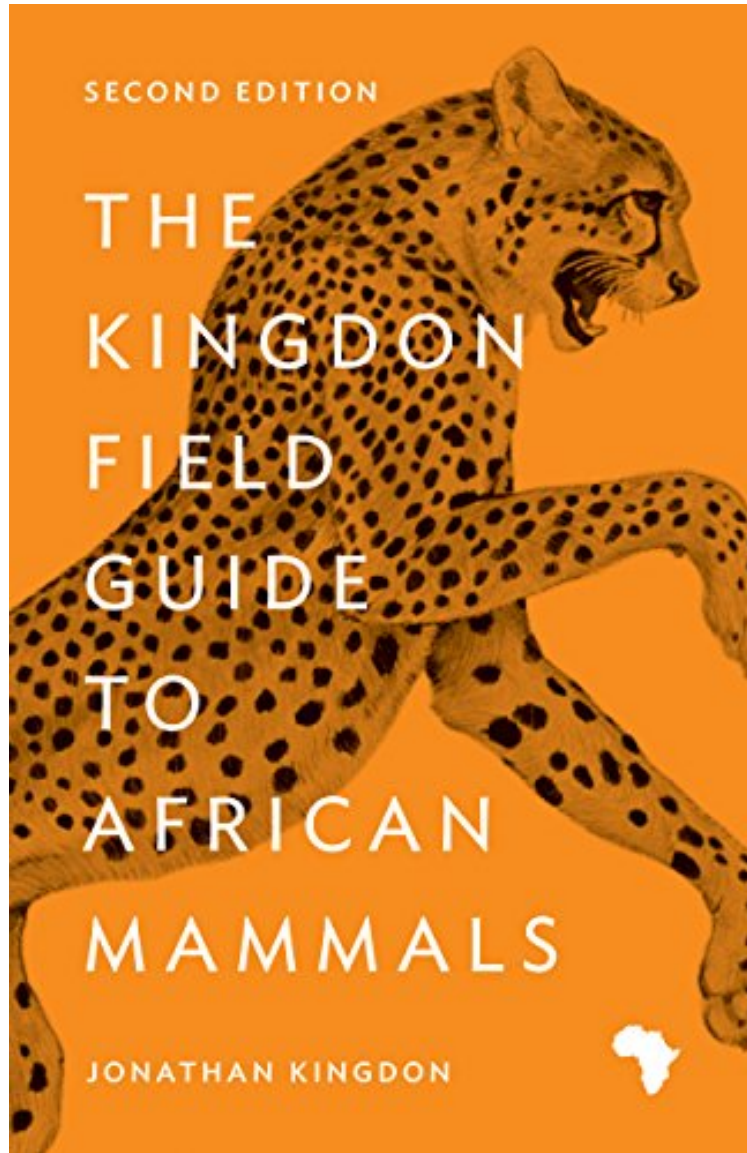


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The Kingdon Field Guide to African Mammals: Second Edition

Jonathan Kingdon

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Jonathan Kingdon : The Kingdon Field Guide to African Mammals: Second Edition before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Kingdon Field Guide to African Mammals: Second Edition:

26 of 26 people found the following review helpful. About the Best Currently, but Could Be ImprovedBy Laszlo WagnerFirst let me say that in general I find this book excellent, and highly recommend it to anyone interested in the

mammalian fauna of Africa. It is very comprehensive, covering every single species of African mammals with the exception of bats, rodents, insectivores, elephant-shrews and hyraxes, which are usually represented by one species for each genus. But every single genus is represented, and of rodents, every species of squirrel is dealt with separately. The information accompanying each species is very detailed and appears up to date. Now for the shortcomings: 1) The illustrations are next to the description of each species. Given how detailed/long the texts are, this means that usually there are just 1 or 2 species shown on each page, so to compare all antelopes you must look through a hundred pages or so - not very practical in a field guide! 2) Maps are often pages away from the text and illustration, with no reference to their whereabouts. I often thought there was no map for a species/genus, only to find it pages away, combined with the map for another taxon. 3) While illustrations are identified by the species' English name, the maps are confusingly id'ed by Latin names only. If you aren't familiar with the latter, it takes some cross-reference to find out which species' range you are looking at. 4) The illustrations vary so much in standard that it is hard to believe they were drawn by one person... While most are quite good, even excellent and life-like, others are quite awful, either showing animals with stiff, straight limbs/bodies as if drawn with a ruler (like the Crowned Monkey) or in highly unnatural positions (like the Potto with the limbs twisted out, or the Cheetah standing up like a circus horse). Note that a cheaper, condensed version of this guide, without the first 3 shortcomings listed above and more practical for field use is now available: The Kingdon Pocket Guide to African Mammals. It is probably the book you would want to take to Africa while keeping this one at home for reference.

