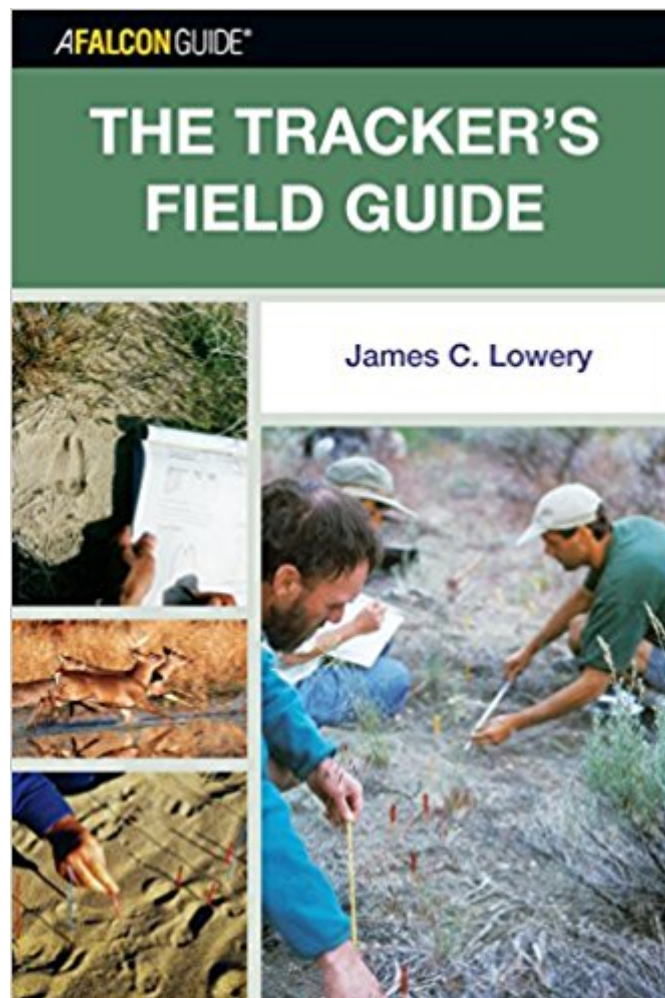




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The Tracker's Field Guide: A Comprehensive Handbook For Animal Tracking In The United States



Synopsis

Jim Lowery is among North America's leading tracking experts. In this book he distills his remarkable expertise, gained over decades of intensive research and practical field experience, into a comprehensive field guide to tracking North American mammals. Fully illustrated with hundreds of drawings and high-resolution photographs, "The Tracker's Field Guide sets a new standard for tracking books.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Venture into an animal's life story through its tracks and signs. More than simply determining where an animal crossed the road, tracking can lead to a study of how the animal uses its habitat, how it travels, where it feeds or hunts, how it breeds and raises its young, and how it survives. In this book, leading tracking expert Jim Lowery distills his remarkable expertise, gained over decades of intensive research and practical field experience, into a comprehensive field guide to tracking North American mammals. Fully illustrated with hundreds of drawings and high-resolution photographs, The Tracker's Field Guide sets a new standard for books on tracking. This easy-to-use guide features: Clearly written descriptions plus photos and illustrations of scats, tracks, and gait patterns Easy-to-use track measurements for each animal Tips on proper track interpretation technique Notes on the behavior and habitat of each mammal A glossary of tracking terms Quick-reference summary pages at the back of the book A tough, water-resistant cover and extra-durable binding made to withstand the rigors of field use

Jim Lowery has taught hundreds of beginning and advanced tracking workshops over the past eighteen years. His school, Earth Skills, located in Frazier Park, California, offers courses and special training in tracking and survival.

Each field guide has its strengths and weaknesses, and with so many tracking books out one has to ask, what are the merits of this one?

Strengths

- 1) The book is organized much better than Elbroch's book, which though comprehensive and detailed, is a nightmare to use in the field. This is the book's main huge merit - ease of use in the field. The organization is by animal groups (canines, felines, rodents, etc.), but the ease comes in the side tabs which make it extremely easy to find what you're looking for. Also, all the gaits and measurements are on the 2nd page
- 2) Few tracking books have fine details on comparing one species to similar species. This book does, and it's extremely useful in making comparisons.
- 3) One of the few books to extend Tom Brown Jr's concepts of pressure releases into actual real studies. He does this on a species specific basis such that if you go to the Bobcat section, a careful study of Bobcat pressure releases can reveal the activity of the animal step by step.
- 4) Important natural history points are in bold - the book is just very nice and easy to read. The visual hierarchy is superb.

Weaknesses:

- 1) The book is very obviously based on field studies in the West. Though even if you do track in the East, I would absolutely get this book on account of its ease of use.
- 2) No color prints.
- 3) Though it IS comprehensive, it is only so in a general way... Voles are all bunched together, and most small rodents are not given the attention they deserve.
- 4) Not much attention to sign tracking / landscape tracking. Not many other weaknesses. A fine book and great contribution to the field.

-----Comparing with other tracking books:

Elbroch: Nothing beats Elbroch when it comes to landscape & Sign tracking. Go here for that. Also careful attention is paid to tracker training and mental apprenticeship to woods awareness. Extremely essential.

Rezendes: Great stories, and a bit more natural history information in this. Also sign tracking.

Tom Brown Jr's (Science & Art of): Many people have said that they have read this book and still have no idea how to track an animal. The awareness techniques and exercises are extremely unique and the perspective is very refreshing. I think the point with his books are to change the way we are in the woods. His book on Nature Awareness is perfect in this regard.

Jon Young's: Jon Young's book is a full apprenticeship with woods awareness through tracking. Absolutely essential.

-----All this being said, the final note is: perfect FIELD guide, but you will still want to cross reference this book with the previous books.--Thomas Meli[...]

Didn't like it. Not very helpful

i've been tracking for awhile and own most worthwhile field guides. it was a pleasure to come upon this book in " recommends ..." i'm not even sure what made me buy it. but i'm glad i did. it is a good mix of tom brown jr's tracker school approach and what i call "the guys with rulers" approach. the coverage of gaits is excellent. not a guide for beginners, more for the person who wants to be inspired to new things. my main complaint about the book is the photos. too small and not in color. they are a disservice to the material. most are adequately readable, but some are not. it is supposed to be a field guide for heaven's sake. i would recommend this book to anyone, in spite of the flaws.

To the pointUser friendly and knowledgeable interface.Well written in an easy to manage format.I find that I take this book in the field with me more than Peterson's or Rezendes (sp?) book.

I have several tracking books. I really like this one. It's very precise with measurements, but more than that the author gives you little tips to look for when tracking different animals.

Not the best, but not the worst book for tracking. I would suggest Elbroch's book for clear print identification and books by Jon Young and Tom Brown Jr. for additional animal tracking information.

The Tracker's Field Guide by James (Jim) Lowery is excellent. Based on real, scientific field experience, this book is an invaluable resource for anyone studying animal tracking around the world, and the one indispensable guide in the field for anyone in southwestern states.

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