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ANIMAL
BIOGRAPHY:
OR
BOOK OF
NATURAL HISTORY.



NEW HAVEN.
PUBLISHED BY S. BABCOCK.



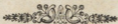
C. Dudley

Brown

Mc. Mc. Darling

ANIMAL BIOGRAPHY:
OR
BOOK OF NATURAL HISTORY;
DESIGNED FOR THE
AMUSEMENT AND INSTRUCTION
OF
LITTLE FOLKS.

ILLUSTRATED BY TWENTY-ONE BEAUTIFUL WOOD ENGRAVINGS.



New-Haven.

PRINTED AND PUBLISHED BY S. BABCOCK.



ANIMAL BIOGRAPHY

THE ELEPHANT.

The Elephant is a native of Asia and Africa, and is found from seven to twelve feet high, but seldom grows to more than nine or ten feet. It is far from being a handsome animal; its body being thick, huge, ash-colored, and covered with a rough coarse skin, without hair; its legs ill shaped and clumsy, and its neck short and stiff. Its eyes are very small in proportion to its size; its ears are large, and its trunk gives a most singular appearance to the animal. But in the sense of touch, which the Elephant exercises with this instrument, it exceeds that of any other of the brute creation. By means of his trunk he can take a pin from the ground, untie the knots from a rope, or unlock a door. Hence it is useful to him in most of the purposes of life. With it he collects his food and drink, and defends himself from his enemies.

The enormous tusks of the Elephant, being useless in eating, may be considered only as other means of defense. Although the Elephant is the largest, as well as the strongest of animals, it is neither fierce nor formidable. No less mild than brave, it seldom uses its power except for its own protection, or that of its friends. When tamed, it becomes the most gentle and docile of all animals. It soon learns to know the one who has charge of

it, and becomes greatly attached to him, obeying all his commands, and seeming to understand his wishes. But if beaten without cause, or otherwise ill-treated, it often becomes furious and destructive.

The engraving represents one of these animals who was employed to carry people on his back. One day his driver, in a fit of anger, struck him violently with a club; instantly the Elephant became enraged, and pulling the foolish man from his neck, he threw him upon the ground and crushed him to death. The artist has well pictured the dismay and horror of the passengers, during this dreadful scene.

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### THE LION.




To the Lion, the title of KING OF BEASTS is universally allowed; but it was conferred upon him at a time when his strength and courage, and power of

spreading terror rendered him more formidable than now. Had the palm been given, as it always ought to be, to sagacity and mildness, it would have been awarded to the half-reasoning elephant. But it must be allowed, that, considering his appearance, dignity and conduct, the title has been well bestowed upon the Lion.

The Lion is a native of Asia and Africa, and sometimes grows to the length of six or eight feet, but is not usually much more than half that length. He is a long lived animal, having been known to attain the age of seventy years. He has a striking figure, a bold look, a majestic gate, a terrific voice, and a compact and well proportioned form. Such is his strength, that he can break the back of a horse with one stroke of his paw, and throw down a strong man with the sweep of his tail; and he is no less active than strong. His face is broad, and his neck is covered with long coarse hair, called a mane. The female is smaller than the male, and is destitute of a mane.

The roaring of the Lion is so loud, that when heard in the stillness of night, it resembles distant thunder. This roar is a deep, hollow growl. But when enraged, he has a different cry, which is short and broken. The Lion is a solitary animal, and it is very seldom that more than one pair are to be found in the same forest.



## THE TIGER



If beauty could give a claim to respect, this animal would undoubtedly be ranked as the first of beasts. The glossy smoothness of his hair, the extreme blackness of the streaks with which his bright yellow color is marked, excite the admiration of every beholder; while his slender, delicate, and truly elegant form, tells of his extreme swiftness and activity. But this is all that can be said in his praise. In size he often exceeds the lion, whom he is not afraid to give battle; but he has none of that animal's noble qualities. The Tiger delights in blood, and seems to kill for the mere pleasure of killing. His strength is so enormous, that he can carry off a horse or a buffalo, without his speed being at all lessened by the burthen.

In the marshy islands of the Ganges and the Indies, there are great numbers of Tigers. They are



also quite common on the borders of Tartary, and in other parts of Asia. Their skins are held in high estimation in China. In Europe, however, they are not so highly prized; those of the panther and leopard being considered much more beautiful.

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THE LEOPARD.



The Leopard is usually about four feet in length, exclusive of the tail, which commonly measures about two feet and a half. It has a much more beautiful coat than the tiger; the yellow being very brilliant, and marked all over with circular clusters of black spots, which bear a considerable resemblance to the print of its foot in the sand.

