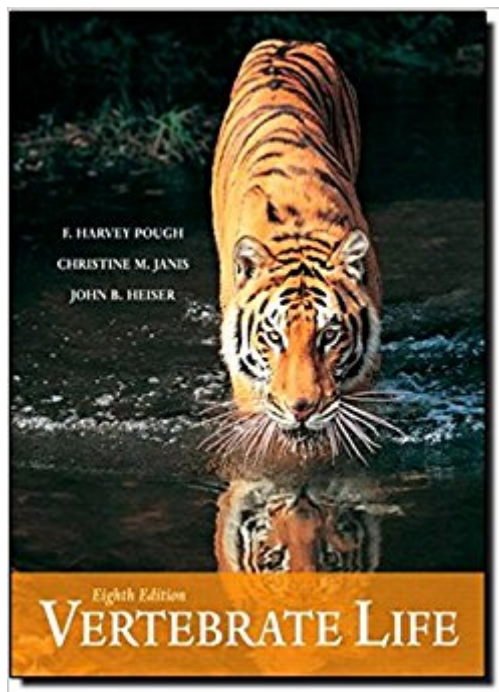


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# Vertebrate Life (8th Edition)



## Synopsis

Widely praised for its comprehensive coverage and exceptionally clear writing style, this best-selling book explores how the anatomy, physiology, ecology, and behavior of animals interact to produce organisms that function effectively in their environments and how lineages of organisms change through evolutionary time. The Eighth Edition features dozens of new figures and photos, updated information from molecular data and evolutionary development, and expanded discussions on global climate change, extinction, and conservation. The Diversity, Classification, and Evolution of Vertebrates, Vertebrate Relationships and Basic Structure, Early Vertebrates: Jawless Vertebrates and the Origin of Jawed Vertebrates, Living in Water, Radiation of the Chondrichthyes, Dominating Life in Water: The Major Radiation of Fishes, Geography and Ecology of the Paleozoic, Living on Land, Origin and Radiation of Tetrapods, Salamanders, Anurans, and Caecilians, Synapsids and Sauropods: Two Approaches to Terrestrial Life, Turtles, The Lepidosaur: Tuatara, Lizards, and Snakes, Ectothermy: A Low-Cost Approach to Life, Geography and Ecology of the Mesozoic, Mesozoic Diapsids: Dinosaurs, Crocodylians, and Birds, Avian Specializations, The Synapsida the the Evolution of Mammals, Geography and Ecology of the Cenozoic, Mammalian Characteristics and Diversity, Mammalian Specializations, Endothermy: A High-Energy Approach to Life, Body Size, Ecology, and Sociality of Mammals, Primate Evolution and the Emergence of Humans, The Impact of Humans on Other Species of Vertebrates. Intended for those interested in learning the basics of vertebrate life.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This best-selling text has been widely praised for its comprehensive coverage and clear writing style. Vertebrate Life is the only textbook that integrates the ecology, behavior, morphology and physiology of vertebrates in a phylogenetic context. It focuses on how animals work and the consequences--in ecological and evolutionary time-- of working one way versus another. The Fourth Edition has been thoroughly revised and updated to reflect changes in the discipline. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Widely praised for its comprehensive coverage and exceptionally clear writing style, this best-selling exploration of vertebrate life is the only book that integrates the ecology, behavior, morphology and physiology of vertebrates in a phylogenetic (cladistic) context. It focuses on how animals work and the consequences -- in ecological and evolutionary time -- of working one way versus another.

Covers: Vertebrate Diversity, Function, and Evolution; Aquatic Vertebrates: Cartilaginous and Bony Fishes; Terrestrial Ectotherms: Amphibians, Turtles, Crocodylians, and Squamates; and Terrestrial Endotherms: Birds and Mammals. Includes cladograms -- with accompanying synopses and primary references -- illustrating the postulated relationships of vertebrates to reconcile the views of various authorities and illuminates major areas of disagreement. For anyone interested in vertebrates. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

The book is fairly well written, the paper used in the book is fairly poor quality, and the illustrations definitely could have been in color. It's just another kick in the teeth to get a \$100+ text that can't even be produced to the quality standards of coffee table books!

This book presents a lot of interesting information but it could do a better job at organizing all that info. For example, instead of spreading the synapomorphies across the chapters, they could list them first and then talk about them. You can get confused if you don't pay close attention.

Vertebrate Life would serve as an excellent upper-level college textbook to anyone interested in becoming informed about vertebrates. Professionally, I am a physicist, who after visiting the American Museum of Natural History's Hall of Vertebrates, wanted to learn more about the subject. Even after reading Vertebrate Life, I don't think that I could point out the squamate bone on a fossilized skull. On the other hand, with 733 pages, it is unfair to criticize this book about a lack of coverage! The authors provide several pages of excellent references at the end of each chapter.

So, if I really wanted to be able to identify a squamate bone, I'm sure that I could have found out from one of references. However, I was troubled by a number of typos, some of them serious. Figure 15-3 appears to have the second half of the figure repeated as the first half. It would have been nice to see missing illustrations. Figure 3-6b identifies the Otic capsule as "Optic capsule" at one point. This confused me for a while. Even with all this, I was fascinated by what I read, and read the entire book, cover to cover, all 733 pages worth. For the serious student of our natural world, I would recommend spending full price for this book, and plan on spending more than a few hours with it.

This is an up to date review of all the biology of vertebrates. It's a must for every biologist. Today, there is no other text book like this.

Amazing book. As a college student, and a of course tired one, I love this book because it uses simple language and moves slowly so we can keep up with it. Really good, in my opinion

My professor had requested the latest edition of this book but there is literally no need since the only differences between this edition and the next one are some rephrased chapters and a change in their order...I saved money and performed well in the course :)I rented it by the way.

Fantastic book! This class was very difficult and making it through the information on the fish was rough. After that part however, I very much enjoyed the class.

I had to purchase this book for a class and plan on keeping it. It's a great read and has a lot of interesting material in it about the history of vertebrates.

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