



The Species Seekers: Heroes, Fools, and the Mad Pursuit of Life on Earth

By Richard Conniff

Download now

Read Online ➔

The Species Seekers: Heroes, Fools, and the Mad Pursuit of Life on Earth
By Richard Conniff

“This beautifully written book has the verve of an adventure story.”?Wall Street Journal

From the mid-eighteenth century to the early twentieth, a colorful band of amateur naturalists explored the most perilous corners of the planet to discover new life-forms. Amid globe-spanning tales of adventure, Richard Conniff recounts a dramatic historical shift, as humans finally discovered the pantheon of life on Earth-and our place within it. 36 black-and-white illustrations

↓ [Download The Species Seekers: Heroes, Fools, and the Mad Pu ...pdf](#)

📖 [Read Online The Species Seekers: Heroes, Fools, and the Mad ...pdf](#)

The Species Seekers: Heroes, Fools, and the Mad Pursuit of Life on Earth

By Richard Conniff

The Species Seekers: Heroes, Fools, and the Mad Pursuit of Life on Earth By Richard Conniff

“This beautifully written book has the verve of an adventure story.”? *Wall Street Journal*

From the mid-eighteenth century to the early twentieth, a colorful band of amateur naturalists explored the most perilous corners of the planet to discover new life-forms. Amid globe-spanning tales of adventure, Richard Conniff recounts a dramatic historical shift, as humans finally discovered the pantheon of life on Earth-and our place within it. 36 black-and-white illustrations

The Species Seekers: Heroes, Fools, and the Mad Pursuit of Life on Earth By Richard Conniff
Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #228352 in Books
- Published on: 2011-11-07
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 8.20" h x 1.30" w x 5.50" l, .90 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 464 pages

 [Download The Species Seekers: Heroes, Fools, and the Mad Pu ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online The Species Seekers: Heroes, Fools, and the Mad ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online The Species Seekers: Heroes, Fools, and the Mad Pursuit of Life on Earth By Richard Conniff

Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Until about 1834, the word "scientist" didn't exist. According to naturalist Conniff (*Swimming with Piranhas at Feeding Time*), it was likely at a meeting of the British Association for the Advancement of Science) where a member, following the model of "artist" and "atheist," coined a new term--"scientist" reflecting the transition of the nascent study of plants and animals from self-educated hobbyists to a new breed of professional. The author blows the fusty dust of centuries off an exhaustive bibliography of almost 300 books, many published in the 1800s. Conniff tells a fresh story that begins with Swedish botanist Carolus Linnaeus's creation of a species classification system in 1735, through Darwin's development of the theory of evolution--and of how, then as now, it was a challenge to religious orthodoxy--to the present as new species continue to be discovered, including in this decade a striped rabbit in the Mekong Delta. Conniff's parade of pioneers whose colorful exploits are recounted is at times overwhelming, but this history of the "great age of discovery" is spellbinding. (Nov.) (c)

Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

From [Booklist](#)

Conniff (*Swimming with Piranhas at Feeding Time*, 2009) here offers portraits of specimen collectors of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Counting many eccentrics among their number, Conniff's cohort was enticed by the landscape of potential discovery and the low barriers of entry into the profession. A net, a gun, and enthusiasm sufficed in the beginning. Greater success depended on chance variations ranging from the species hunter's personality to his connections with gatekeepers of natural history, ensuring a fickleness of fate that Conniff develops into a series of dramas. John James Audubon needs no explanation, but an acquaintance of his, "a brilliant crackpot named Constantine Rafinesque," represents the time's mania to be the first to find new species. An antithesis to the Rafinesques are the taxidermists and descriptive classifiers of collectors' hauls, and Conniff recounts their progress in making systematic sense of botany and zoology, which was crowned by two collectors who cracked the evolutionary code, Charles Darwin and Alfred Russel Wallace. Illustrated with Conniff's cast, this work reliably engages the history-of-science readership. -- Gilbert Taylor

Review

"[Conniff's] enthusiasm for his subject and admiration of these explorers is infectious . . . an entertaining survey." (Kirkus Reviews)

"[This] history of the 'great age of discovery' is spellbinding." (Publishers Weekly)

"An anecdotal romp through the strange history of naturalism. Absurd characters, exciting discoveries, and fierce rivalries abound." (Outside Magazine)

"An enduring story bursting at the seams with intriguing, fantastical and disturbing anecdotes." (New Scientist)

