

## **Review: Animal Behavior and Wildlife Conservation**

By Marco Festa-Bianchet and Marco Apollonio (Eds.)

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Marco Festa-Bianchet and Marco Apollonio (Eds.). *Animal Behavior and Wildlife Conservation*. Washington, DC: Island Press, 2003. 380pp. ISBN 1-55963-958-X (cloth); 1-55963-959-8 (paper). US\$70.00 cloth; US\$35.00 paper. Recycled, acid-free paper.

Animal behaviorists have long argued that their research has significant implications for conservation initiatives. In November of 2000, researchers gathered in Erice, Sicily, at a workshop on Animal Behavior and Conservation to investigate the ways in which their work could be applied in order to better the management of wildlife populations and habitats. In *Animal Behavior and Wildlife Conservation*, Festa-Bianchet and Apollonio compile papers from that workshop, as well as other essays on resource-use, wildlife management, and individual variability within populations. Together, these essays provide insight into both the potential and the limitations of conservation in an era of increasing human encroachment into wild areas.

The scope of the book ranges from general principles regarding animal behavior and ecosystem maintenance to specific examinations of the genetic and behavioral variability of different species. The chapters are organized into five major sections. The introductory section links the study of animal behavior to the goals of conservation. The second section consists of five chapters that examine, respectively, the impact of carnivore dispersal behavior on conservation, the challenges posed by migratory marine turtles, bird species' responses to habitat fragmentation in boreal forests, reproductive behavior in response to habitat loss and fisheries management, and foraging behavior in herbivore reintroduction programs.

The authors grouped together in Part III of the book address the impact of wildlife management and the human harvest of wild species, primarily through sport hunting, on animal behavior. The essays in this section demonstrate a more general shift from wildlife management focused primarily on population dynamics to approaches that focus on individual differences and species-specific behavior. The limitations of the quantitative frameworks that govern traditional management approaches and philosophies are highlighted by methodological concerns (Gaillard et al.) and

by the qualitative questions and concerns raised by animal behaviorists who frame wildlife management questions in terms of long-term evolutionary change (Berger et al.; Swenson; Festa-Bianchet).

The fourth section extends some of the methodological and practical issues raised in early chapters, and includes research in genetic variability and individual differences. The chapters in this section, more so than the others, illustrate the role that conservation biology plays in wildlife management. All chapters in the volume, however, are geared primarily toward animal behaviorists, conservation ecologists, and readers with a basic understanding of scientific investigation and reporting conventions. Each topic, whether mating behavior (Gosling; Dobson and Zinner; Wedekind) or migration patterns (Gosling; Luschi), is treated with depth and attention to the refinement and advancement of existing theoretical models.

In the volume's concluding chapter, co-editor Marco Festa-Bianchet argues that "animal behavior should always be taken into consideration by wildlife managers interested in either protecting populations or exploiting them in a sustainable way" (p. 300). He also suggests that collaboration and cooperation among researchers, conservation and management agencies, and elected officials will lead to the most effective conservation programs. This volume succeeds in demonstrating the ways in which wildlife conservation efforts can benefit from the knowledge of animal behaviorists and conservation biologists.

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