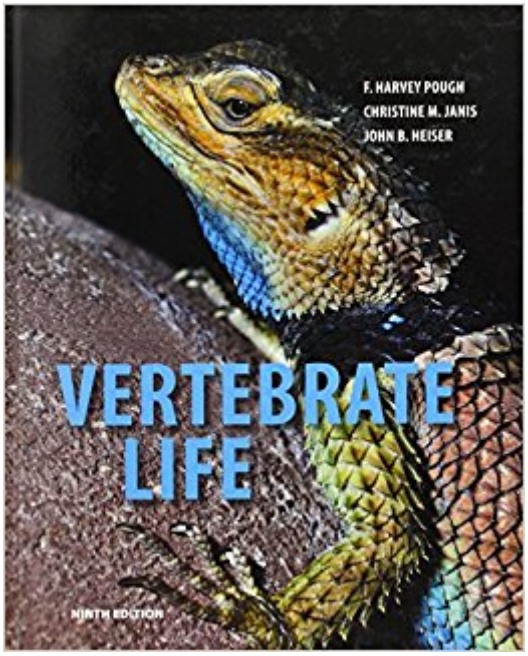
Vertebrate Life (9th Edition)



Synopsis

For courses in Vertebrate Zoology, Vertebrate Biology Function, and Paleontology Â Widely praised for its comprehensive coverage and exceptionally clear writing style, this best-selling text 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.Â The Ninth 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.

Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars 50 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #19,097 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #13 inÂ Books > Textbooks > Science & Mathematics > Biology & Life Sciences > Zoology #35 inÂ Books > Science & Math > Biological Sciences > Zoology #174 inÂ Books > Textbooks > Science & Mathematics > Biology & Life Sciences > Biology

Customer Reviews

F. Harvey Pough began his biological career at the age of fourteen when he and his sister studied the growth and movements of a population of eastern painted turtles in Rhode Island. His research now focuses on organismal biology, blending physiology, morphology, behavior, and ecology in an evolutionary perspective. Undergraduate students regularly participate in his research, and are coauthors of many of his publications. He especially enjoys teaching undergraduates and has taught courses in vertebrate zoology, functional ecology, herpetology, environmental physiology, and the organismal biology of humans. Currently he is teaching a year-long introductory biology course. He has published more than a hundred papers reporting the results of field and laboratory studies of turtles, snakes, lizards, frogs, and tuatara that have taken him to Australia, New Zealand, Fiji, Mexico, Costa Rica, Panama, and the Caribbean as well as most parts of the United States. He

is a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and a Past-President of the American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists.

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'tÃ¢Â Â‹ 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 critize 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 the 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.