"[Conniff] chronicles two centuries of adventure, and at the same time illustrates important developments in human thought." (Christian Science Monitor)

"A swashbuckling romp...brilliantly evokes that just-before Darwin era." (BBC Focus)

“Modern biology and medicine would not be what they are today if not for the death-defying naturalists who set out to travel the world and find new species. In *The Species Seekers*, Richard Conniff creates a marvelous rogues’ gallery of these brave, sometimes reckless heroes of taxonomy, full of surprising tales of gorillas, platypuses, and disease-laden mosquitoes.” (Carl Zimmer, author of *Parasite Rex*)

“A marvelous tribute to the age of wonder.” (Bernd Heinrich, author of *The Nesting Season*)

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Dan Villanueva:

Book is written, printed, or created for everything. You can realize everything you want by a publication. Book has a different type. To be sure that book is important point to bring us around the world. Beside that you can your reading ability was fluently. A reserve *The Species Seekers: Heroes, Fools, and the Mad Pursuit of Life on Earth* will make you to be smarter. You can feel far more confidence if you can know about every little thing. But some of you think that open or reading the book make you bored. It is far from make you fun. Why they are often thought like that? Have you in search of best book or appropriate book with you?

Gloria Pruitt:

What do you regarding book? It is not important together with you? Or just adding material when you require something to explain what the ones you have problem? How about your spare time? Or are you busy particular person? If you don't have spare time to perform others business, it is gives you the sense of being bored faster. And you have time? What did you do? Everyone has many questions above. They should answer that question mainly because just their can do in which. It said that about e-book. Book is familiar in each person. Yes, it is correct. Because start from on pre-school until university need this *The Species Seekers: Heroes, Fools, and the Mad Pursuit of Life on Earth* to read.

Emilie Lechner:

Do you one among people who can't read pleasant if the sentence chained inside the straightway, hold on guys that aren't like that. This *The Species Seekers: Heroes, Fools, and the Mad Pursuit of Life on Earth* book is readable simply by you who hate those perfect word style. You will find the details here are arrange for enjoyable studying experience without leaving also decrease the knowledge that want to deliver to you. The writer involving *The Species Seekers: Heroes, Fools, and the Mad Pursuit of Life on Earth* content conveys thinking easily to understand by lots of people. The printed and e-book are not different in the written content but it just different as it. So , do you nonetheless thinking *The Species Seekers: Heroes, Fools, and the Mad Pursuit of Life on Earth* is not loveable to be your top listing reading book?

Stacia Cobb:

Beside this *The Species Seekers: Heroes, Fools, and the Mad Pursuit of Life on Earth* in your phone, it could

give you a way to get nearer to the new knowledge or data. The information and the knowledge you might got here is fresh from the oven so don't possibly be worry if you feel like an aged people live in narrow village. It is good thing to have The Species Seekers: Heroes, Fools, and the Mad Pursuit of Life on Earth because this book offers to you readable information. Do you often have book but you rarely get what it's facts concerning. Oh come on, that will not end up to happen if you have this in your hand. The Enjoyable option here cannot be questionable, like treasuring beautiful island. Techniques you still want to miss the item? Find this book and also read it from today!

Download and Read Online The Species Seekers: Heroes, Fools, and the Mad Pursuit of Life on Earth By Richard Conniff

#V2NMLHATWY0

Read The Species Seekers: Heroes, Fools, and the Mad Pursuit of Life on Earth By Richard Conniff for online ebook

The Species Seekers: Heroes, Fools, and the Mad Pursuit of Life on Earth By Richard Conniff Free PDF d0wnl0ad, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read The Species Seekers: Heroes, Fools, and the Mad Pursuit of Life on Earth By Richard Conniff books to read online.

Online The Species Seekers: Heroes, Fools, and the Mad Pursuit of Life on Earth By Richard Conniff ebook PDF download

The Species Seekers: Heroes, Fools, and the Mad Pursuit of Life on Earth By Richard Conniff Doc

The Species Seekers: Heroes, Fools, and the Mad Pursuit of Life on Earth By Richard Conniff Mobipocket

The Species Seekers: Heroes, Fools, and the Mad Pursuit of Life on Earth By Richard Conniff EPub

V2NMLHATWY0: The Species Seekers: Heroes, Fools, and the Mad Pursuit of Life on Earth By Richard Conniff