

WHALES, BIRDS, and BUGS, Etc. **[Creatures Great and Small]**

The Grandest of Lives: Eye to Eye with Whales by Douglas H. Chadwick. San Francisco, CA: Sierra Club Books, 2006. Informative and entertaining account of the author's interactions with 5 different whale species.

Communicating with Orcas by Mary Getten. Charlottesville, VA :Hampton Roads Publishing Company, 2006. Whether or not this falls in the category of "Woo Woo Science" this book is full of information about *Orcinus orca* (the Killer Whale) and about *Homo sapiens* in all his arrogant ignorance. Read it, it will change the way you think.

Know Your Bird Sounds (Volumes 1 and 2) by Lang Elliot. Mechanicsburg, PA: Stackpole Books, 2004. Complete with CD's these books take the listener/reader learn to distinguish songs and different calls of 35 garden birds and 35 birds of the countryside. Outstanding.

In the Company of Crows and Ravens by John M. Marzluff and Tony Angell. New Haven, CT: Yale University, 2005. A grand overview of the human-corvid complex.

Caw of the Wild: Observations from the Secret World of Crows by Barb Kirpluk. Lincoln, NB: iUniverse, 2005. An intriguing and heartfelt documentation of the behavior of one of the most intelligent, but often reviled, bird species in North America

Why Birds Sing: A Journey into the Mystery of Bird Song by David Rothenberg. New York, NY: Basic Books, 2005. Complete with CD of birds and humans producing music together, this wonderful book addresses the question of what bird song means to both avian and human ears.

Identify Yourself: The 50 Most Common Birding Identification Challenges by Bill Thompson III, etc. New York, NY: Houghton Mifflin Company, 2005. Essential hints for beginning and intermediate birders. A highly informative, interesting and accessible addition to the birder's bookshelf.

Mind of the Raven: Investigations and Adventures with Wolf-Birds by Bernd Heinrich. New York, NY: HarperCollins Publishers, Inc, 2002. Uniting curiosity with science, a devoted raven watcher documents studies, behaviors and stories about these, the most intelligent of all birds.

Butterflies of North America by Jim P. Brock & Kenn Kaufman. New York, NY: Houghton Mifflin Company, 2000. A light weight, well organized and illustrated, field guide. Great for beginners.

Living on the Wind: Across the Hemisphere with Migratory Birds by Scott Weidensaul. New York, NY: North Point Press, 1999. Science that reads like adventure, describing the tragedies of habitat degradation and deforestation in the context of the miracle of migration.

Pete Dunne On Bird Watching by Peter Dunne. New York, NY: Houghton Mifflin Company, 2003. Recommended practices for a lifetime of bird-watching pleasure.

Red-Tails in Love - A Wildlife Drama in Central Park by Marie Winn. New York, NY: Vintage Departures, 1998. An enchanting and dramatic documentary about a pair of hawks that nest atop a Fifth Avenue apartment building.

Chasing Monarchs: Migrating with the Butterflies of Passage by Robert Michael Pyle. New York, NY: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1999. Part travelogue, part scientific study, Pyle describes the amazing journey of this long-distance migrant.

For Love of Insects by Thomas Eisner. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2005. A beautiful and compelling window into the world of insects, to which belong 80% of all animals.

Hawks in Flight by Peter Dunne, David Sibley and Clay Sutton. New York, NY: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1988. A terrific aid to identifying hawks by shape, movement, and habitat.

Birding Texas by Roland H. Wauer & Mark A. Elsonger. Guilford, CT: Globe Pequot Press, 1998. Covers the entire state, and is a great complement to the state's maps of the Great Texas Birding Coastal Trail.

How Birds Migrate by Paul Kerlinger. Mechanicsburg, PA: Stackpole Books, 1995. Instructive and engaging exploration of the mystery and variety of bird migration.

Providence in a Sparrow: Lessons from a Life Gone to the Birds by Chris Chester. New York: Anchor Books, 2004. A heartwarming and insightful memoir full of ornithological details. Beautifully done.

The Big Year: A Tale of Man, Nature and Fowl Obsession by Mark Obmascik. An amusing and empathetic report of the sometimes desperate efforts of 3 birders to list the most birds sighted in a year.

The Verb 'To Bird' - Sightings of an Avid Birder by Peter Cashwell. Highly entertaining musings of an English teacher who happens to be a rabid birder. A great read (if you like birds).

The Singing Life of Birds: the Art and Science of Listening to Birdsong. by Donald Kroodsma. Fabulous description (including a CD) of his work by a leading authority on the biology of avian vocal behavior. If you want to learn about bird song, this is a must read.

Birder's Handbook : A Field Guide to the Natural History of North American Birds by Paul Ehrlich et al. Slightly out-of-date (1988) but still extremely useful portable encyclopedia of bird behavior.

The American Bird Conservancy Guide to the 500 Most Important Bird Areas in the United States: Key Sites for Birds and Birding in All 50 States by Robert MacNeill Chipley, et al. Lists the how, why, where, and when of places to go to watch birds.

Bird Tracks & Signs: A Guide to North American Species by Mark Elbroch, et al. A thorough explanation of how to learn who was where by the signs they left behind.

Biology of the Honey Bee by Mark L. Winston. An accessible and detailed account of this essential social insect.

Insect Lives: Stories of Mystery and Romance from a Hidden World edited by Erich Hoyt and Ted Schulz. A delightful anthology of human perspectives, the fear and fascination we have for insects.

Journey to the Ants: A Story of Scientific Exploration by Bert Holldobler and Edward O Wilson. An outstanding overview and fascinating account of myrmecology.

Birds of North America by Kenn Kaufman. New York, NY: Hillstar Editions L.C. , 2000. The one field guide we *always* carry, light weight, well organized and illustrated, and fits in the pocket or back of the pants.

Field Guide to the Birds of North America, 4th edition. Washington, DC: National Geographic Society, 2002. Good field guide for another opinion, but paper a bit on the heavy side for the pocket.

A Field Guide to Western Birds, 3rd edition by Roger Tory Peterson. New York, NY: Houghton Mifflin, 1990 Great for another opinion, but maps separate from birds. Nice flexible hard cover, paper a bit on the heavy side for the pocket.

The Sibley Guide to Bird Life & Behavior National Audubon Society. New York, NY: Alfred A. Knopf, 2001 Essential reference for learning habits and needs of the different species.

Bird Life: A Guide to the Behavior and Biology of Birds by Stephen Kress. New York, NY: Golden Guide from St. Martin's Press, 1991. Excellent small reference.