The Leopard delights in thick forests, and spares neither man nor beast. It is a native of Sengal,

Guinea, and the interior parts of Africa ; and is also found in some parts of China, and among the mountains of Caucasus, from Persia to India



## THE BEAR.



The three principal species of the Bear tribe are the common or Brown Bear, the American or Black Bear, and the White or Polar Bear. The first of these species is found in various parts of Europe, and in the East Indies.

The Black Bear, (which the picture represents, is found in the northern districts of our own country, they often migrate southwards in search of food. Their places of retreat are usually the hollow trunk of an old cypress tree. When they are hunted, fire is used to drive them from the tree ; in which case the old one generally issues out first, and is

shot by the hunters, and the young ones, as they descend, are caught in a noose, and are either kept or killed for provision. Their hams and paws are considered a great delicacy.

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### THE POLAR BEAR.



The White or Greenland Bear, differs greatly from the Brown and Black Bear, both in figure and size, being almost three times as large. It sometimes grows to nearly twelve feet in length. Their ferocity is proportionate with their size; and they have been known to seize and devour sailors in the presence of their comrades. They live principally on seals, fish, and the carcasses of whales. They seldom remove far from the shore; however, sometimes they are seen, on large cakes of ice, several miles out at sea, and are often floated in this manner to Iceland; where they no sooner arrive than all the natives are on the shore in arms to receive them.

The attachment of this animal to its young, is not less remarkable than its determined courage. The White Bear will rather die than desert its offspring. When wounded and dying, it embraces its cubs to the very last moment, and when by any means deprived of them, it mourns the loss with the most piteous cries.

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THE CAMEL.



The two principal species of this animal, are the Bactrian or Two-humped Camel, to which the name is usually given, and the Arabian or Single-humped Camel, which is called the Dromedary. The Camel is from five to seven feet high, at the shoulder,—is somewhat larger than the Dromedary, and, in proportion to its size, has rather shorter legs. The body is covered with dusky or ash-colored hair. It has

a short head, small ears, and a low bending neck. The feet are flat and tough, divided above, but not quite through; which enables him to travel the sandy deserts without having his hoofs cracked by the hot sands.

In Arabia, and other countries where the Camel is trained to useful purposes, it is considered as a sacred animal, without which the natives could neither travel nor subsist. Its milk and flesh forms a considerable part of their food; they clothe themselves with its hair, which is shed regularly once a year; and on the approach of their enemies, they may, by mounting the Camel, flee to the distance of one hundred miles in a single day.

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THE DROMEDARY.



In the preceding description of the Camel, we stated the principal differences between the Dromedary and the Camel. To these we may add, that the former is inferior to the latter in strength as well

as size, and is much more numerous; the Camel being seldom found except in Arabia, while the Dromedary is common in Egypt, and all the northern parts of Africa, as well as in Persia, and some parts of Tartary and India.

Both the Dromedary and Camel are extremely sensible of good treatment, and in pursuing their fatiguing journeys, are much enlivened by the tinkling of a bell, or the sound of music.



### THE CAMELOPARD.



This animal, which is also called the Giraffe, when standing erect, measures in height, to the top of its head, seventeen or eighteen feet; but its hind legs are little more than half as long as the fore ones; a disproportion which prevents it from running swiftly, and renders its pace waddling and inelegant. Its neck is not less than seven or eight feet in length, and decorated with a short mane; its head is also

adorned with two short horns, covered with hair, and tufted at the ends with a circle of short black hairs; its ears are long, and its eyes large and bright. The color of the Camelopard is a light grey, interspersed with spots of a dark brown color, somewhat like the leopard, from which it derives its name. It is a timid, gentle creature, being equally destitute of the means of attack or defense, and ill calculated for flight. It lives wholly on vegetables; but its favorite food is the leaves of a tall kind of plant, which grows in Africa, in the remotest parts of which country this animal is found.

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
### THE RHINOCEROS.



This animal is a native of the same countries, and inhabits the same forests and deserts as the elephant. The picture represents one attacking two

elephants. In length, the Rhinoceros is generally about twelve feet, and as large round as he is long. The form of his head is much like a hog's, except that the ears are larger and stand erect. His nose is armed with a formidable weapon, peculiar to this animal,—being an exceeding hard and solid horn, which sometimes grows almost four feet in length, and renders him a complete match for even the elephant. Like the elephant, he is formidable to ferocious animals, but perfectly inoffensive to those that offer him no injury, and give him no provocation.

