

The authors say they have followed Wilson and Coles (*Common Names of Mammals of the World*. 2000. Smithsonian Press) version of the English names with corrections and conversion to "well-established names." Generally they do not list alternative names so an animal like the Cougar, or Mountain Lion, or Catamount only gets listed as Puma. When I used the index, being uncertain of the author's choice, I looked up Lion (*Panthera leo*) knowing that Cougar would be nearby. The most odd name I found was Sewellel, the Chinook Indian name for the Mountain Beaver. This was the first time I had seen this name although Audubon used it on his painting of *Aplodontia rufa*.

Naturally I compared the list of lemurs that I had created to that of Duff and Lawson. I was not surprised to find many that I had as sub-species had been elevated to full species. Otherwise the lists were the same except for Grey-brown Mouse Lemur (*Microcebus griseorufus*). R. M. Rasoliarison, S. M. Goodman, and J. U. Ganzhorn first described this cute, hamster-like lemur in 2000. I have since been fortunate to see this little beast in South-western Madagascar. This omis-

sion is surprising as the author's references go up to 2002, but to be fair this is a family undergoing constant change.

I was also surprised that Canada was not mentioned in the range of the Red Wolf (*Canis rufus*). John Theberge's work has shown that Algonquin wolves are closer to Red Wolves than the more common Timber Wolf (*Canis lupus*). This information is far more widely known.

For those of us that like to travel and see mammals in their native habitat this book is a good and useful guide. However, it is only a list and, although it will not resolve all taxonomic questions, it will bring clarity and order to your research and therefore it is a valuable reference book. As it is based on Wilson and Reeder's out-of-date book it is more up-to-date, but I understand a revised edition of Wilson and Reeder will be published soon – should we wait?

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Parental Behavior in Lepidosaurian and Testudinian Reptiles: A Literature Survey

Louis A. Somma, 2003. Krieger Publishing Company, Malabar, Florida. x + 184 pages, U.S.\$33.50 Cloth.

This book is exactly what it purports to be. It is a summary and exhaustive bibliography of literature on parental behaviour in lizards, snakes, amphisbaenians, tuatara and turtles. Passing reference is also made to literature on other vertebrates including dinosaurs. This book focuses exclusively on behaviour as opposed to physiological adaptations and so, while parental behaviour in some species of snakes and lizards is well known, many readers will be astonished to find turtles included. Yet Somma cites references that provide some evidence of parental behaviour for seven species of turtles.

Fifteen categories of parental behaviour are discussed including defence, thermo- and hydro-regulation, assistance during hatching and facilitated feeding. For those unfamiliar with research in this fascinating field the range and diversity of parental behaviours in these reptiles will intrigue and astonish you. Unfortunately, description and discussion of these behaviours is limited to the first 11 pages of the book. This is followed by 46 pages of tables summarizing the results and guiding the reader to literature on various topics and taxa. The remainder of the book consists of 100 pages of refer-

ences and an index to subjects and taxa. Readers should be aware that the index is inconsistent as to whether it includes references to taxa within the tables (for example, it does for *Trachemys stejnegeri malonei* but not for *Eumeces fasciatus*).

The primary purpose of the book seems to be to raise the profile of parental behaviour in non-avian reptiles and encourage further research on this understudied phenomenon. It is unfortunate that having read such an enormous amount of information on this topic, Somma does not provide more insights into its evolution and ecological ramifications but perhaps the field is too young for such a synthesis. Certainly for anyone interested in embarking on research into this topic it is an invaluable and relatively inexpensive reference. For those who are most keen on this topic, Somma has also published an addendum to the book (Somma, 2003).

Reference

Somma, L. A. 2003. Parental Behaviour in Lepidosaurians and Turtles: Source Addendum. Bulletin of the Chicago Herpetological Society 38(4): 65-76.

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Prairie Ghost: Pronghorn and Human Interaction in Early America

By Richard E. McCabe, Bart W. O'Gara, and Henry M. Reeves. 2004. 176 pages, U.S.\$29.95 Cloth.

The Pronghorn, *Antilocapra americana*, formerly called "antelope," is the "most American" of the continent's terrestrial wildlife, since it is found nowhere else. It is the world's second fastest land animal, and

perhaps the most inquisitive. Protuberant eyes allow it a nearly 360-degree field of vision. Large lungs, heart and trachea permit it to achieve great speed.

