

THE ANIMALS OF NORTH AMERICA

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The Animals of North America by H. Beaumont Small

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H. BEAUMONT SMALL

**THE ANIMALS OF
NORTH AMERICA**



ANIMALS OF THE CONTINENT OF AMERICA.

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| <p>1. COMMON WOLF (<i>Canis Lupus.</i>)
 2. RED FOX (<i>Vulpes Fulvus.</i>)
 3. OTTER (<i>Lutra Canadensis.</i>)
 4. BLACK BEAR (<i>Ursus Americanus.</i>)</p> | <p>5. MOOSE (<i>Cervus Alces.</i>)
 6. FEMALE ELK (<i>Cervus Canadensis</i>)
 7. BEAVER (<i>Castor Americanus.</i>)
 8. BEAVER (<i>Castor Fiber.</i>)</p> | <p>9. MUSQUASH (<i>Fiber Zibethicus.</i>)
 10. INDIAN ON MUSTANG.
 11. THE CONDOR (<i>Cathartes Gryphus.</i>)
 12. ALLIGATOR.</p> |
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ANIMALS OF NORTH AMERICA.

"Non injussa cano * * * * *
Cetera, quae vacuas tenuissent carmine mentes
Omnia jam vulgata."

BY

H. BEAUMONT SMALL, S.O.L. 1021-

Montreal:

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1864.

CLASSIFICATION ADOPTED.

BIMANA,.....	<i>Two handed.</i>
QUADRUMANA,.....	<i>Four handed.</i>
CHEIROPTERA,.....	<i>Finger-winged.</i>
INSECTIVORA,.....	<i>Insect-devouring.</i>
CARNIVORA,.....	<i>Flesh-devouring.</i>
RODENTIA,.....	<i>Gnawing.</i>
MARSUPIALLA,.....	<i>Pouched.</i>
RUMINANTIA,.....	<i>Cud-chewing.</i>
PACHYDERMATA,.....	<i>Thick-skinned.</i>
CETACEA,.....	<i>Whales.</i>

ORDER. GENUS. SPECIES.

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gen.

AUTHOR'S PREFACE.

THERE are two reasons which have induced the Author to publish the following pages. The first is, that as the pleasing study of Natural History ought to be extensively introduced into institutions of learning, yet the generality of books already in circulation on this subject, present to the mind of the student either too great an amount of detail, or else include in a single volume, necessarily meagre, the whole Animal Kingdom. The second is, that a growing desire for further acquaintance with this study is felt among a large and increasing class of intelligent readers, who have not the facilities for using books of reference which *savants* have. In a country like this where a man is brought into contact with mere nature, teeming with unsuspected wealth, of what incalculable advantage is it to have, if it be but the rudiments of a science which will tell him the properties, and therefore the value of its animals and natural productions. He whose mind is relaxed and wearied, after the hours of business, will not sit dreaming over impossible scenes of pleasure, or go for amusement to haunts of coarse excitement, if his interest is once awakened in some study fitted to keep the mind in health. To gratify this desire to some extent, and to assist students in this department, is the object of the present work. Much of the matter is original, the result of a long and somewhat extensive familiarity with the science. Much also

has been gathered from reliable sources ; the whole divested as much as possible of all asperities, in the form of scientific names, which so often deter beginners.

In conclusion, the author takes the opportunity of expressing his thanks to Sir Wm. Logan, Mr. Billings, and the Natural History Society of Montreal, the use of whose libraries was kindly tendered and accepted, and to all those who have evinced an interest in the progress of the work. Should the success of this volume on the Mammalia warrant the experiment, others will follow in due course, comprising the remainder of the system.

H. BEAUMONT SMALL.

MONTREAL, September 1, 1864.

THE
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CHAPTER I.

LIMITATION OF SPECIES—CENTRES OF CREATION—FACTS AND FICTION—FAUNA OF AMERICA—OBJECT OF THIS WORK—BATS—THEIR HABITS—THE SHREW-MOLE—ANECDOTE—THE STAR-NOSED MOLE—THE SHREW-MOUSE.

One of the most remarkable things that strikes even a casual observer, in taking a view of the Animal kingdom, is the manner in which species are distributed over the globe; but to understand this, it is necessary to look at the different influences which circumstances exercise over them. Each division of the world has a *fauna* (or group of animals) peculiar to itself, characterized by some remarkable species found there only. This has been termed the "limitation or colonization" of species, and has given rise to many theories;—one affirming that each race originated in the spot destined for it; another, that the same country saw the birth of every distinct race, which, migrating, and leaving no trace of their passage, colonized as it were, eastward and westward, and in the island groups of the Southern Ocean, as either place was best adapted for their development; while some again maintain that there was originally but one form created, from which all others have risen *ad infinitum*, being so changed by climate and circumstances, as to eventually cause distinct

species, generating fresh ones in their turn, and terminating with the human family as the masterpiece of this successive formation.

The most natural supposition is, that the all-wise Creator placed each species where it was permanently destined to live; and that from these different "centres of creation," combinations have so multiplied between contiguous regions, as to form the various races of animal life. When we find a country possessing a group or groups of animals not found elsewhere, we may at once set down that as being the *centre of a peculiar creation*. In the location of many species, nature has placed various limits, and the spaces occupied by them are most unequal. For example: the Kangaroo and Ornithorhynchus are confined to New Holland; the Grizzly Bear to the Rocky Mountains; the Dodo, now extinct, to the Mauritius; whilst the Swallow, the Crow, and the Fox, extend to every known region. The principal cause of "limitation" is doubtless connected with the unequal temperature of localities; certain species which thrive in one climate, perishing under the influence of another;—also the nature of vegetation in one country, and the absence of it in another,—as in the Polar regions,—confining to the former the larger beasts of prey, dependent on herbivorous animals as their food, with the exception of, in the latter, those that subsist on fish. The number of species increase as we near the tropics, and there it is where Nature has been most lavish in the diversity of life, beauty of color, strangeness of form, and greatness of proportion. The present total number of living species which has been satisfactorily made out and ascertained, exceeds, according to Agassiz, 50,000!

If the time ever comes when the facts of Natural History are given without the admixture of fable, then this branch of science will be more readily advanced in improvement than can be readily hoped for, so long as imagination is allowed to take the place of actual observation. Modern writers continue