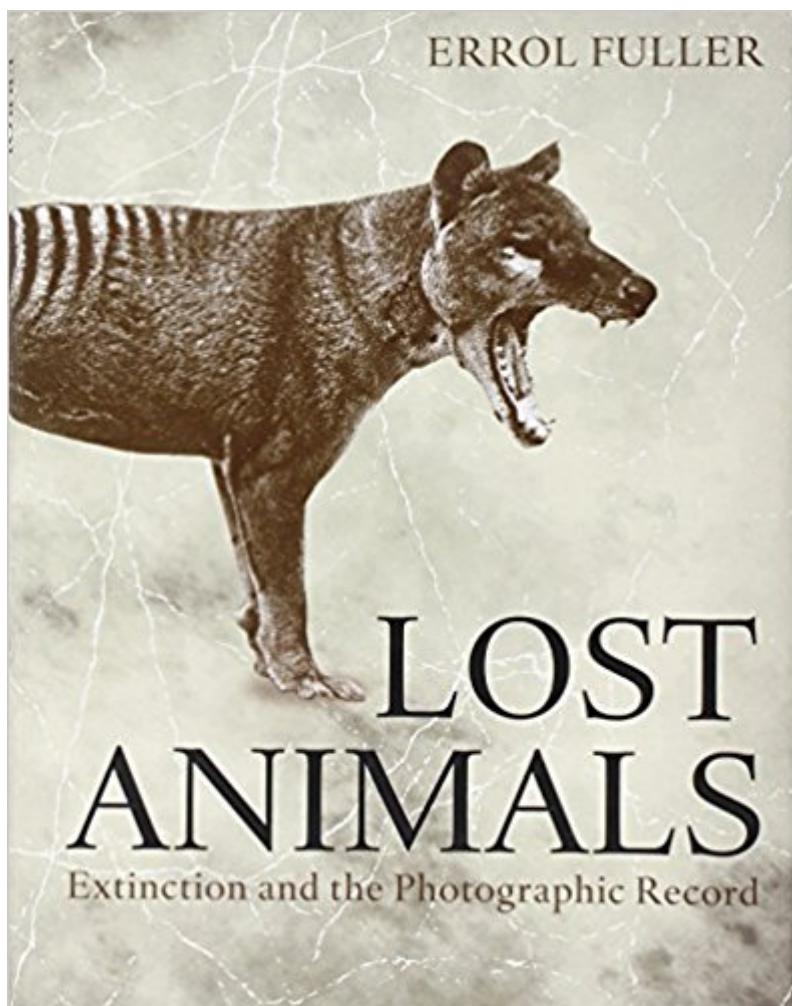


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Lost Animals: Extinction And The Photographic Record



Synopsis

A photograph of an extinct animal evokes a greater feeling of loss than any painting ever could. Often black and white or tinted sepia, these remarkable images have been taken mainly in zoos or wildlife parks, and in some cases depict the last known individual of the species. Lost Animals is a unique photographic record of extinction, presented by a world authority on vanished animals. Richly illustrated throughout, this handsome book features photographs dating from around 1870 to as recently as 2004, the year that witnessed the demise of the Hawaiian Po'ouli. From a mother Thylacine and her pups to birds such as the Heath Hen and the Carolina Parakeet, Errol Fuller tells the story of each animal, explains why it became extinct, and discusses the circumstances surrounding the photography. Covering 28 extinct species, Lost Animals includes familiar examples like the last Passenger Pigeon, Martha, and one of the last Ivory-billed Woodpeckers, photographed as it peers quizzically at the hat of one of the biologists who has just ringed it. But the book includes rare images as well, many never before published. Collected together here for the first time, these photographs provide a tangible link to animals that have now vanished forever, in a book that brings the past to life while delivering a warning for the future. Poignant and compelling, Lost Animals also includes a concise introduction that looks at the earliest days of animal photography, and an appendix of drawings and paintings of the species covered.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