This historical look at the Pronghorn is thoroughly researched, with informative tables, extensive references, and well-chosen, sumptuous illustrations. It

delves deeply into anthropology. The Pronghorn represented fleetness, alertness, and pertinacity, and was a catalyst in the social structure and welfare of most plains tribes. It is no wonder that many place names today derive from this one species, but who would have expected 108 such instances in Arizona and 79 in Wyoming? Two detailed appendices list dates of eyewitness accounts between 1540 and 1896, and the names of the Pronghorn in each native language. Historical accounts go back to Sahagun in 1569 and Hernandez in 1651, both in Mexico. Lewis and Clark popularized it during their exploratory journey of 1804-1806, and George Ord gave the Pronghorn its binomial Latin name in 1815.

Before Europeans reached the Americas, aborigines hunted the swift-footed Pronghorn with three instruments: sling, atlatl, and bow-and-arrow. A well-conditioned, determined native could sometimes, in spite of his much slower pace, outlast and eventually tire and kill a Pronghorn. More often, stalking, pursuing, surrounding, luring, calling, impaling, ambushing, netting, driving with v-shaped fences, setting prairie fires, and making pitfalls, were the methods used to kill them for food. Pronghorn hunting required more preparation and more co-operative effort than did hunting of the larger Bison. The Pronghorn was then one of the natives' most important food sources, especially where Bison were scarce near the edge of their range. An antelope skin was thinner and lighter than that of a Bison, and thus more suitable for clothing. A native would obtain about 45000 calories from a 43-pound Pronghorn carcass.

Pronghorn bones were used as toys, rattles, awls, pipes, fishhooks and decorations. Sinew served as strings for bows, and for sewing. A skin stretched tightly over a section of hollowed tree formed a drum. Marrow was rubbed on sunburned or chapped lips and

skin. A Pronghorn fawn was used as bait on branches above a pit where an Indian patiently waited to catch a Golden Eagle for its feathers. Images of the Pronghorn were used to decorate native pottery, on the walls of caves at ten known sites, and as effigies.

Hunting became much easier after guns spread north from Mexico and guns and ammunition were obtained in trade, but this soon led to squandering of the once-precious resource by a veritable army of 5000 white hunters. From 1874 through 1877, more than 100 000 Pronghorn hides were shipped from the plains annually. As the Bison almost vanished, the Pronghorn became even more important as a food source, and their numbers dwindled as well, from about forty million to fewer than 15000 in 1910. Bereft of their two largest natural food sources, native peoples were overwhelmed, subjugated, displaced, and pauperized of their culture, identity and social options, losing much of their spirit and vitality.

Although three of the four last sections tell a grim story, dealing with the near demise, in turn, of the Bison, the people, and the Pronghorn, the book ends on a positive note with the birth of the conservation ethic. In 1887, Theodore Roosevelt convened a dinner meeting in Manhattan to launch the Boone and Crockett Club; he and the other founders had a strong affection for the Pronghorn, which eventually benefitted from the conservation ethic and philosophy of this fledgling movement.

This attractive, scholarly, modestly-priced book belongs in major libraries. It would make a perfect gift for anyone interested in history, geography, anthropology, or big game hunting on the plains.

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A Guide to the Birds of St. Helena and Ascension Island

By N. McCulloch. 2004. The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, The Lodge, Sandy, Bedfordshire, SG19 2DL Great Britain. iv + 92 pages, 11 GBP.

The booklet is intended for the visitor and has three parts. The first is an overview of island history from time immemorial to present. The second is a site guide giving where to find birds on these islands. The last part is the bird accounts.

The bird accounts cover 31 species for St. Helena and 46 for Ascension that a visitor is likely to see in a day trip around each island. Of these 11 are seabirds and 10 are shorebirds on St. Helena and 13 are seabirds and 16 shorebirds on Ascension. So only about 30 % of the island species are land birds, with most of them being introduced. There have been 41 other attempts at introduction on St. Helena and 9 on Ascension.

The account of the history is fascinating and so typical of remote islands, especially after its "discovery" by humans. This is not good bedtime reading

though. The destruction of the islands ecosystem is the usual unpleasant tale of wanton destruction misguided mistake and foolish carelessness. There have been 41 failed attempts to introduce everything from a white-eye to an ostrich to St. Helena and 9 attempts on Ascension. This includes the introduction of House Sparrows in 1986 (to be company for a ship-assisted vagrant who arrived in 1985). Will we never learn? On a happier note there are programs underway to restore habitat for around 40 species of endemic plant and 9 species of creepy crawlies (one – the Golden Sail Spider – is illustrated) as well as birds. There are also programs to reduce cats, goats and the like.

The bird finding section is typical of current field guides, portraying the bird on the left and giving information on the right. It covers 28 species. Half of these are seabirds. The remainder are land birds, almost all introduced. The English names are fairly consistent with other texts, but there are no references to alter-