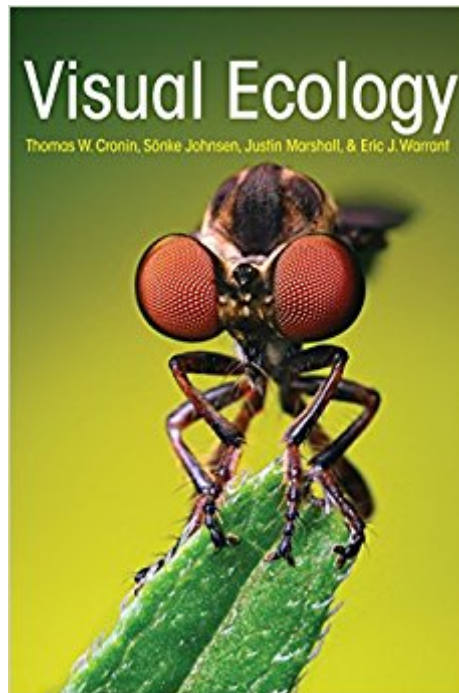




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Visual Ecology



Synopsis

Visual ecology is the study of how animals use visual systems to meet their ecological needs, how these systems have evolved, and how they are specialized for particular visual tasks. Visual Ecology provides the first up-to-date synthesis of the field to appear in more than three decades. Featuring some 225 illustrations, including more than 140 in color, spread throughout the text, this comprehensive and accessible book begins by discussing the basic properties of light and the optical environment. It then looks at how photoreceptors intercept light and convert it to usable biological signals, how the pigments and cells of vision vary among animals, and how the properties of these components affect a given receptor's sensitivity to light. The book goes on to examine how eyes and photoreceptors become specialized for an array of visual tasks, such as navigation, evading prey, mate choice, and communication. A timely and much-needed resource for students and researchers alike, Visual Ecology also includes a glossary and a wealth of examples drawn from the full diversity of visual systems. The most up-to-date overview of visual ecology available. Features some 225 illustrations, including more than 140 in color, spread throughout the text. Guides readers from the basic physics of light to the role of visual systems in animal behavior. Includes a glossary and a wealth of real-world examples. Some images inside the book are unavailable due to digital copyright restrictions.

Book Information

File Size: 15868 KB

Print Length: 422 pages

Publisher: Princeton University Press; 1 edition (August 10, 2014)

Publication Date: August 10, 2014

Sold by: Amazon Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B00K36LHBW

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Screen Reader: Supported

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #296,970 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #14

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Customer Reviews

"[The field of visual ecology] combines rigor and intellectual surprise with both beauty and humor." Cronin, Johnsen, Marshall, and Warrant conclude Visual Ecology on that note - which, in my opinion, aptly summarizes their collaboration! There's a sense of amicability throughout the text; one that reflects the authors' shared passion for their work in this subject. As with Sonke Johnsen's first book, "The Optics of Life", this book too - "Visual Ecology" - can be read and appreciated by all readers, whatever their level of expertise in the fields of ecology, anatomy, and/or physics. Although, for some, Visual Ecology's supplemental equations and graphics may take a few read-throughs to fully digest, the effort is well-worth the insights revealed. Each of the book's hundreds of richly-colored, glossy photographs/diagrams/etc. are sourced; and frequently throughout Visual Ecology, the authors support their text with the works of respected researchers in the fields of optics and biology. Personally, my favorite chapters were those that covered Nocturnal Vision, and Signals & Camouflage. I think these are natural phenomena most everyone's curious about! If you've ever wondered just how the occipital systems of insects, fish, marine invertebrates, reptiles and higher-order mammals compare to one another, and how it relates with their place in the food web--give Visual Ecology a close look! Fiat lux!-Cybill

Very good

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