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Birds of the Forests of Peninsular Malaysia: A Photographic Guide / Rosli Omar
Strategic Information and Research Development Centre, Malaysia 2018

354p.
Includes Index
9789672165200
\$ 50.00 / HB
950 gm.

This book showcases birds of the forests — lowland, montane, mangrove — of Peninsula Malaysia. Their choice as the subject matter is tied to their propensity to be “most endangered” due to their habitat’s rapid destruction. Also included are forest edge birds, birds that birders encounter at the edge of forests or along forest tracks. Through photographs which capture their beauty, this book hopes to spark appreciation for these feathered friends and the desire to safeguard them from depletion or extinction through forest conservation. This, in turn, will also help preserve other flora and fauna.

Aimed as a field guide (or for the simple pleasure of enjoying photos of the birds), this book presents 301 species — 189 lowland, 72 montane, 40 mangrove — with their distribution, status (conservation — local, global, and local legal status), range, habitat, habits, food, gender difference, subspecies, and breeding information. Data from the now closed website, Bird-i-Witness, has also been included (number of a species observations, places it was observed, etc).

Like the Malaysian Nature Society’s A Checklist of the Birds of Malaysia (2016), this book follows the eBird website of Cornell University’s names (English and scientific). Names that are different from those used by other bird organisations and books are also given, along with Malay name(s), size, resident and/or migrant status. Each species has a dedicated page (occasionally, two) with two photographs (sometimes one, or three) allowing for large photographs of male, female and juvenile birds if available.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=408370>

King Cobra : Natural History and Captive Management / Tom Charlton
Natural History Publications (Borneo) Sdn. Bhd, Malaysia 2018

xii, 152p
Includes Index
9789838121835
\$ 60.00 / HB
550 gm.

The king cobra, the longest venomous snake in the world, is widely distributed across much of tropical and subtropical Asia. Its generic name *Ophiophagus* ('snake-eater') is indicative of its cannibalistic tendencies; its diet is comprised almost exclusively of snakes, including its own kind. The enormous lengths that the king cobra can reach, combined with an intimidating threat display and possession of highly neurotoxic venom, have led to it being greatly feared by many. It is widely considered as one of the most formidable snakes in the world. However, whilst undoubtedly dangerous when provoked, the king cobra is undeserving of its fearsome reputation. Research has shown it to be an extremely shy and elusive reptile exhibiting fascinating behavioural traits, some of which are totally unique within the world of snakes. Even after more than 180 years since the king cobra was first described in 1836, many of its secrets are yet to be revealed. Importantly, monitoring of wild populations has shown signs of rapid decline in numbers in many areas, and so continued conservation efforts are required to secure the reign of the king cobra across its distribution.

This book, profusely illustrated with excellent photographs from a number of very talented photographers, details the natural history of the king cobra, looking closely at all aspects of its life including distribution, diet, reproduction and venom, as well as its relationship with humans and conservation. The author also provides notes on the captive management of the king cobra, drawing on his experience of maintaining and breeding this species for a number of years.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=421945>

A Taxonomic Guide to the Stick Insects of Sumatra, Volume 1 / Francis Seow-Choen

Natural History Publications (Borneo) Sdn. Bhd, Malaysia 2018

xvi, 704p.

Includes Index

9789838121903

\$ 150.00 / HB

3400 gm.

This volume is the fourth in a series of Taxonomic Guides to the Stick Insects of South East Asia. It follows the concept of the first three volumes by the author in this series; which are: A Taxonomic Guide to Stick Insects of Borneo (2016), A Taxonomic Guide to Stick Insects of Borneo Volume II (2017), and A Taxonomic Guide to Stick Insects of Singapore (2017). This fourth volume is again lavishly illustrated with beautiful colour photographs of all species of stick insects found in Sumatra.

In this book, Dr Seow-Choen lists 170 species, from 64 genera or subgenera, with 60 new species or subspecies and 4 new genera from Sumatra. He also lists 1 replacement name, 25 new synonyms, 19 new name combinations, 8 revised statuses, and 22 lectotype designations. This is the first book to list all the species of stick insects known from Sumatra.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=421944>

The Genus *Schefflera* in Sabah, Malaysian Borneo / Aida Shafreena Ahmad Puad, David G. Frodin & Todd J. Barkman

Natural History Publications (Borneo) Sdn. Bhd, Malaysia 2018

viii, 232p.

