

Kingdon J, Academic Press Ltd., 1997

By including 1,100 species, 480 color illustrations and 280 maps, this guide is not only authoritative it is also very attractive. Overviews are given for each of the major groups, and more detailed information is provided for each species, such as identifying characteristics, ecology, distribution, and conservation status. Well written and superbly illustrated, this book is essential wherever there is shelf space for African mammals.

- ***The Safari Companion: A Guide to Watching African Mammals Including Hoofed Mammals, Carnivores and Primates***

Estes R, Otte D (drawings) and Fuller KS (foreward), Chelsea Green Publishing Company, 1999

This work goes beyond the usual genre of field guides that focus on identification and distribution. The contexts for mammal behaviors are explained, which brings a much greater appreciation for the observations that non-specialists make. The book brings the behavioral choreography of mammals to life. The book was written with the general public in mind.

- ***A Field Guide to the Mammals of Africa, including Madagascar***

Haltenorth T and Diller H, William Collins Sons & Company Ltd., 1980 (English edition)

By including Madagascar, this guide goes beyond most others. While species distribution maps are small and without much detail, the book packs a lot of information into a portable format--350 color illustrations, 245 distribution maps, bibliography, index of scientific names, index of common names, species range maps, and synopsis of the natural history of each mammal. Some of the black and white plates are particularly useful, as the one comparing all the configurations of horns in gazelles. The larger groups of mammals are covered systematically and in a style that can be read by the general public.

- ***Cheetahs of the Serengeti Plains: Group Living in an Asocial Species***

Caro TM, University of Chicago, 1994

The book takes an in-depth look at the behavior and ecology of the cheetah, a big cat like none other in its behavior and physical characteristics. Caro uses ten years of research to make sense of cheetah social organization. We learn, for example, that not all cheetahs adopt the same strategies, and what environmental factors play roles in shaping cheetah behavior. This study nicely lays out the basic forces at play in the lives of cheetahs, and in a way that is useful to understanding basic ecological principles. The book was written with the general public in mind.



South America

- *Mammals of the Neotropics, Vol. 1*
The Northern Neotropics, Panama, Colombia, Venezuela, Guyana, Suriname, French Guiana
Eisenberg JF, University of Chicago Press, 1989
- *Mammals of the Neotropics, Vol. 2*
The Southern Cone, Chile, Argentina, Uruguay, Paraguay
Eisenberg JF and Redford KH, University of Chicago Press, 1992
- *Mammals of the Neotropics, Vol. 3*
The Central Neotropics, Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia, Brazil
Eisenberg JF and Redford KH, University of Chicago Press, 1999

Together these three volumes remain the most comprehensive and current depiction of South American mammals. Each volume provides overviews on topics ranging from biogeography and habitat types, to speciation, faunal affinities, and community ecology and human impacts. Species are given concise yet rich treatments, and each book includes beautiful color illustrations, indices of both scientific and common names, species range maps, and references. Anyone interested in the mammals of South America should consider shelf space for this series. Written with the academic in mind, the illustrations are useful for any age group.

- *Neotropical Rainforest Mammals*
A Field Guide, 2nd edition
Emmons LH (text), Feer F (illustrations), University of Chicago Press, 1997
A veteran of mammal studies in South America, Louise Emmons has produced an authoritative guide on mammals of the rainforests. The writing is concise, yet packed with useful information, such as the variation each species exhibits, their sounds and natural history, geographic distribution, conservation status, local names, and references. This is a scholarly book written in a very readable style, which should be appealing to the general public.
- *Sounds of Neotropical Rainforest Mammals: An Audio Field Guide. 2 CDs.*
Emmons LH, Whitney BM & Ross DL, Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology, 1999
This CD is a companion to the field guide above. This is a great tool for learning to identify mammals through sounds, and get the meanings they convey.

- *A Neotropical Companion: An Introduction to the Animals, Plants, and Ecosystems of the New World Tropics*

Kricher J, Princeton University Press, 1999

This comprehensive work sets the context for the hundreds of mammals that inhabit the New World tropics. Topics covered range from biodiversity and evolution to human ecology and deforestation. The book is both scholarly and accessible, and should be everyone's guide to the Neotropics. It was written with a general public in mind.



North America

- *The Smithsonian Book of North American Mammals*

Wilson DE and Ruff S (editors), Smithsonian Institution Press, 1999

Great writing and photographs, and consistent approaches to the natural history of each species characterize this book. In addition to the components we come to expect, such as range maps, references, a glossary, and scientific and common name indices, this book lists subspecies, alternate common names, and conservation status.

- *Mammals of North America*
Princeton Field Guides

Kays RW and Wilson DE, Princeton University Press, 2002

Not only is this the most current guide on North American mammals, it is also a reliable account of the taxonomy of 442 species. This is a clean and efficient guide to the identification of mammals. In this sense the authors did not overreach their objectives and so produced a book that is exceptionally easy to use, concise, and sized to fit into a side pocket of a daypack. Unexpected bonuses include attractive watercolors for nearly every species, brief summaries of mammal anatomy and measurements, and mammal relationships, and recommended books and Internet sites. This book was written with a general audience in mind.



Australia

- ***Mammals of Australia***

Strahan R (editor), Smithsonian Institution Press, 1995

A visual delight as well as a seriously comprehensive work, this book is worthy of shelf space. Taxonomic treatments are at every level, from overviews of orders, families, and genera, to comprehensive species-level descriptions. Range maps and some illustrations enhance photos for nearly every species. References are included for each species. This academic book is written with the public in mind.

- ***A Field Guide to the Mammals of Australia***

Menkhorst P and Night F, Oxford University Press, 2000

The attractive illustrations should capture the interest of any young person. This guide has all the elements needed to identify Australia's marsupial fauna and to sustain interest in the isolated continent's fascinating collection of the mammals. Beyond the color plates there are range maps for each species, black and white illustrations, a glossary, index, and suggestions for further reading. Middle school students could learn the geography of Australia by studying Australia's original species.

- ***Kangaroos***

Biology of the Largest Marsupials

Dawson TJ, Comstock Publishing Associates, 1995

Every aspect of the natural history of kangaroos is covered in this book, including social organization and population structure, reproduction and behavior, life history, and kangaroo and human interactions. Further readings are suggested, too. This is a very competent work to be read by high school age and older individuals with an interest in the forces that have shaped, and continue to shape the largest pouched mammals.

- ***Possums: The Brushtails, Ringtails, and the Greater Glider***
(Australian Natural History Series)

Kerle A (text) and Saunders V (illus.), New South Wales University Press Ltd, 2001

This book takes an in-depth look at thirteen large, tree-climbing species of possum. Learning about these South Pacific species gives one a better appreciation for North America's lone species, the Virginia opossum.