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Gift Books Span the Science Spectrum" for 2014"Erroll Fuller's *Lost Animals: Extinction and the Photographic Record* is a sad and moving collection of passenger pigeons, heath hens, Tasmanian tigers and other vanished animals. . . . [A] blurry glimpse is still a worthy glimpse when it comes to seeing a number of species in their last moments."--New York Times, The 6th Floor"[A] natural history page-turner. . . . In the wrong hands a book like *Lost Animals* could be a wan march through a morbid family album, and there are certainly moments when the cumulative loss of these creatures seems overwhelming. But Fuller's knowledgeable, compassionate, and occasionally humorous narrative carries the day. . . . It takes a steady guide to lead readers through such territory, and Fuller proves up to the task."--Dianne Timblin, American Scientist"The indistinct images here, though, are evocative; if they weren't among the last visions of these species, we probably would not pay so much attention to them. But here they are, scores of images, sometimes of low quality, reproduced in a large-format book, along with as much as can be known about how they happened to be taken, and with short histories of the demise of the depicted species. . . . It is a beautiful book; the species deserve to be remembered this way, but they didn't deserve destruction."--Rob Hardy, Columbus Dispatch"Collected together here for the first time, these photos provide a tangible link to animals that have now vanished forever, in a book that brings the past to life while delivering a warning for the future. The photos, together with the well-written species accounts, including excerpts from writings of the day and reminiscings from firsthand experiences, the book is an excellent piece to have in your library or on your coffee table at home."--Chris West, Southwest Wisconsin Birder"A fascinating collection of photographs of now extinct animals, many of them unique and not previously published."--Peter Menkhorst, Australian Book Review"The quality of the photographs ranges from extremely poor to quite incredible but each and every one provides you with a deep connection to the species that's been lost. . . . I would highly recommend this book and hope that the photographs that the author has included will help lead people to understand how important it is to protect our endangered species. . . . If we do not act to save species, his next edition of the book will be much longer."--Nutty Birder blog"The photographs are often grainy, or poorly framed, or badly lit. But this fact, oddly, is also part of the book's power--the everyday nature of these snapshots somehow hammers home the enormity of the subject matter."--Chris Wright, Boston Globe"Errol Fuller's new book is a visual lament. *Lost Animals* is a handsome but sad record of animals that existed for millennia--long enough for photography to be invented--but have now disappeared from the face of the Earth. The images are accompanied by short, evocative texts about the creatures and the naturalists who recorded their existence."--Nancy Szokan, Washington Post"*Lost Animals: Extinction and the Photographic*

Record reaches into your imagination and draws you closer to the final days of a variety of extinct animals on Earth . . . filled with poignant and powerful first-hand accounts, photographic records, and illustrations."--Gabriel Thoumi, Mongabay.com"Exceptional . . . the book includes beautiful paintings of the animals in the appendix. But it's the photos--and the stories of each animal--that caused me to read this book cover to cover three times--and stare longingly at each photo."--George Smith, Bangor Daily News"Here . . . are the last recorded chances of seeing animals not just endangered, but gone forever. It is a beautiful book; the species deserve to be remembered this way, but they didn't deserve destruction."--Rob Hardy, Dispatch"The macro-causes are always the same, at least since Westerners began to up the pace in the 19th century: some over-hunting (passenger pigeons) and a lot of habitat destruction, of the sort that may yet doom the monarch butterfly. But at the micro-level, as Errol Fuller details in *Lost Animals: Extinction and the Photographic Record*, the deaths of the last individuals often smacks of contingency or even absurdity."--Brian Bethune, Macleans Magazine"They are grainy and sometimes out of focus. And if they were of anything else, they'd probably long since have been thrown away. But these pictures are anything but ordinary. For they offer a glimpse of some truly remarkable creatures--now lost to the world forever. . . . Now brought together in *Lost Animals*, a new book by Errol Fuller, the world's foremost expert on vanished animals, they also offer a stark warning: life can be a very fragile thing."--Hannah Wilkinson, The Lady"Reading *Lost Animals: Extinction and the Photographic Record* is a reverential experience. Fuller is absolutely correct about the power of these photographs. I'm thankful that these vestiges of what we've squandered have been preserved, and now made available for all to see."--Grant McCreary, Birder's Library"*Lost Animals* is a moving visual elegy to the many animals that humans have ushered into the void."--Fiona Capp, The Age"Errol Fuller's *Lost Animals: Extinction and the Photographic Record* (Princeton University Press) calls to mind the sort of commemorative volume that might follow a singular human disaster, such as September 11, which aims to testify to the unique, irreducible existence of each of the victims. But each of the victims in Fuller's book is not an individual at all but a species. Many of his short biographies of the recently vanished are touching, even revelatory. . . . Profound."--Justin E.H. Smith, Chronicle of Higher Education"Fuller presents photographic images of select extinct bird and mammal species. . . . The photographic record is complemented by a short vignette attempting to contextualize the circumstances surrounding the extinction and in some cases by information about the last known representative animal. . . . The pictures vary widely in quality yet each is compelling as proof of existence for the species. . . . This somewhat depressing book will be of interest to those who enjoy zoological literature."--Diana