The body and limbs of the Rhinoceros are covered with a skin so thick and hard, that it will turn the edge of the sharpest sword, and, (except on the belly,) will resist a musket ball. This skin, which is of a black color, forms itself into folds, by which the motions of the animal are made with more facility and ease. The body, thighs, legs and feet, are covered with knots, which some call scales. The legs are short, but thick and strong; its upper lip is long, and capable of being extended out, so as to enable the animal to lay hold of any thing that it wishes to put into its mouth. Its strength is very great, and without being ferocious, it is wholly untractable. It seems to partake more of the stupidity of the hog, than the sagacity of the elephant, and is a solitary animal, loving moist and marshy grounds, where, like the hog, it delights to wallow in the mire.





## THE STAG.



This elegant and active, but peaceful and inoffensive creature, can not be viewed without pleasure. The branching antlers of the Stag, his graceful speed and airy motion, render him one of the most beautiful animals in creation. These horns are the index of his age. The first year exhibits only a small swelling; the second year the horns are straight and single; the third year he has two antlers; the fourth, three, and the fifth, four.

In England, the usual color of the Stag is red, in other countries, brown or yellow. His eye is very beautiful, being at once mild and bright, and both his hearing and smelling are remarkably fine. He is extremely delicate in the choice of his food, which consists partly of grass and partly of the young shoots and leaves of various trees. The

female is called a hind; her head is not adorned with antlers, and she is somewhat less in size than the Stag.



### THE FALLOW DEER.



The Fallow Deer, in form and disposition much resembles the stag; but is smaller and less robust. There are many varieties of this beautiful animal; in England they have two kinds, one spotted, and the other deep brown. The deer, in its different varieties, is a race of animals that is found in almost every part of the world. Our whole continent abounds with stags and other animals of the deer kind, in almost all their varieties. In some parts, the inhabitants have domesticated them, and they find a rich supply in the milk and cheese which they produce. The Fallow Deer lives to the age of twenty years, and attains to its full perfection in about three.

## THE ELK.



The Elk, or Moose Deer, is found in the northern forests of Europe, Asia, and America. In the former places, it is known by the name of Elk; in our own country, by that of Moose Deer. It is the largest of the deer kind, being generally superior to the horse in size and weight. Its horns are shed every year, and are of such size, that some have been found which weighed sixty pounds.

The neck of the Elk is so short, and its legs so long, that it can not graze on level ground, but must eat the tops of large plants, and the leaves and branches of trees. It can step without difficulty over a gate that is five feet high. None of the deer tribe can be tamed so easily as this animal, which is naturally very gentle; when he is once domesticated, he usually manifests the greatest affection for his master, following him any distance from home, and returning with him at his call. When disturbed in his retreat, the Elk never gallops, but escapes by a kind of quick trot.

## THE ANTELOPE



The Antelope tribe forms the connecting link between the goat and the deer. In the texture of their horns they agree with the goat; and in their graceful make and the swiftness of their flight, they resemble, and, indeed, surpass the deer. They are so extremely active, that it requires the fleetest horse to overtake them. In ancient times, the falcon, a bird trained to the business of hunting, was sometimes used to hunt the Antelope. Possessing extraordinary ferocity, courage, and strength, the falcon would pounce down upon its victim with a velocity outstripping the speed of the Antelope; and fastening itself by its sharp and strong claws upon his head, with its hooked bill would inflict deadly wounds.

Antelopes are very numerous in Africa and Asia. They inhabit mountainous parts, and bound from rock to rock with an agility truly astonishing.

## THE SLOTH.



The Sloth is found in South America ; there is, however, another species of this animal in the East Indies. It differs from the South American Sloth in being larger, more active, and having only two toes, instead of three, upon its fore-feet ; it has also a longer snout, very different fur, and forty-six ribs, while the other has only twenty-eight. In every thing else it resembles the Three-toed Sloth.

The Sloth is the most inactive of all animals ; it lives chiefly on trees, and having ascended one with great labor and difficulty, it remains there till it has entirely stripped it, leaving neither fruit, blossom, nor leaf ; after which, it devours even the bark, and thus destroys the tree. Being unable to descend, or unwilling to take the trouble, it lets itself drop to the ground, where it remains without motion, until hunger compels it to seek another tree.

The Sloth is about the size of a fox, and is covered with coarse hair, which looks much like dried

grass. Its nose is very blunt, its eyes black, its ears small, and its mouth extremely wide ; its legs are thick and clumsy. The motions of the Sloth are so slow, that it can not move more than three yards in an hour.