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. The common fault with rereading is not knowing where you ... By Steve H. The common fault with rereading is not knowing where you are in a book and not knowing where you have been, found out how much a problem this can be whilst on safari in Kenya, trying to find an animal whilst bouncing over the terrain in a Land Rover was always going to be difficult, but flicking back and forth is impossible even in camp.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A superb reference book from THE authority on African mammals. By S. Chandrasekharan. A superb reference book to the mammals of Africa. The Tanzania-born author is the authority on study of mammals in Africa. This heavy book was my constant companion when on Safari in Kenya. I would come back in the evenings from my game drive and read up on the animals I saw. If you are going to go on multiple safaris I recommend getting the hard bound version. The paperback is lighter, but as with any reference book, becomes dog-eared after frequent use.

The Kingdon Field Guide to African Mammals is the essential companion for anyone going on safari or interested in African mammals. No other field guide covers the whole continent in a portable format. Now fully revised and updated, it covers all known species of African land mammals and features 780 stunning color illustrations. Detailed species accounts describe key identification features, distribution, habitat, food, behavior, adaptations, and conservation status. Coverage of several of the more complex groups of small mammals is simplified by reference to genera, and there are introductory profiles of each mammal group and more than 500 maps. This new edition includes many newly recognized species, and classification has been fully updated. Written and illustrated by a world authority, The Kingdon Field Guide to African Mammals is a must-have guide for travelers and armchair naturalists alike. Covers more than 1,100 species. Features 780 color illustrations. Describes key identification features, distribution, habitat, food, behavior, adaptations, and status. Includes many newly recognized species, and classification has been fully updated.

"This is an exquisite resource. . . . Kingdon has produced a thoroughly researched and beautifully composed field guide. Certainly, if you plan to go to Africa to observe wildlife, this is a must have' resource."--DRK, Wildlife Activist. Praise for the previous edition: "Travellers and students of wildlife should take notice--this volume sets the standard for the field. . . . This is quite simply a superb and authoritative work by an author of unsurpassed credentials and talent for his task. Everybody will delight in it."--Mark Pagel, Nature. Praise for the previous edition: "For anyone planning an African safari, this guide should be as essential as binoculars."--David Tomlinson, New Scientist. Praise for the previous edition: "All naturalists resident in or visiting the continent should have a copy. It is much more than a field guide."--Jeremy J. D. Greenwood, Habitat. Praise for the previous edition: "This is a handy, nicely prepared pocket field guide covering every species of terrestrial African mammal and is the essential reference work to be carried along by anyone traveling in Africa."--Rovert E. Hoopes, Wildlife Activist. Praise for the previous edition: "This is an exquisite book to have, even if you have no intention to ever visit Africa (but then you are likely to change your mind after this Kingdon experience)."--Hans Kruuk, Mammal News. Praise for the previous edition: "The richness of information is exemplary. The illustrations would make a big cat purr."--John Ryle, Guardian.

From the Back Cover: Jonathan Kingdon, one of the foremost authorities on African mammals, has both written and illustrated this entirely new field guide which sets new standards in African mammalogy. All the known species of African land mammal are covered in a concise text providing full information on identification, distribution, ecology, evolutionary relationships and conservation status. The focus is always on the mammals as seen in the field and on their ecology and evolutionary interrelationships. Introductory profiles summarise the characteristics of the various mammal groups, and coverage of several of the more complex groups of small mammals is simplified by reference to genera, though all 1150 African species are listed. The most up to date classification and species list is employed. Twelve newly

recognised species of bushbaby, fourteen newly named baboons, guenons and mangabeys and nine newly recognised colobus monkeys contribute to the most modern possible treatment of the primates. New species of bats, rodents and fox are also included as well as a fully revised listing of the duikers, squirrels and genets. Kingdon combines his long personal experience of Africa and his artistic talent with the best that modern natural history and biological science can offer. Listing all 1150 species and with over 480 colour pictures and 280 maps covering some 460 mammal species groups, this book will be an essential companion to all visiting Africa or with an interest in the mammals of the continent. About the Author Jonathan Kingdon is one of the world's foremost authorities on African mammals. His books include *The Kingdon Pocket Guide to African Mammals* and *Lowly Origin: Where, When, and Why Our Ancestors First Stood Up* (both Princeton).