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GOSSE NATURE GUIDES

TROY L. BEST AND JULIAN L. DUSI

Mammals OF ALABAMA

The University of Alabama Press (UAP) and the Alabama Wildlife Federation (AWF) are pleased to announce the publication of *Mammals of Alabama*, a landmark guide to the state's mammalian fauna.

The 304-page work incorporates decades of research, collecting, and writing by the late Julian L. Dusi, professor of zoology at Auburn University for 45 years, and co-author Troy Best, professor of zoology and curator of mammals at Auburn University. In fascinating entries covering every Alabama species – both native and introduced – the authors offer identification notes, typical sizes and weights, habitat, behaviors, and other key data about each species.

Colorful and user-friendly, *Mammals of Alabama* assumes no prior knowledge of zoology. Animal experts, however, will also be delighted by the wealth of data about each species's dental formula, parasites and diseases, and other topics. A unique feature of the book is Dusi's extensive collection of carefully preserved and photographed animal skulls. With this sturdy field guide, hunters, hikers, farmers and gardeners, and other outdoor enthusiasts can easily identify animals with great precision.

Of vital interest to zoologists across the Southeast, *Mammals of Alabama* was made possible by support from the Alabama Wildlife Federation, the oldest and largest non-profit conservation organization in Alabama. Founded by sportsmen in 1935 to promote the wise stewardship of Alabama's natural heritage, the mission of the AWF is to preserve and celebrate Alabama's astonishing natural resources as a basis for sustained social and economic prosperity.

"Alabama is blessed with one of the richest and most varied natural environments in our nation," says AWF executive director Tim Gothard. "Our members value high-quality information about Alabama's wildlife. That's why we were delighted to partner with the University of Alabama Press and the authors at Auburn University to produce this new book, which sets a new standard for natural field guides."

Mammals of Alabama is part of UAP's "Gosse Nature Guides," a series of books that explore, catalog, and educate about Alabama's nature and wildlife for Alabama families, outdoor enthusiasts, sportsmen, scientists, and tourists. The series is named for Philip Henry Gosse, an English-born zoologist, naturalist, and scientific illustrator. Gosse was one of the first writers to explore and write about Alabama. "In my 30-year history in publishing, I have never seen a more complete field guide of this sort," said Press director Curtis Clark. "We're grateful for and admire AWF's leadership in the critical area of natural resource conservation."

Authoritative, exhaustive, and accessible, *Mammals of Alabama* is an instant classic and an essential reference for backyards, glove compartments, hikes, families, libraries, and classrooms. 🐾

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