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THE RACCOON.



This animal is common in many parts of our country, and also in the West India islands. He lives in the hollows of trees, and his principal food consists of grain, sugar canes, and various kinds of fruit : but he will also eat flesh, and is very fond of oysters. Being particularly fond of sweet things, he makes great ravages in sugar plantations.

The head of the Raccoon resembles that of the fox ; its body is thick and short, covered with long hair, black at the end, but grey underneath. The tail which is about a foot in length, is thick, tapering towards the point, and regularly marked with

rings of black ; the fore-feet are much shorter than the hinder, and both are armed with five sharp and strong claws. When tamed, the Raccoon is good-natured and playful, but busy and mischievous as a monkey. It examines every thing with its paws, and makes use of them as hands to lay hold of any thing that is given it, as well as to carry victuals to its mouth. It is familiar and caressing, and leaps upon those it is fond of, moving with great agility.

THE JERBOA.



This singular quadruped is chiefly found in Palestine, Barbary, and Egypt ; there are also some species of it in Siberia, Tartary, and other parts of Asia. It makes its nest of the finest herbage, rolls itself up with its head between its thighs, and during the winter remains in a torpid state, without taking any food.

The Jerboa is remarkable for the singular construction of its legs, the fore ones being not more

than one inch in length, and used, not for walking, but for conveying food to its mouth. The hind legs are naked, and like those of a bird, with only three toes on each foot. When pursued, it springs with such agility, that its feet seem scarcely to touch the ground. Its hair is long and soft, reddish on the back, and white on the belly and breast, with a large black band across the thighs, in the form of a crescent. Its tail is longer than its body, and the end has a black tuft, tipped with white. Its head is shaped like that of a rabbit; but in size, the Jerboa is somewhat less than a rat.

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THE ARMADILLO.



Of this kind of animal, there are several varieties, all of which are natives of South America. The one represented above is found in Brazil and Guiana, and is called the Six-banded Armadillo. This species seldom exceeds the size of a young pig.

To give a minute description of the shells or



covering of the Armadillo, would be extremely difficult, as they are all composed of many parts, differing greatly from each other in their order and arrangement; in general, there are two large pieces of shell which cover the shoulders and the hinder parts; between these, on the back, are bands like those in the tail of a lobster, which being flexible, give way to the motions of the animal.

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THE RABBIT.



This gentle and timid animal is too well known to most of our little readers to make a long description necessary. It may not, however, be amiss to state few particulars respecting it, with which all are, perhaps, not so well acquainted.

The Rabbit lives to the age of nine or ten years. It prefers a warm climate; and in Sweden, and other northern regions, it can not be reared but in houses. In Spain they had once become so nu-

merous, and were found so destructive to vegetation that the inhabitants were obliged to procure ferrets from Africa, in order to diminish their numbers.

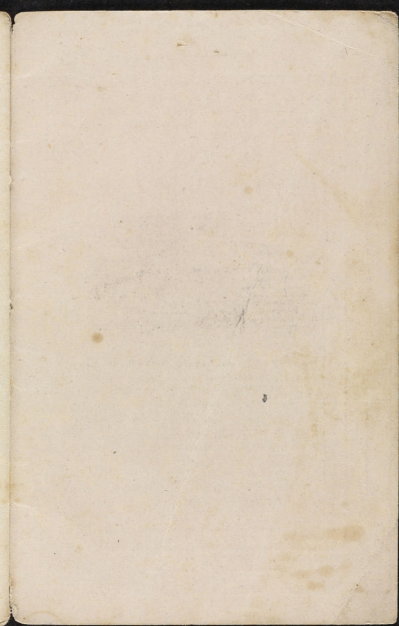
The flesh of the rabbit is considered a delicacy and the fur is used in the manufacture of hats.

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### THE COMMON SEAL.



In some respects the Seal resembles a quadruped, and in others it seems to approach the nature of a fish. It has a large round head, a broad nose, and a short neck. The body is thickest where the neck is joined to it; from thence the animal tapers down to the tail, growing all the way smaller, like a fish. The whole body is covered with a thick shining hair, which looks as if it were entirely rubbed over with oil. These animals differ considerably in size, being found from four to nine feet long. Were it not for the Seal, the Greenlander would not be able to live in his country, as it is from this animal that he derives the necessaries of life. There is scarcely a part of the Seal which is not of the greatest use to him.



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