

## Coral Reef Fishes: Indo-Pacific and Caribbean – Revised Edition

By E. Lieske and R. Myers. 2002. Princeton University Press, 41 William Street, Princeton, New Jersey. 400 pages. U.S. \$24.95.

The vast geographical range of the globe's coral reefs and the diversity of their fish species prove challenging for writers of field guides. Nevertheless, Ewald Lieske and Robert Myers have produced not only an excellent guide to reef fishes of the Indo-Pacific and Caribbean, but also a book that is comprehensive and well organized into a single compact volume.

The guide consists of an introduction, colour plates and descriptions of species, and indexes. The introduction defines the book's application and teaches a mini biology lesson. It educates the reader about the structure and ecology of the coral reef environment, and touches on adaptations and mechanisms employed by fish for survival. The section dealing with conservation of reef fishes was pleasing to see. However, to further impress the global responsibility for marine conservation upon all, from the average tourist to the exploitive industries, I would like future editions to include the effects of global warming on the marine environment. Everyone has a role to play in reducing greenhouse gas emissions as they negatively impact upon the Great Ocean Conveyor (also called the thermohaline circulation) that in turn risks causing catastrophic effects on both global climate and sensitive marine ecosystems.

This guidebook achieves the amazing feat of covering more than two thousand species in one small book, providing excellent coverage of the Indo-Pacific and good coverage for the Caribbean. Although the book includes most species a reef visitor could encounter, it is not all-inclusive. For instance, there are over 400 documented species of sharks worldwide, including oceanic varieties. Requiem sharks alone account for 48 species that dominate the tropical shark fauna. This book describes only 32 species of sharks, of which 13 are requiem sharks. However, those described are common shark species found in the Indo-Pacific and Caribbean that either live or spend part of their time in the reef environment.

This guidebook is separated into two sections, one for the Indo-Pacific and the other for the Caribbean.

Species within each section are grouped by family. There are also two valuable indexes at the end of the book, one of scientific names and the second of common names.

The provision of the scientific (Latin) names as well as common names facilitates the book's use by amateurs and professionals alike. However, the danger with using common names is that they may differ from region to region. Nomenclature is also not without controversy, sometimes resulting in the splintering of species or classification of new species. However, in this guide, species identification is quite up-to-date and accurate.

The sketched illustrations are clear and detailed and sometimes include plates of juveniles. They are remarkably accurate, capturing the animal's true colours as seen in their particular underwater habitat. Handy pointers identifying key physical characteristics also help with quick species identification, although I feel they could be more distinct. Descriptions of each species are brief but concise. Size and physical descriptions (for both sexes where applicable) are provided, as well as their ecology, distinctive behaviours, concentrations and range.

The only major flaw in this revised edition is the omission of maps. References on pages six and seven erroneously refer the reader to maps of zoogeographical regions on the inside front and back covers. Maps are needed for readers to appreciate the descriptions of these regions in the introduction. More importantly, they are absolutely vital for confirming a species' range according to the descriptions provided throughout the guide.

Likely its most valuable feature, this book's small size allows for it to be carried from one dive site to another and easily transported in luggage. However, its pages are not waterproof. If used on-site, it could be easily water-damaged. So it should be protected from the elements and left aboard ship for pre- and post-dive referencing.

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## Grizzly Heart: Living Without Fear Among the Brown Bears of Kamchatka

By C. Russell and M. Enns. 2003. Random Hoe Publisher. 357 pages. \$24 Paperback.

This book is a sensation. It will change how we view wildlife, and it will affect management and conservation of large wildlife in revolutionary terms. The book is also sensational since it is written by non-scientists, a naturalist and an artist, with a life-long interest and devotion to wildlife revolutionizing narrow scientific tunnel views. Embarrassing enough for

the "free" western wildlife research world, the authors had to go as far as Kamchatka in Russian Far East to implement their view that large mammals such as Grizzly Bears are not a major threat to humans. Instead, all over the world humans threaten wildlife. Why was this work carried out in Kamchatka? Simply, because all over North America and elsewhere, the experiment of the authors was not really given a chance, neither funded nor allowed to be carried out. For

instance, in North America, it is widely implemented by governmental agencies research scientists. The public believe that large predator mammals like Grizzly Bears are generally dangerous to humans; thus, they need to be controlled. This is why hunting bears is still widely accepted and why hunting predators is seen as "heroic" by the general public. However, as the authors show so impressively, Grizzly Bears can be petted and they can live well in proximity to humans, if they are treated and respected correctly. The authors show in their book that this claim is well backed up by historical facts on how Russian natives lived together with bears for over thousands of years.

