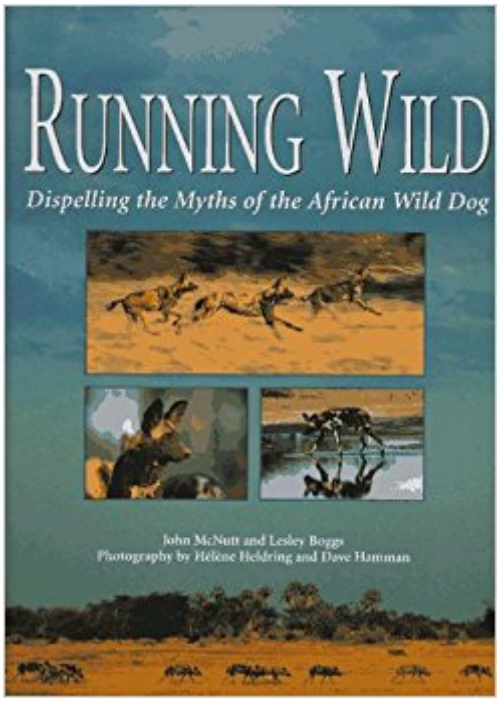
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Running Wild: Dispelling The Myths Of The African Wild Dog



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Synopsis

Wild dogs were once treated as vermin in African game reserves and shot on sight. Only recently have conservationists halted this indiscriminate slaughter, but they are almost too late to save this magnificent African carnivore. The photographs and text in this book closely document the life of a pack of dogs living in the Moremi Wildlife Reserve in northern Botswana, celebrating their untamed existence but also pointing out the vulnerability of the species in Africa. This captures the wild dogs at play, with their young, hunting and eating. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

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Customer Reviews

For millennia, Lycaon pictus, the wild dog, roamed the savannas of sub-Saharan Africa. A highly social scavenger, much like the wolf of the Northern Hemisphere, the wild dog served an essential function in the grasslands ecosystem, culling sick and injured ungulates from once-vast herds. With the advent of large-scale farming and livestock production, however, the wild dog was seen as a threat to progress and was hunted out. Only some 5,000 individuals survive today, making Lycaon pictus Africa’s most endangered carnivore. This heavily illustrated look at the life of the wild dog makes a well-reasoned argument for its preservation.

In 1989, the authors and photography team Helene Heldring and Dave Hamman embarked on what would become a four-year effort focused on the African wild dog. As is true of many carnivores that

compete with humans for food and living space, an untainted study population was difficult to locate. The researchers finally decided on the Mombo Pack on Chief’s Island in Botswana’s Okavango delta area. This coffee-table account includes over 300 superb color photos offering a broad picture of the pack’s behaviors, from pack structure to hunting techniques. A brief suggested reading list lacks two related works of interest: noted zoologist Jonathan Scott’s Painted Wolves (Viking, 1991) and Mark and Delia Owens’s Cry of the Kalahari (1984). (The Owenses also worked in Botswana but were denied reentry owing to their criticism of conservation efforts there; McNutt et al. gratefully acknowledge the government’s support. A very readable book; highly recommended.?Edell Marie Schaefer, Brookfield P.L., Wis.Copyright 1997 Reed Business Information, Inc.

I first came across this book during a photographic safari in Botswana during which I became intrigued by the African Wild Dog (or Painted Wolf, as the species is also known). The species is endangered and only some 6,000 animals remain world-wide. These "dogs" are not either dogs or wolves as we know them, but rather an independent species that cannot interbreed with what we know as "dogs" or "wolves". The book was so good that ordering this book was one of my first priorities on returning to the US. The book is written by individuals who spent years tracking packs of animals. The photographs are exceptionally good--they are taken at all times of day and in both close-up and at a distance. The book is organized well and discusses the dog itself as well as its pack rules, its playfulness, how socially interactive it is, how it hunts and what it hunts, how its prey has learned to escape, what hunts these dogs, and a variety of other topics. Throughout all, the photographs are stellar and let one appreciate not only the animal life but also the surrounding environment. This book should appeal to 1) photographers, 2) anyone planning a safari to northern Botswana or to other areas (sadly few) in which the African Wild Dog survives still, 3) anyone who wants a magnificent coffee table book.This is a wonderful book.

Rated 4 stars only because it is old and basically out of print. I feel lucky to add this to my collection of African Wild Dog information. The seller’s information was accurate and the book shipped fast to me. This book took 4 years to produce and contains absolutely stunning images of the wild dogs and their prey, as well as a superb scientific discourse on the life cycle of this endangered animal. More importantly, it accurately describes the challenges that exist across 4 countries (nearly the size of the U.S.) in the long term effort to maintain the species as a viable part of teh southern African ecology. I highly recommend it for anyone just for the photos and images, and its outstanding scientifically-based documentation is ideal for students of the African Wild Dog.

For an old library book, it’s in perfect condition - because of that I don’t mind the small library stickers, and I appreciate the plastic covering on it to keep it safe. Been wanting this for a long time, and no longer being published I’m glad I found it.

A terrific book for all types of nature-loving readers. If you like pictures, they’re here. If you want the best information available about African Wild Dogs and efforts to save them, it’s definitely here. All people who are fascinated by wild animals will find this book to be a treasure. The photography is beautiful...It’s the next best thing to being there. Leave this book on your coffee table and I guarantee that every guest will pick it up.These animals truly are in trouble. McNutt does a good job explaining exactly why these dogs are endangered (or should be classified as such).Like most books published under Smithsonian, this one is a keeper.Edit: I am reading this book again in 2014...it is somehow even better now. What a beauty! I will own this book until the day I die.

The only thing better than this book is seeing actual wild dogs in the wild! Of course, I’ve only ever been lucky enough to see one in the wild. But there’s always that next trip to Africa.

This book is an absolute stunning account on the very illusive and extremely endangered african wild dog! A definite must have for your african collection

Are you fascinated by wolves? Do you dream of going on safari in Africa? If you answer yes to either question then this book will be of interest to you.I had the good luck to see a pack of 10 wild dogs while on safari in Botswana in September of 1998. Being a wolf enthusiast, I was very interested in the similarities and differences between the American grey wolf and the African wild dog. This book was in the library of each safari camp I stayed in so I had the pleasure of studying about the wild dogs while in their native habitat. As you’ll learn from this book, wild dogs are extremely social, even more so than grey wolves, and very efficient, successful predators.The photographs in this book are fantastic and the text is well written, well organized, and aimed at the general public rather than the scientific community.The author continues his African wild dog research in Botswana. The fate of these fascinating predators is very precarious due to their small population and the relentless persecution by people, similar to that experienced by the grey wolf in America earlier this century.

This is an excellent treatment of the ecology, behavior and endangered status of the African wild dog (Lycaon pictus). For the past several years, the authors have studied African wild dogs in one of their last remaining strongholds, the Okavango Delta in Botswana. The well-written text and superb photography provide important insight into the natural history and the current plight of African wild dogs. This species has been maligned and persecuted by humans, partly because of unfortunate myths about them. The authors address and dispel these myths, they examine the causes of the drastic decline in African wild dog numbers, and they discuss possible approaches to save this endangered species.

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