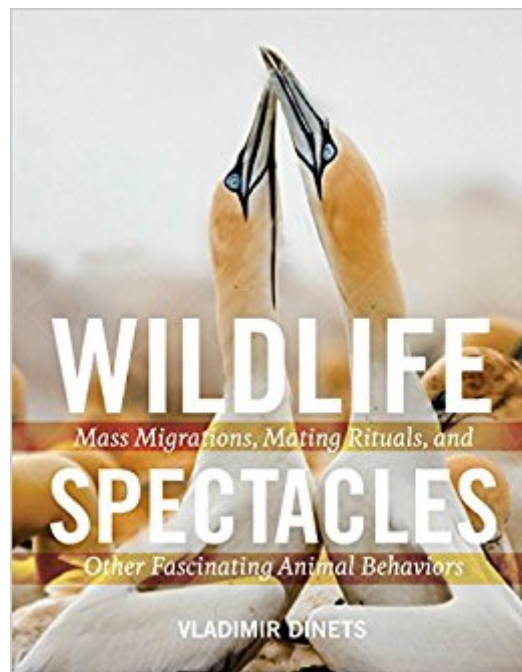




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# Wildlife Spectacles: Mass Migrations, Mating Rituals, And Other Fascinating Animal Behaviors



## Synopsis

Equal parts nature guide, adventure story, and coffee table book! People are captivated by wild animals by their strength and their size and by the things they do to stay alive. In *Wildlife Spectacles* zoologist Vladimir Dinets dives deep into this wonder, allowing curious readers to discover just how spectacular wild animals can be. In the rich, fully illustrated pages you will discover the migration of gray whales along the Pacific coast, the dancing alligators of the Everglades, the synchronized blinking of fireflies near Tennessee, the swarms of feeding bats over the Mississippi River, the blue-glowing scorpions of the Southwest desert, hundreds of wintering tundra swans in New Jersey, and much more.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"With inspired passion, Vladimir Dinets introduces us to diverse wildlife spectacles, the natural history that drives them, and a checklist of amazing experiences many of which are closer to home than you might think." Mark Elbroch, lead scientist of Pumas with Panthera, coauthor of Peterson Reference Guide to the Behavior of North American Mammals "Master zoologist Dinets takes us on an astonishing journey, as luminous images and clear prose teach us essential ecology lessons." Dr. Cristina Eisenberg, chief scientist of Earthwatch Institute, author of *The Carnivore Way: Coexisting with and Conserving North America's Predators* "Wildlife Spectacles is captivating and entrancing in both its information on a multitude of species and the full-color photographs

throughout. Their stunning beauty is as much a reason to read this book as the text is. **Shelf Awareness** "This is a lovely book by an experienced behavioral ecologist and talented (and patient) photographer. It is a nice present for one interested in natural history. Particularly useful are the site directions, where one can encounter many of the described spectacles. The reviewer loved this aspect, and is currently making travel plans. **Choice** "The animal lover on your list will howl with glee when she opens *Wildlife Spectacles* by Vladimir Dinets. **The Marco Eagle** "This book is all about wildlife and its behavior: migration, mating, parenting and more. Bonus: pictures! **Oklahoman** "A beautiful coffee table book for animal lovers. **Daily Journal**

**What Do Wild Animals Do When We're Not Looking?** Explore the secret lives of North America's wild creatures with expeditioner-zoologist Vladimir Dinets •no binoculars needed! Through rare images and vivid descriptions, get to know migrating tarantulas, dancing alligators, and blue-glowing scorpions. Dinets reveals the whys and hows of wildlife behavior, and shares the best locations for real-world sightings. **Â**

This is an important work written in an accessible, enjoyable style intended for a mass audience. It is full of fascinating facts generally unknown to the public [unfortunately]. It is illustrated with many photos, all of which can be expanded to full screen views. What is really important about this accessibly written book is the understanding it provides about the nature of the lives of wild things, what they are dependent upon, and the serious problems of continued existence they currently face. These considerations are especially important in the light of the current political milieu where those in power do not understand the importance of species diversity to human survival, and whose environmental protection views will further shrink species diversity and decimate wildlife populations and its consequent impact on human life.

Informative and insightful on North American wildlife and their "spectacular" behaviors

This book is a MUST for lovers of wildlife!!! High quality pages full of candid photography and beautifully written text.

A very interesting and informative book. Hopefully I will get to some of the places during mass

migration.

