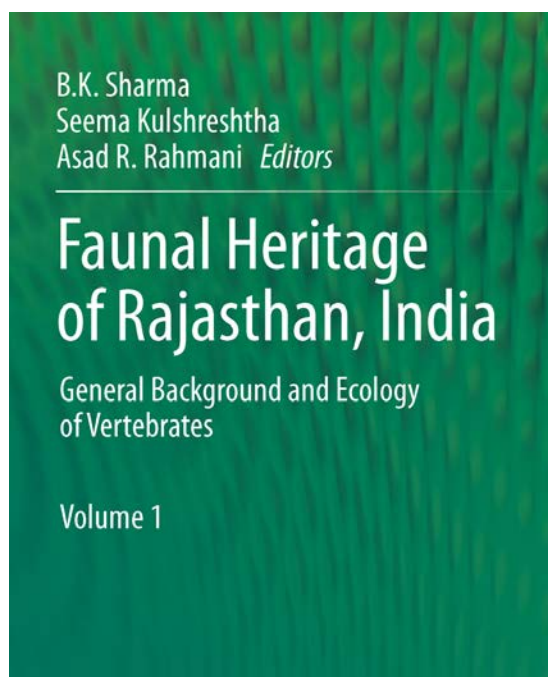


Faunal Heritage of Rajasthan, India - General Background and Ecology of Vertebrates (Volume 1 & 2)

B.K. Sharma, Seema Kulshreshtha and Asad R Rahmani (Editors)

This is the first ever monumental and scientific documentation of the faunal wealth of the Indian Desert state of Rajasthan. A scholarly contribution to the field of knowledge, these volumes provide novel and vital information on the vertebrate faunal heritage of India's largest state. Contrary to popular belief, the well-known Thar or Great Indian Desert occupies only a part of the state. Rajasthan is diagonally divided by the Aravalli Mountain Ranges into arid and semi-arid regions. Through this well-researched work, the editors have achieved an extraordinary accomplishment not only in further unveiling the well-known Thar or Great Indian Desert but also putting in the spotlight the much lesser known yet ravishing and spectacular wilderness, lush green landscapes, hilly terrains, marshes and wetlands of Rajasthan. The forward by Paul H Harvey, CBE, FRS, Professor & Head, Department of Zoology, University of Oxford, United Kingdom and the opening chapters of the first volume provide a well-focused introduction to Rajasthan. The historical, socio-cultural, mythological, and anthropological aspects of faunal conservation along with fauna in retrospect, the tribes of Rajasthan together with the fossil records set the scene for the book. Chapters on threatened species like Bengal Tiger, Leopard, Great Indian Bustard and Lesser Florican, White-naped Tit, raptors, Demoiselle and Sarus Cranes, chelonians, bats, wild ungulates, small cats, bear, wolf, Smooth-coated Indian Otter, Spiny-tailed Lizard, Giant Flying Squirrel, Gharial and Gangetic River Dolphin have been penned by top-notch wildlife experts and academics make this volume more palatable and wholesome.



The second volume entitled Faunal Heritage of Rajasthan: Conservation and Management of Vertebrates aptly describes Protected Areas, the world famous Heronry, Tiger Reserves, Wildlife Sanctuaries and biodiversity rich areas including the conservation and management related aspects spread over 20 chapters. It shall certainly draw the attention of readers from around the world. Chapters on Wildlife Trade; Ecotourism; Climate and other environmental factors like Indira Gandhi Nahar Pariyojna (IGNP) which are believed to have changed the ecological face of Western Rajasthan, Tiger Re-introduction at Sariska, laws and policies; and Community Conservation are key attractions. The last chapter highlighting issues and insights on conservation and management, initiatives and gaps in research would help researchers from India and abroad to identify potential areas of future collaborative work. The strategies suggested herein can be a powerful tool for international conservational advocacy. The elaborate content supported by a total of 619 illustrations, which include 485 in color and photographs of Mughal paintings that WILL/MIGHT have implications for faunal ecology STUDIES in similar habitats elsewhere on Earth.

These volumes are an assemblage of what is bound to become some of the most sought after chapters and brilliantly synthesized scientific information available. It is not an exaggeration to mention here that there is no such publica-tion currently available either in the Indian or the international market which exclusively deals with the scientific account of the vertebrate faunal diversity of Rajasthan. This work will serve zoologists, wildlife biologists, conserva-tionists, and social scientists, the general reader, students, teachers, and active researchers, policy-makers, and education administrators not only in Rajasthan and India but throughout the globe. They will find these volumes particularly valuable as an important reference and textbook. Although, there are many lacunae in our knowledge about faunal ecology and its conservation, this formidable twin volume set will surely help in bridging the gaps, while enabling conservationists and policy makers to arrive at a consensus regarding future strategies in Rajasthan.

Volume 1 :

Editors: B.K. Sharma, Seema Kulshreshtha, and Asad Rahmani.

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Volume 2:

Faunal Heritage of Rajasthan, India
Conservation and Management of Vertebrates
Editors and other particulars - as above



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