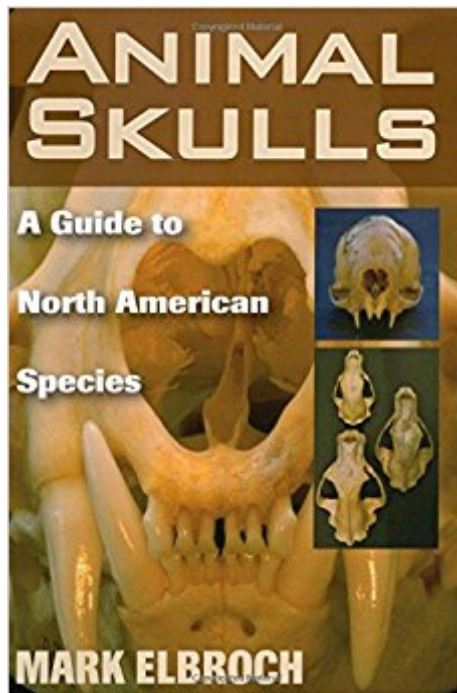




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# Animal Skulls: A Guide To North American Species



## Synopsis

Comprehensive guide to the animals of North America Fully illustrated with drawings and photographs User-friendly format makes comparing species easy This uniquely thorough reference and guidebook offers illustrations, descriptions, and measurements for the skulls of some 275 animal species found throughout North America. The skull--the collection of bones that house and protect a creature's brain and sensory organs--is the key anatomical feature used to identify an animal and understand many of its behaviors. This book describes in words and pictures the bones and regions of the skull important to identification, including illustrations of all the bones in the cranium, leading to a greater understanding of a creature's place in the natural world. Life-size drawings and detailed measurements make this guide an invaluable reference for wildlife professionals, trackers, and animal-lovers alike.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

NOBA award-winning author Mark Elbroch has contributed to numerous research projects in North America, including the capturing and collaring of cougars and Glacier National Park's bear sign survey. He lives in Vermont.

Without a doubt, this is the best book on skulls ever written. If you live in North America, and want to know a \*LOT\* about the skulls of the animals on the continent (primarily mammals, but the book does also cover birds, reptiles, and amphibians in a more limited fashion), there is no better resource. I teach mammalogy at our local university, and waited a few years to buy my own copy of

this book, since our campus library had one. Now that I have my own copy I don't have to borrow it over and over again, and can go through it anytime I want. Definitely my go-to resource for all things pertaining to cranial osteology. As a side note, I don't really follow celebrities, but I'm a fan of Mark Elbroch. Everything of his that I've seen has been absolutely stellar. Books of his that I've seen and LOVE include this one, *Mammal Tracks & Sign: A Guide to North American Species*, *Bird Tracks & Sign: A Guide to North American Species*, and *Peterson Field Guide to Animal Tracks: Third Edition* (Peterson Field Guides). All full of excellent info, and eminently readable while remaining authoritatively written. This guy really knows his stuff.

I love this book. I was in charge of cleaning a donated collection of skulls and identifying them. I had been eyeballing this book for a very long time and finally had a great reason to purchase it. There are some smaller skulls that are actual size in the book, these pages came in immensely handy. We were able to identify the 100 or so skulls that came in. I was also able to use this for teeth and jaw identification.

I love that most of the skulls have full size illustrations which makes identification of unknown skulls so much easier. I can just place the skull right over the picture, as well as use it for a side by side comparison. Obviously large skulls are not going to fit on the pages of this book, and those images are reduced, but still very helpful. You could blow them up on a photocopier to get them closer to "life size" if you needed to. The illustrations are pretty good quality and nicely detailed. I also like the section that includes a variety of ways to clean and whiten skulls. My only minor complaint is that I wish there was instructional information included on gluing the teeth back in after cleaning the skulls, such as which glues are the best kinds to use and why. If you can only afford one book on this subject, this one is excellent to start with.

This is by far the most interesting, complete and reliable reference book on this subject. The amount of detail included here is commendable. This is not a simple illustrated guide, this is a comparative treatise on skulls masquerading as a pretty book. It has both color and black and white pictures and is worth every penny if you plan on doing any identifications. This can be used for wildlife biology, veterinary medicine, zooarchaeology, for taxidermy, for amateur naturalist, a back yard explorer or for any number of disciplines and many related fields. If you don't have access to a large skull collection that includes a mentor, this is a next best thing. Incidentally, it turned out that I had the author's other great book, the one about animal tracks, also an exhaustive and complete guide. This

book is thick and heavy. Because it covers pretty much most land vertebrates of North America, it is best suited for those with a wide scope and a need to make specie specific identifications, not just genera.

I've used this book to identify a handful of skulls I've found in the wild. It points out the differences to watch for and similar species and in the end I've felt confident with my identification. It's a really fun process and I absolutely love, love, love this book! If you are into nature and would bother picking up a skull then should love having this book!

This is a great, comprehensive guide!

Very good book with lots of details and pictures.

WOW! I am taking a Wildlife Management & Ecology course at my college, and we are going through a section on skull identification. This book is wonderful! There is so much information on all kind of skulls across North America. I go to college in upstate New York and all the animals we deal with from this region are covered, but I am planning on doing an internship out west, and this book will travel with me, as it is packed full of skulls from animals all over the U.S.

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