Hartle, Library Journal "Lost Animals: Extinction and the Photographic Record is a unique book; it connects us to lost birds and mammals through the medium of their images. It is a book for birders who want to enhance their readings of BirdLife International records and Passenger Pigeon and Ivory-billed Woodpecker histories with an approach that is visual and personal. Reading the stories of these extinct creatures evokes sadness and anger, yes, but, as I said earlier, it also brings out hope. I'm not just talking about the few instances where Fuller says there is the slimmest of slim chances that the bird is not extinct. There is hope because extinction is being witnessed. And remembered. It's a lot harder to ignore conservation campaigns to save habitat when you've seen the 'photographic record' of what happens when you do."--Donna Schulman, 10,000 Birds blog "The indistinct images, accompanied by informative species profiles reinforce the enormity of the loss; these animals survived long enough for photography to be invented, but then quickly blinked out."--Audubon Magazine "If ever a book embodied the truth behind the old saying that a picture is worth a thousand words, it is Errol Fuller's new Lost Animals. . . . Lost Animals is not a book to be read cover to cover in one sitting; it should be read one species at a time, with plenty of attention and contemplation given to the remarkable photographs of each one."--John Riutta, Bird Watcher's Digest "One of the most melancholic tomes I've read. . . . Extraordinary stories and images."--Tim Flannery, Monthly

"The species accounts are engaging, and I can truthfully say that I learned something in every case. The photographs are fascinating and sobering."--Luke Hunter, author of Carnivores of the World

A very interesting book, Mr. Fuller has collected pictures of animals no long around.(exceptions- Thylacine and some of the birds) which brings me to the bias in this book. Fully half of it concerns birds and only a third treat with other creatures. The pictures of Thylacines (Despite the cover) are very important and well done, Why important, there have been sightings in Tasmania and Australia of an animal with stripes on the rear now for several years, and there is an ongoing search for these animals. Could these be surviving animals? Only time will tell. If you are into birds this book is a beautiful record of the now gone species, however, if you are looking for other vanished species, try another source.

Striking. It really adds a weight to animals that you normally just see as a name on a list. Some of the pictures aren't great, but that is not the point. The point is that a bad picture are all that we have left as evidence of a unique species. Excellent for somebody in the biology field (such as myself); it

is a reminder of why I do what I do. For somebody outside of the field but with an interest in animals, it's a reminder for why we should care.

Not every animal in this book is extinct because of humans, but there's a lot of them. This book has photos of animals which have only in the last century, become extinct. It should be in every library as a reminder of their passing.

