



# Walker's Marine Mammals of the World

By Ronald M. Nowak

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From the giant bottlenosed whale and the West Indian manatee to the crabeater seal and hourglass dolphin, from the pygmy sperm whale to the spotted-necked otter, marine mammals are among the most fascinating and most watched of the earth's many animal species. Some, such as dolphins, are known for their intelligence, friendliness toward humans, and surprisingly sophisticated social behavior. In addition, all these animals are sources of fascination for the special adaptations they have undergone for life in and around the water, for their unique methods of communication ("whale song"), and for the endangered status of many species.

Now Ronald M. Nowak offers a comprehensive guide to this fascinating and varied order of mammals. *Walker's Marine Mammals of the World* includes scientific and common names, the number and distribution of species, measurements and physical traits, habitat, daily and seasonal activity, population dynamics, home range, social life, reproduction, longevity, and status of threatened species.

A foreword by John E. Heyning is engagingly written for the general reader, while a more detailed and substantive introduction by Randall R. Reeves and Brent S. Stewart discusses issues in greater depth for the specialist. Illustrated with more than 140 detailed black and white photographs, this book will be welcomed by marine mammal experts and enthusiasts alike.

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## **Editorial Review**

### Review

A comprehensive handbook of all living and recently extinct mammals in the orders Pinnipedia (seals, sea lions, walrus), Cetacea (whales, dolphins, porpoises), and Sirenia (dugong, sea cow, manatees), plus the polar bear and the two salt-water otters... There are numerous illustrations, mostly black-and-white photographs, and extensive citations to the primary literature. The treatment is scientifically rigorous.

*(American Reference Books Annual)*

### Review

Professional naturalists will find [these volumes] invaluable as a handy reference, and amateurs?at least those citizens alive to their earthly environment?should delight in finding so much fascinating information made so available and palatable.

*(Audubon)*

A mine of information, for the specialist as well as for the casually interested... If you want to find out about a mammal, then here is the place to look.

*(New York Times)*

Every mammalogist must have [these books], and those who profess a broad interest in the fauna of the world will want them.

*(Natural History)*

### About the Author

**Ernest P. Walker** (1891-1969) began work on *Mammals of the World* in the early 1930s, when he became assistant director of the National Zoo in Washington. His work reflected an unequaled store of knowledge about the world's mammals. **Ronald M. Nowak** is the author of the fifth and sixth editions of *Walker's Mammals of the World*. His other works on mammalogy include *North American Quaternary Canis* and several parts of the National Geographic Society's *Wild Animals of North America*, for which he also was editorial consultant. He received a Ph.D. in biology from the University of Kansas in 1973 and was staff mammalogist at the former Office of Endangered Species, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, from 1974 to 1987. He served as an Air Force officer for four years and is a private pilot.

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