

Book Views: Animal Intelligence



The Smartest Animals on the Planet

By Dr. Sally Boysen

Parrots are only one of the many species of animals presented in this book that challenges our notions of intelligence. If tool making, communication and acts of altruism are thought to define humans, then our definition is wrong. The birds, primates, elephants, otters, dolphins, rats, squirrels, whales, dogs, lions and even salamanders discussed



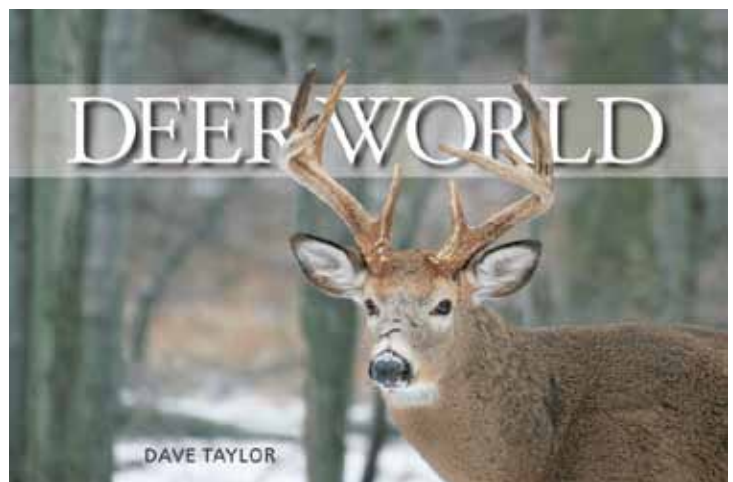
Flower Hunters

By Mary Gribbin and John Gribbin

Who would think that gathering flowers and plants would be a life-threatening adventure? In the 1700s and 1800s, travel to and within Asia, South America, Africa and Australia was extremely demanding. This book presents short biographies of 10 men and one woman who were obsessed by finding, collecting or painting new plants that were unknown in Europe and England.

These fascinating adventure stories detail the hardships and suffering they endured, from long sailing passages to treks in extreme climates and rugged wild landscapes. Routine hazards faced were snakes, leeches, stinging ants, mosquitoes, malaria and hostile native people. Some of the findings introduced globally by these pioneers of plants include quinine, which was the cure for malaria, tea, and countless flowers from azaleas to gardenias to jasmines, lobelias, rhododendrons and more. This is a great book for the gardening armchair traveller.

Oxford University Press, 2008, softcover, \$21.95.

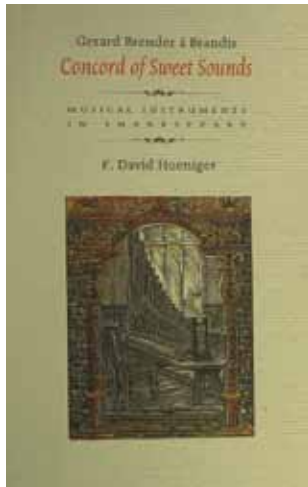


By Gloria Hildebrandt

here make and use tools, or contact each other over long distances, use sign language, share food, work co-operatively, understand numerical concepts, show empathy, or recognize unfairness and more.

Filled with beautiful photographs, loaded with helpful drawings and facts, this is an accessible collection of academic studies that should prove once and for all that animals and humans are more similar than different. Just because we humans can't understand animals, does not mean that we have a monopoly on intelligence.

Firefly Books Ltd., 2009, hardcover, \$35.



Concord of Sweet Sounds: Musical Instruments in Shakespeare

By Gerard Brender à Brandis
and F. David Hoeniger

This is the latest addition to a series of books showing the elaborate wood engravings of Gerard Brender à Brandis. Beautiful black and white images and commentary celebrate the musical instruments mentioned in Shakespeare's works, and follows *A Gathering of Flowers from Shakespeare* by the same team, published by Erin's Porcupine's Quill in 2006. F. David Hoeniger, a professor of

English, has written text to accompany each illustration, explaining the instruments shown and how Shakespeare used them.

As with all the works published by Porcupine's Quill, this book is itself a work of art, carefully printed on fine quality paper and bound by traditional methods. Even in paperback, this is a book to keep and treasure.

Porcupine's Quill, 2009, softcover, \$16.95.

Deer World

By Dave Taylor

More than 400 wonderful photographs of members of the North American deer family, including moose, elk and caribou make up this book, presented for every day of the year. Other animals are also shown: bears, wolves, coyotes, bison, cougars, mountain goats and some large birds. Explanatory captions provide interesting information, although some are confusing because they refer to facts that appear later in the book.

Author and photographer Dave Taylor works for The Riverwood Conservancy, a 150-acre park along the Credit River in Mississauga, and some of the deer photographs were taken in this urban oasis.

The most amazing information given in this book just may be that Riverwood exists within this city, providing a natural refuge for so many wild animals.

The Boston Mills Press, 2008, hardcover, \$39.95.