I have no evidence that Errol Fuller is an embittered man, but if he were, he'd have reason to be. He is an expert on animal extinction, and has written good-looking volumes on bird extinction in general and on the dodo and on the great auk specifically. He'd lots rather have the birds back than have these accomplished books to his credit, I am sure. He noticed that when people looked at his previous books, they paid especial attention to the photographs of animals that are now extinct. The photographs meant an immediacy that paintings and prints could not convey, even if the photos were sepia-toned from the early days of photography in the nineteenth century. Thus Fuller has brought us *Lost Animals: Extinction and the Photographic Record* (Princeton University Press), a review of the lost birds and mammals for which we have photographs. Some of the photos here are so recent that they are in color, indicating a relatively immediate loss. Even the recent ones are not always of the best photographic quality, and the old ones had all the liabilities coming from cumbersome equipment and relatively insensitive film. Usually the photographers had no idea that they were producing something like a last image of an animal that soon no one would see again. Even the indistinct images here, though, are evocative; if they weren't among the last visions of these species, we probably would not pay so much attention to them. But here they are, scores of images, sometimes of low quality, reproduced in a large-format book, along with as much as can be known about how they happened to be taken, and with short histories of the demise of the depicted species. Many times the reason for the animal's extinction is not known. The Pink-headed Duck, for instance, was not hunted within its home grounds in India, and by the time it had left in the 1920s, there was still unspoiled country wherein it could have thrived. The population crashed, though, and we will never know why. The photos were only black and white, so we don't have a photographic record of its peculiar pink plumage. The causes of the respective demises of other animals here are well known. Starving soldiers on tiny Wake Island wiped out the Wake Island Rail that could barely fly; when US forces recovered the island in 1945, there were no Rails left. The tiny Hawaiian island of Laysan was home to the Laysan Rail, until someone had the atrocious scheme to make money by introducing rabbits and guinea pigs to the island to be raw materials for a proposed meat

cannery. Honeybees introduced to the Americas by European settlers made hives in hollow trees so that Carolina Parakeets could not use them for roosts and nests. Dingoes were brought to Australia by Aborigines, and eventually eliminated the dog-like Thylacine. (Then, Fuller points out, humans from elsewhere wiped out the Aboriginal Tasmanians.) Ships have rats, and rats go after eggs, and so went the New Zealand Bush Wren (and countless other island species which rats have finished off). Somehow the Brown Tree Snake was introduced to Guam, probably hitchhiking on American naval vessels after WWII, and took away the Guam Flycatchers. There are losses due to habitat destruction by humans, of course, and more to come if we are warming up our planet. It's all sad, and part of the sadness comes from the photos that indicate not only what we have already lost, but what knowledge we can never recover. The Laughing Owl, for instance, is gone from New Zealand, and we will never know: did it actually laugh? Some observers said it did, and others said it did not laugh but shrieked; we have these old photos here, but no old recordings, so the sound is gone forever, and we will never know. Repeatedly Fuller explains that we cannot be absolutely certain some of the species here are gone; there was the 2004 sighting of an Ivory Billed Woodpecker, for instance (but he explains the many reasons why that sighting was probably erroneous).

Cryptozoologists might report a sighting of a Thylacine now and then, but it will take more than such sightings to be real evidence against the animal's extinction. The lost Quaggas and Heath Hens might be reintroduced by breeding because they are not actual independent species, but races of species that are still in existence. The others here, well, it would be some sort of miracle if they were not all gone. Years ago the BBC had a series "Last Chance to See" about endangered animals. Here, though, are the last recorded chances of seeing animals not just endangered, but gone forever. It is a beautiful book; the species deserve to be remembered this way, but they didn't deserve destruction.

Bought as a gift for my daughter; remarkable book with haunting photos. Breaks my heart that these amazing creatures no longer exist, mostly due to humans being very short-sighted. Excellent book for those who enjoy zoology, biology, anthropology, or unusual animals in general.

I just LOVE Errol Fuller. His books are a beautiful mixture of science and sentiment; they bring home the tragedy of lost species. There's something so poignant about the photos in this book, and the back stories are riveting. I've been reading one chapter a day just to make it last. A wonderful addition to any library.

A more descriptive title would be "21 Lost Birds and 7 More Animals." I should've used the "look inside" feature to preview the Table of Contents. The photos are good and my middle aged eyes especially appreciated the larger than average font.

I consider this to be a very special book! Gave to my son as a gift because he's very interested in animals and he instantly treasured it. I read some reviews criticizing the book for blurry pics and such, but to us, it just adds to the mystery and rarity of the animals and there's many great shots as well. A remarkable book worth owning or giving as a gift!

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