Despite the well-accepted work by many zoos and circuses, by Konrad Lorenz (raising geese and ravens), J. Goodall and B. Galdikas (raising monkeys), B. Kilham and Ed Gray (raising Black Bear orphans), Terry D. DeBruyn (living closely with bears) and others, and mostly to cater to the powerful hunting (resource) lobby, this aspect of wild bear biology brought forward by the authors was never really considered, nor really allowed in classical wildlife management circles. It was an outstanding achievement of the Canadian authors to go to Russia as early as 1996; only few other western people acknowledged the opening political situation and had the vision to

work and to publish in an area as remote and hidden as Kamchatka (see for instance the work by Emma Wilson and also by Ullrich Wannhoff). Using their own small plane to overcome transportation problems in remote Kamchatka is another outstanding aspect of this book. The real punch line comes when the authors basically stole three orphaned bear cubs from a local zoo and hand-raised them in a remote nature reserve, showing that such "predatory" animals can do well among humans and adjust back to nature easily.

Obviously, anti-poaching action, bear-talk and some Russian realities are other interesting themes of this book. As a reader, I am curious to see the paintings by M. Enns, which are so often mentioned in the text but not part of this publication. The fact that Russia allowed the authors to carry out their experiment over several years shows how wrong an opinionated Western World can be in its attitude and science: strict and narrow views are usually misleading, and instead, an open-minded diversity of approaches is required to study wildlife in a more meaningful way. For additional project information see the authors' website <http://www.cloudline.org/>.

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## Handbook of Birds of the World. Volume 8: Broadbills to Tapaculos

Edited by Josep del Hoyo, Andrew Elliott, and Jordi Sargatal  
2003. Lynx Edicions, Barcelona, Spain. 850 pages. U.S. \$195. Cloth.

This volume of the *Handbook of Birds of the World* covers Broadbills, Asities, Pittas, Ovenbirds, Woodcreepers, Typical Antbirds, Ground-antbirds, Gnat-eaters, and Tapaculos; in all just over 670 species. These include some of the world's most wildly coloured birds, the pitas, and some of the most uniform little brown birds such as the horneros. Like its predecessors this volume has great photographs and artwork, current distribution maps and comprehensive text. The editors are continuing to maintain their uniform, high standard.

With this volume the Birds of the World project has turned more than one corner. First, it is halfway through its allotted task, having covered slightly over half of the approximately 200 families of birds in the world. Second, it has finally reached the passerines. This is the last order of birds out of about 30 orders, and this will fill the remaining volumes. It includes close to half the known species. The biggest change is in the nature of the birds themselves. In the past it has dealt with birds that are relatively well known. For example, a lovely drawing of the Northern Pintail (*Anas acuta* in volume 1) can be found in Nebumum's Egyptian tomb from 3500 years ago. It is a widespread and uniform species (there are only two tiny populations of subspecies on remote islands) and has lived

close to developed nations for millennia. The tapaculos, by contrast, live in remote jungles that are rarely visited by scientists or even informed travelers. They are frustratingly hard to observe and often difficult to identify. While the indigenous folks know their home turf, they have never applied the scientific discipline needed to separate subspecies or closely related species.

With this in mind I have been keenly aware that this volume represents the contemporary "bible." I looked carefully at the current state of taxonomy compared to the species accounts. While I think this volume is current I did find several points of confusion. First there is no great consistency in the English names, or even in the alternative names. Second, the splits (for in tropical small bird biology this is the trend) made pre-1997 are included. Post-1997 the record is less clear. I took a sampling of 50 species and found that the English name and scientific names were consistent with other published literature for over three quarters of the species. About 15% the birds were given as sub-species, rather than full species. For the remaining birds there were more significant differences. This is not a criticism of the *Handbook of Birds of the World* as much as comment on the state of the knowledge of taxonomy for species that typically live only in some Amazonian backwater or on top of a remote mountain. A good example of these problems is shown by the Orange-bellied Antwren (*Terenura sicki*) that is also known as the Alagoas Antwren. This volume of