Includes Index

9789838121842

\$ 110.00 / HB

1000 gm.

This beautiful book describes 32 Schefflera taxa, including 29 species, from the Malaysian state of Sabah on the island of Borneo. Prior to this work, only seven species of Schefflera in Sabah had published names and none had been described from the state in the last 100 years. Thus this treatment provides a long overdue contribution to our understanding of the genus, in particular, and the Sabah flora, in general. Beyond including an enumeration of the species of Schefflera in Sabah, introductory material on both the history and systematics of the genus and natural history of Sabah is provided. Numerous photographic images and line drawings are provided to illustrate the taxa and their distinguishing characteristics. In addition, distribution maps document the occurrence of each species and variety. This account will be an invaluable addition to botanical libraries and aid to herbarium curators worldwide with an interest in Schefflera from Borneo.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=421942>

Kakapo : Rescued from the Brink of Extinction / Alison Balance

Potton & Burton, New Zealand 2018

275p.

9781877517273

\$ 50.00 / HB

1400 gm.

'The kakapo is a bird that reminds me of the British motorbike industry. It had things its own way for so long that it simply became eccentric.' Douglas Adams, author of *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*. The kakapo is one of New Zealand's most charismatic yet mysterious birds. It is also one of the world's most threatened species and a New Zealand conservation success story. An ancient, flightless, nocturnal, herbivorous giant parrot, the kakapo was once numerous throughout the country but is now extinct in its natural range. At its low point, the population was reduced to as few as 40 known individuals, but thanks to the hard work and innovation of the Kakapo Recovery Programme, New Zealand's flagship threatened-species conservation programme, the kakapo population now exceeds 120. Despite this exciting turnaround, there has not been a significant book on the kakapo since 1989. The story of this remarkable bird embraces science, conservation, ingenuity and personal dedication. Through an informative and entertaining mix of hard facts, history, and accounts of the daily and seasonal routines of kakapo and their minders, Alison Ballance brings together these threads to describe the natural history of the bird and tell the inspiring story of the Kakapo Recovery Programme. Illustrated throughout and with an appendix giving details of all known kakapo, this book will appeal to anyone with an interest in the natural world of New Zealand.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=418968>

Handbook of Asclepiads of Thailand / Obchant Thaithong, Aroonrat Kidyoo and Manit Kidyoo

Plant of Thailand Research Unit, Department of Botany, Faculty of Science, Chulalongkorn University, Thailand 2018

326p. ; colour photos, b/w line drawings, colour distribution maps.

Includes Index

9786164688261

\$ 40.00 / null

900 gm.

The Handbook of Asclepiads of Thailand displays the rich and, until recently, rather poorly known pantropical asclepiadaceous flora, commonly known as the milkweed family. These plants used to be in their own family, Asclepiadaceae, but after taxonomic revisions under the framework of APG III they are now treated as a subfamily (subfamily Asclepiadoideae) in the Apocynaceae.

The book contains complete identification keys. The general keys direct the reader to the appropriate chapter, where detailed descriptions and additional keys narrow the choices for the plant's identity. Over 42 genera and 182 species of asclepiads are described in detail and richly illustrated with magnificent colour photographs and line drawings. Distilled from the authors' decades of experience, this handbook is the most comprehensive and thoroughly illustrated account of Thai asclepiads ever. Botanists, students, teachers, hobbyists and anyone interested in nature and the extraordinary beauty of asclepiads will find this handbook indispensable for study and reference.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=421901>

The Hill Mynah in Thailand : A 30-year Study : Behavioral Ecology Evolution, and Conservation Biology / Manee Archawaranon Pornchai Wongwasana and Songwit Seekitikul

Amarin Printing and Publishing Public Company Limited, Bangkok 2018

x, 278p.

Includes Index

9786164683136

\$ 130.00 / HB

1050 gm.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=421900>

Planning For People : Study of Nepal's Planning Experience - Revised Edition / Ludwig F. Stiller, S.J. and Dr. Ram Prakash Yadav

Educational Publishing House, Nepal. 2018

336p.

Includes Index ; Bibliography

978993711128

\$ 24.00 / null

350 gm.

- 1.Nepal -- Economic policy.
- 2.Nepal -- Economic conditions.
- 3.Economic history.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=421738>

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