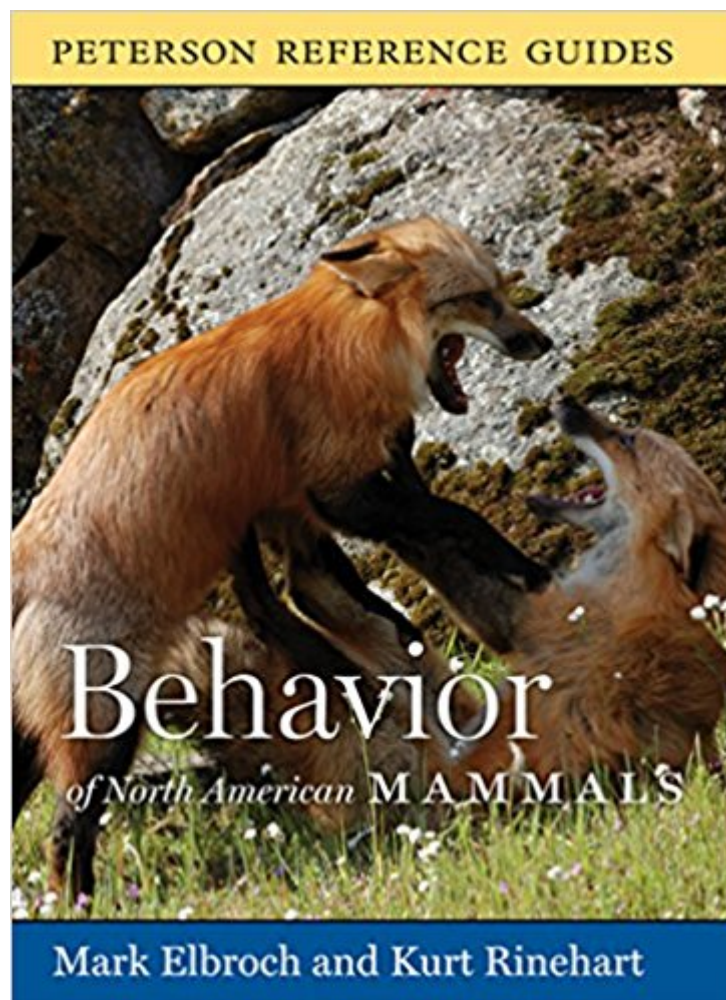




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# Peterson Reference Guide To The Behavior Of North American Mammals (Peterson Reference Guides)



## Synopsis

Oftentimes when we glimpse an animal in the wild, we have no idea what weâ€™ve seen. We want to know, and field guides are an ideal aid for identification. But when we want to know more about the lives of these animalsâ”their natural histories, their place in the larger ecological community, and where to look for them in the futureâ”we can turn to *Behavior of North American Mammals*. This exciting addition to the Peterson Reference Guide series is highly readable and full of fascinating facts. For example, when an opossum plays dead, it isn’t pretending: opossums actually do enter a catatonic deathlike state. Armadillos sequester air in their guts, blow up to twice their normal volume, and paddle across the water. And beavers stockpile food for winter by catching it in beneath a raft of branches, which gets frozen in place and keeps them well supplied until spring. A guide not to identifying mammals, but to understanding what they do, *Behavior of North American Mammals* provides detailed information on more than 70 species of mammals and includes illuminating and attractive photographs and drawings. Comprehensive, authoritative, and accessible, the book includes information on daily and seasonal activity, food and foraging, home range and habitat, communication, courtship and mating, development and dispersal of young, interactions with their own species, and interactions with other species. Â

## Book Information

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PETERSON REFERENCE GUIDESponsored by the National Wildlife Federation and the Roger Tory Peterson InstituteSome of the natural history included in *Behavior of North American Mammals*: A squirrel can regulate its temperature by manipulating a bundle of blood vessels at the base of its tail. The bundle functions like a gate for blood flow, so that when it swells it blocks blood flow into the tail, maintaining warmth in the squirrel's core. Releasing the blood into the tail dissipates heat, cooling the animal when it's hot. The alpha is not the largest or most aggressive wolf, but rather the wisest animal, best able to keep the pack alive by avoiding unnecessary conflict. Porcupines' quills have barbed tips that make them difficult and painful to remove. The barbs are angled in such a way that if the quills are left unattended, they dig deeper and deeper into an animal as it moves. Should the quills avoid large bones and vital organs, with enough time they can work their way straight through an animal and come out the other side. In a complex behavior called haying, pikas strategically harvest plants during the summer months that would be poisonous if they were eaten immediately. But in a few months, the toxins in these plants break down. The plants actually maintain their nutritional value longer than other species do, so they provide food during the winter. Peterson Reference Guides offer authoritative, comprehensive information, including detailed text, maps, and superior illustrations. Written by expert authors, the guides are an unparalleled resource for understanding specific groups of animals. "

"Behavior of North American Mammals" by Mark Elbroch and Kurt Rinehart is one of the splendid Peterson Field Guide series. Much more than the "standard" field guide, it is 370 pages of Pure Gold for anyone interested in the lives of our North American animals. It truly is a landmark publication that will edify any wildlife aficionado. It is well-illustrated with many gallery-class photos and clear line drawings. Its' organization is efficient and highly readable and it is brimming with accurate, fascinating and often little-known facts about each of the nearly 100 common mammal species presented. The format and presentation of the book also acclimates the reader to a very valid and perceptive method of organizing one's approach to the learning of the lifeways of wildlife and that is a huge advance for the student of Nature. Any student of Ecology, Ethology or just wildlife in general at any level will find this book to be one of the very best investments they can make.

What a fantastic reference! This book is very informative, and a must-have if you are serious about wildlife watching. It is large and heavy, though, so perhaps not for backpacking trips.

I work in wildlife rehabilitation. This book is a great way to learn about the animals I treat.

Great pictures and some interesting facts. Excellent for beginners in the field. Those with an advanced knowledge of mammals may find it a bit elementary.

Fantastic book, use it all the time.

The best on the market.

This is a good book for learning more about north american/central american mammals. It has great color photos and interesting facts about each animal.

lots of detail, well written, definitely a good reference for those interested in getting a start on understanding mammal behavior

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