

# MAMMALS OF CANADA

Tamara Eder and Gregory Kennedy. 2010. Lone Pine Publishing, Edmonton, AB. \$39.95 CDN. Hard cover. ISBN: 978-1-55105-857-3. 448 pp. 15.2 cm by 22.9 cm.

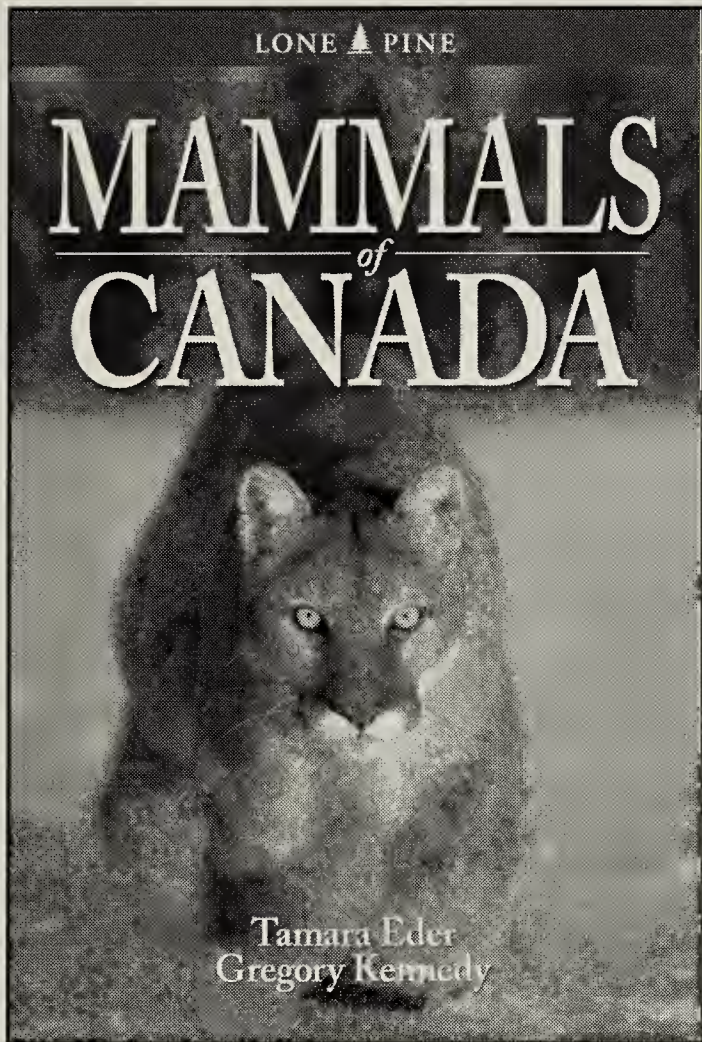
The Lone Pine *Mammals of Canada* contains species accounts for 188 native and feral mammal species that are encountered in Canada. The species accounts are divided into nine colour-coded sections based on the mammalian orders found in Canada. Each of these sections includes a two-page spread highlighting the key characteristics of the members and corresponding mammalian families belonging to the order. Easy to use and useful species identification keys are included for two difficult mammalian orders: bats and shrews.

This volume uses the same attractive and successful species account layout used in all other recent Lone Pine Publishing wildlife guides such as *Saskatchewan and Manitoba Nature Guide* and *Birds of Canada*.<sup>1,2,\*</sup> The length of species accounts (one to four pages) depends on the amount of known information for the species and the inclusion of photographs. Photographs are used almost exclusively in accounts of selected marine mammals, ungulates, and larger charismatic larger carnivores such as bears. Ideally, at least one photo should have been included for all species accounts. Each species account includes one or more accurate and attractive colour illustrations, introductory natural history paragraph(s), habitat, food, den (for terrestrial mammals), reproduction, physical dimensions, blow (for whales), tracks (for terrestrial mammals), and similar species. For the similar species section, clear differences between the species are highlighted and include page number(s) where you can find the corresponding species account(s) for

the similar species. In addition, each species account contains a sharp but simple Canadian range map and a related paragraph describing past and current North American range for the species. For species with restricted ranges in Canada, enlarged inserts are included with the Canadian range map. An unusual feature was added with question marks on the range maps to indicate range uncertainties. Unusual and interesting 'Did you know?' factoids are included in the accounts for better-known mammalian species (for example, the account for Muskox [*Ovibus moschatus*] includes the following factoid: "With the long, windbreaking guard hairs and insulating qiviut, the winter coat of a Muskox is about eight times warmer than sheep's wool."). It was unfortunate such factoids were not included in the accounts for lesser-known species as well. I found the species accounts information to be accurate, informative, easy to read, and well written. A brief section on species conservation status would further strengthen the species accounts.

A particular strength of book is the Introduction, which includes a map and brief informative summaries of the natural regions of Canada and their terrestrial and marine ecozones and ecoregions of Canada. These sections include a photograph of a well-known species representative of the natural region. The authors then briefly discuss the impacts of human-altered landscapes and seasonality on mammals and provide some useful and practical tips on watching mammals. The top 30 mammal-watching sites in Canada are





included in the book with a national map and brief site descriptions. Twenty-one of these top mammal-watching sites are national parks. The Introduction concludes with brief useful overviews of mammal classification and names, range maps, similar species, and the identification keys for shrews and bats.

Mammal species in this guide can be quickly located using the Table of

Contents, the detailed Index in the back, the colour-coded, 13-page introductory Quick Reference Guide in the front of the book, a colour-coded abridged reference guide on the back cover, and individual chapter reference guides. These guides are error-free.

At the end of the book, there is a handy and useful six-page Glossary of ecological and wildlife terms, followed by a helpful one-page list of Selected References including 11 books and five websites about the mammals of North America.

In conclusion, I highly recommend this excellent guide to anyone who is interested in the mammals of Canada.

1. Hoar TL, De Smet K, Campbell RW, Kennedy G (2010) Birds of Canada. Lone Pine Publishing, Edmonton, AB.

2. Kagume K (2010) Saskatchewan and Manitoba Nature Guide. Lone Pine Publishing, Edmonton, AB.

- Reviewed by Rob Warnock. E-mail: <warnockr@accesscomm.ca>

**\*EDITORS' NOTE: For a review of Birds of Canada, see *Blue Jay* 68:220-221, and for a review of *Saskatchewan and Manitoba Nature Guide*, see *Blue Jay* 69:42-43.**



*I do not think the measure of a civilization is how tall its buildings of concrete are, but rather how well its people have learned to relate to their environment and fellow man.*

- Sun Bear of the Chippewa Tribe