A lifelong zoologist, Vladimir Dinets has put together a delightful book of his observations, photographs and knowledge. It is not a coffee-table book of giant photos, and it is not a dry science book cataloguing every little thing known about each species. Instead it is a celebration of what is unique about these beings – their hunting styles, their defenses, their mating rituals, their migrations, their method of play, their eyesight or hearing or anything that is outstanding. He ends each chapter with a long list of places in North America where you can see for yourself. Here are some points I want to remember: – Some bats take separate vacations – the males summer in the US Southwest, the females in Central Canada. They meet up in Mexico in the fall – Hummingbirds can fly across the Gulf of Mexico on just .04 of an ounce of fat – The Snake Bight Trail (Everglades) holds the world record for biting insects: 22 bites per minute per square inch of exposed skin – There are 4000 species of firefly, (actually a beetle), each with their own color and blink code – As more and more natural habitat is taken over by agriculture, hummingbirds on some trajectories actually must rely on flower gardens and feeders – Slugs are hermaphrodites; sex goes both ways at the same time – Alligators place twigs on their snouts to attract nest builders – Many kinds of moths can jam bat radar – The octopus, which can change its colors instantly to match its environs, is itself colorblind. – Female bald eagles fly upside down underneath their mates take a fish from his grasp – There is one recurring phrase in *Wildlife Spectacles* that I find a little disturbing. Dinets keeps saying “but no one has any idea why. We know so little, could benefit so much, yet all this wildlife has become so scarce, if not extinct, zoologists can go for decades without witnessing a behavior they want to analyze. I’d hate think this book simply documents the highlights for future generations without this wildlife, to see what they’re missing. Thankfully, it is much too joyful and awe-inspired for that. Dinets’s fascination and love of wildlife is as broadly displayed as a wild turkey dance (the best in North America, he says). It’s a passionate and fun read, and not at all clinical or comprehensive. *Wildlife Spectacles* could turn anyone into a nature lover. David Wineberg

Vladimir Dinets is a professional animal watcher. If you’re like me, you don’t get to see many animals, except your pets, zoo animals, and the occasional squirrel or raccoon in your neighborhood. Lucky for us, Dinets has spent his lifetime observing wildlife. In *Wildlife Spectacles*:

Mass Migrations, Mating Rituals, and Other Fascinating Animal Behaviors, Dinets describes a wide variety of animals and their habits. As a bonus, he tells us where to go to see for ourselves! A couple of themes show up throughout Wildlife Spectacles. First, the danger man poses to wildlife and the subsequent impact on animal habitats and populations. It's a reality that we use lots of land for living and farming. Without moaning about overpopulation or misanthropy, Dinets simply describes the ways that migration patterns, mating habits and species survival has been impacted. A more interesting and compelling theme is the interaction between species. For instance, in North America the passenger pigeon is extinct. That alone is tragic, but: "Since the passenger pigeon's extinction, tree species they depended on the bird for spreading their seeds, particularly the white oak, have gone into decline." Who would have predicted this relationship? Not me. Similarly, salmon has a huge impact on the forest through which their rivers run. "Salmon runs transport a significant amount of nutrients from the ocean to the coastal forests." The magnificent forests of the northwest are made possible by salmon sacrificing their lives. You might not like bats much, but many of our crops depend on them to eat invasive insects. A decline in bat populations can impact our food supply. "Fungus causes a disease called white-nose syndrome, which can wipe out entire colonies of bats in just one winter. Within a few years it killed eighty percent of bats in the Northeast (causing billions of dollars of damage to agriculture)..." Dinets emphasizes the interconnectedness of life, as well as the mystery of it. We think scientists know everything, but much of the natural world is still a mystery. Dinets talks about the mystery of insect migration. Sometimes the patterns are very clear, but in some cases, we don't know where they go when they migrate. So much is unknown. Wildlife Spectacles is enjoyable on many levels. Just flip through it and enjoy the gorgeous photography. Read more closely and be astounded by the miracles of wildlife. Take it with you on your next road trip to observe the wonderful world of animals first-hand. Thanks to NetGalley and the publisher for the complimentary electronic review copy!

This is a lovely book, with beautiful photographs written in a very easy to read style. I found the information given in this book extremely interesting. I think this book would also be suitable for school use, it has a very likeable written style which would appeal to adults and young people alike. The photographs are amazing

Not what I expected. The photographs are too small and too much text for younger children.

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