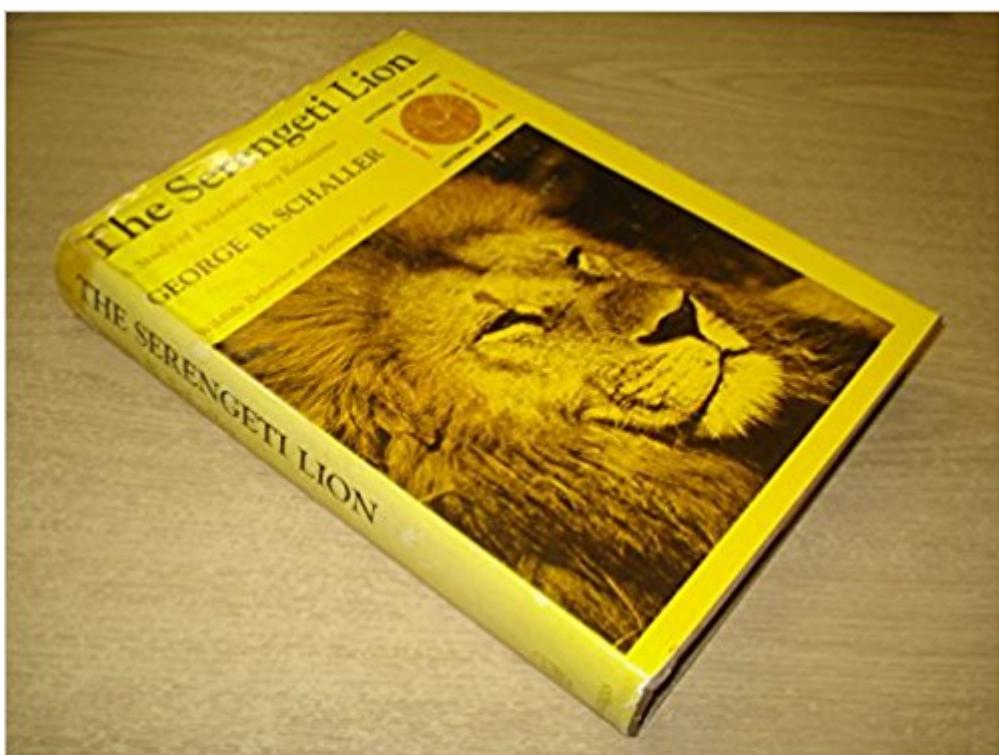


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Serengeti Lion: A Study Of Predator-Prey Relations (Wildlife Behavior And Ecology)



Synopsis

Based on three years of study in the Serengeti National Park, George B. Schaller's *The Serengeti Lion* describes the vast impact of the lion and other predators on the vast herds of wildebeest, zebra, and gazelle for which the area is famous. The most comprehensive book available on the lion, this classic work includes the author's findings on all aspects of lion behavior, including its social system, population dynamics, hunting behavior, and predation patterns. If you have only enough time to read one book about field biology, this is the one I recommend. "Edward O. Wilson, *Science* This book conveys not only the fascination of its particular study of lion behavior but the drama and wonder and beauty of the intimate interdependence of all living things." Saturday Review This is an important book, not just for its valuable information on lions, but for its broad, open, and intelligent approach to problems that cut across the fields of behavior, populations, ecology, wildlife management, evolution, anthropology, and comparative biology. "Richard G. Van Gelder, *Bioscience* --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

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Customer Reviews

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O. Wilson, Science "This is an important book, not just for its valuable information on lions, but for its broad, open, and intelligent approach to problems that cut across the fields of behavior, populations, ecology, wildlife management, evolution, anthropology, and comparative biology." - Richard G. Van Gelder, Bioscience "By the time the reader has finished this book, the Serengeti, its landscapes, seasons, and wildlife, takes shape in the mind as a complex and epic poem, each part a function of every other part and each part a function of the whole." - George Stade, New York Times Book Review" --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

'Predators are the best wildlife managers,' writes George Schaller. They weed out the sick and old and keep herds healthy and alert. Yet the large predators of the world have been and are still being exterminated because they are thought to harm wildlife. Schaller's award-winning work, based on three years of study in the Serengeti National Park, describes the impact of the lion and other predators on the vast herds of wildebeest, zebra, and gazelle for which the area is famous. --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

In this ground-breaking research, George Schaller invites us into the intimate lives of various lion prides in the Serengeti. I read this book in college back in 1980 and I recently revisited it. Schaller writes both with scientific rigor and a dry, laughable wit. On the latter, Schaller quotes "and Turner told me of a poacher who tried to escape by swimming a river and was apprehended by a crocodile instead." Priceless. Schaller also reveals lion behavior counter to what is commonly accepted by the general public. For example, lionesses are typically portrayed as doting mothers while male lions are depicted as lazy, thieving louts. Schaller showed that when prey is small, greedy lionesses wax fat while their cubs starve to death, whereas male lions will drive off the females and allow cubs to feed. In sum, Schaller makes a persuasive argument that as the ultimate apex predator, we humans have an obligation to preserve these magnificent beasts. I can't recommend this book highly enough. Reading this book, you will learn both about lions and human behavior. Buy it.

Schaller recently received an award for his contributions to conservation. His three year study of the Serengeti Lion was ground-breaking, but the book reads like the quantitative report of results it was written as. Not for someone interested in being entertained by his human experiences of observation and entry into the lives of lions and their prey on the great plains of Africa. But then some call me a hopeless romantic.

Have a well thumbed copy of this basic reference on the bookshelf. Had the bright idea the other day to have a portable copy for serious reference work. So bought the Kindle version which of course offers internal and external reference links, highlighting, internal search, in general a much better working copy. Although I'll keep both copies as long as the shelf space is available, the Kindle version will become the go to one for serious reading and research.

Schaller's classic study on the lions of Tanzania laid the ground work for later scientists, but it is a somewhat difficult read for the non-scientists among us. However, there are many intriguing stories and conclusions about the life and times of these creatures which are increasingly threatened by loss of habitat and development proposals.

I haven't read this, but my husband enjoyed it a lot.

Fascinating! Learned a lot

There was a lot of interesting facts about lions in this book, including some that breaks the 'typical' lion I'd learned even though the book is older than I am (for example, male lions don't always fight to the death to keep their pride). However, it's very scientific, a bit dry to read and has a LOT of tables so it's definitely not an easy read.

When I was reading this book I was asked what is the stupid point of reading a book about lions while you are in a farm in Maine? I was taken by surprise. Isn't it obvious? I thought. Well, I said, because first I like animals and everything about them I find inexhaustibly interesting but also because I believe that learning about animal behaviour enriches the understanding of human nature. C. Jung wrote that animals hold the purest aspects of ourselves. In this book, Schaller gives us an unbiased look at the social dynamics of the pride and (for me that is) gave light to some behaviour in common with humans. When one is in awe with a book makes the task of writing about so much more difficult. So I will limit myself to say that the most remarkable aspect of this book and, I believe sets it apart from others that hold the same task is that this book reflects the plain observation of the animals from the field. It did not start with a premise, a theory, something to prove, no, but the plain and raw observation of the lions. And for this alone, this book is extra-ordinary. The author is not in it, he is not trying to entertain the reader, he wrote what he saw and he shared it in a book form for the rest of us to take a wee peak at this wonderful animal world.

For that alone it deserves a galaxy of stars.

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